



WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2013







WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

2013

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Her Majesty The Queen

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC

REGIMENTAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Brigadier R H Talbot Rice

REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Colonel (Retd) T CS Bonas BA

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

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AFFILIATIONS

5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment



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Front Cover: His Royal Highness The Prince Of Wales and Field Marshal, the Lord Guthrie, in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, 6th December 2012.

Back Cover: Her Majesty The Queen's eight Welsh Guards' Ensigns, at The Ensigns' Dinner to Celebrate 60 Years of 'Trooping The Colour' in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 21st October 2013. From Left to Right: Joe Dinwiddie 2013, Henry Finnegan 2008, Simon Hillard 2006, Henry Bettinson 1998, Alex Macintosh 1990, Nick Dummond 1981, John Henderson 1973, Angus Wall 1965.



Brigadier RH Talbot Rice, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

FOREWORD

For the Army as a whole this past year has been one of planning and transition, as the decisions taken in the Defence Review have been firmed up into clear plans under the title of "Army 2020"; and our presence in Afghanistan is gradually drawn down. Decisions on amalgamation and disbandment were taken last year, so this year we have seen firm basing plans put in place, and much greater clarity on future training models. The redundancy programme has continued as the Army tries to match its shape to its future structure.

From a Regimental perspective we now know that the Battalion will be based from autumn 2014 to 2020 at Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright, in the Light Protected Mobility role equipped with the excellent new Foxhound vehicle which has won its stripes in Afghanistan. This is one of the key operational roles in the Army 2020 force structure, and puts the Welsh Guards very much at the forefront of the Army for the next few years. The Battalion's establishment will be set at 581 and the Band will be 44 strong. Although the redundancy programme has affected us we remain well manned at present and the quality of officers and soldiers we are recruiting is excellent.

The Battalion's activities this year are well described in the following pages, but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for a year of great achievements. Making the transition from operations to public duties is, as most of us know, never easy. But the Battalion did it not only with extraordinary speed and efficiency, but also with great style. Most of us will have watched their performance at Lady Thatcher's funeral with great pride, and the Troop this year was rightly described by an impartial but very well informed observer as one of the best in Her Majesty's reign - quite an accolade.

Performances on the sporting pitch have matched those on the parade square in excellence. Beating the Royal Welsh in the final of the Army Cup again this year, the Rugby Team demonstrated great strength in depth and remarkable tenacity.

The year ahead sees Number 2 Company deploy to the Falklands for two months from December, and Number 3 Company is off to Belize for company training in the spring. The Battalion will take part in The Queen's Birthday Parade before deploying to Kenya for a two month exercise, followed by a move from Hounslow to Pirbright in November. Lieutenant Colonel Dino Bossi

hands over command of the Battalion in January next year, and I would like to thank him formally for his outstanding work commanding the Battalion both on operations in Afghanistan in 2012 and this year on public duties. His wife Sam has also been a terrifically active supporter and has been especially closely involved in the Afghanistan Appeal. Together they have been a great team. He will be succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Giles Harris DSO MBE.

The Regimental Band has also had a great year. At a time when Army musicians in general have been under great pressure, they have shouldered a heavy burden of engagements; but their standards have never been anything other than superb and they are widely recognised across the Army.

We say farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Barnwell, our Director of Music and also the Senior Director of Music of the Household Division, who has been exceptional. His contribution to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, and this year to the success of the Queen's Birthday Parade and Beating Retreat in particular, has simply been superb. He will be sorely missed and we wish him every good fortune in the future.

The Afghanistan Appeal has had another very successful year, and I am very grateful to everyone who has continued to support it during 2013. Fund raising events, big and small, have continued throughout the year whether it be the Drapers Dinner raising over £180,000 in January or Annabelle Asher's (aged 10) coast to coast walk of 192 miles in which she raised £6,000. As I write this, Walk on Wales is in full swing and in addition to being a great fund raising venture for the Appeal and Combat Stress, has been

remarkably effective in bringing together past and present Welsh Guardsmen. I am very grateful to Jan Koops and Dai Graham and their amazingly dedicated team for planning and running this unique and remarkable event.

No words on the Appeal would be complete without mention of Ryan Jones and his support to us during his Testimonial Year. It has been an absolute pleasure working with him and his team, and he has become a welcome and familiar face at many events this year. It has been a very successful partnership and in addition to making the very significant contribution of £60,000 to the Appeal through his fundraising events, he has become a good friend of the Regiment and we look forward to continuing this special relationship in the years ahead.

I remain very grateful to the Association for all its good work in keeping together those who have stepped off, which is perhaps more important than ever bearing in mind the pressures that some of our people have endured on recent operations. We are very well served by the work done by the Secretary General, Brian Keane, and our Secretaries and Branch Presidents. The Association really is a force for good and we should give it our wholehearted support.

Looking ahead, work has begun to plan our Centenary events, and we have a Centenary Committee drawn from all parts of the Regiment to help organize them. In addition the Centenary Book authored by Trevor Royle is making very good progress, with the first 12 chapters now in draft and many photographs already gathered.

The small Regimental Headquarters team under Col (Retd) Tom Bonas has coordinated all these activities and has shouldered a significant additional burden in relation to the Appeal and the Centenary, for which they have my sincere thanks.

Finally, I am grateful to all Welsh Guardsmen for everything that they have done to sustain the Regiment's excellent reputation this year. It is, as ever, a great time to be a Welsh Guardsman!

"The Battalion's activities this year are well described in the following pages, but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for a year of great achievements."



Lt. Col. DLW Bossi, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion

FOREWORD

In considering this "Foreword" I was continually struck by quite how much has been asked of the Battalion and the phenomenal levels of activity across every aspect of military life we have achieved this year. We are fully recruited but smaller than we have ever been in our history and this means that we have spent the last year very busy indeed.

Last year's magazine was rightly all about Afghanistan. I know readers who have not served there - and not a few who have - were often puzzled by the complexities (not to mention the acronyms and abbreviations) of the counter-insurgency operation in which the Battalion was so deeply involved. Articles about it are often mired in jargon and this can leave readers feeling that there is no connection with their experiences of service. This is wrong. The fundamentals of soldiering are unchanging, it is only the language that excludes.

By contrast, this year most readers will easily be able to recall the demands of transitioning from the operations of their own era back into London District. As always there is a certain amount of physical adjustment and a lot of administration to complete to get a battalion on to the square in good order for Major General's, something we had to achieve in record time this year. The contribution made by Headquarter Company in getting us from a standing-start in early January through Spring Drills and on to Public Duties by 11th February was quite remarkable and, though the Rifle companies worked hard as always, there was no doubt who was burning the most midnight oil. In the process, the Quartermaster, Sergeant-Major, Drill Sergeants and Master Tailor have sustained numerous grey hairs and worry lines - but we got there despite the loss of numerous voices (and not a few tempers) en route.

With Major General's successfully behind us, the Duties came swift and fast. Ahead of us lay the prospect of the Queen's Birthday Parade at which our Colour would be trooped and we were very conscious of ensuring that there was a little more than just Public Duties and Ceremonial on the programme. The second consecutive success in winning the Army Rugby Cup was a welcome distraction which allowed the whole Battalion to either spectate or participate in a great afternoon's sport, ably assisted by a small army of former Welsh

Guardsmen who invaded the Army Rugby Stadium at Aldershot to roar on the team. Those in the squad had volunteered to give up much of their Christmas and Post Operational leave in order to train and our eventual victory was won by hard work and unquenchable team spirit very much against the bookies' predictions.

After a memorable St David's Day at Hounslow at which Brig PRG Williams DL presented the leeks the State Ceremonial just kept coming. The unscheduled death of Baroness Thatcher and OP TRUE BLUE, the arrangements for her ceremonial funeral, which resulted, was swiftly followed by a State Visit at Windsor and the State Opening of Parliament at its new date in May. All this delayed getting to grips with rehearsals for the Birthday Parade to such an extent that once they began we were left with only 18-days, including the Major General's and Colonel's Reviews, to produce the goods. It was down to the exceptional planning and attention to detail of the Sergeant Major and Senior Drill Sergeant, and the phenomenally hard work, tolerance and good humour of those on parade that the Battalion produced what impartial observers have all described as an exceptionally fine 'Troop' in spite of the shortest ever period of preparation.

In the wake of the Birthday Parade, despite a steady hum of Duties we have been able to switch fire to other things as well. First among these was a trip out to Kazakhstan for elements of the Battalion and Company Headquarters teams. With the shortest of planning "flashes to bang", eight intrepid explorers under the command and guidance of Maj HS Llewelyn-Usher managed to drive out and back in a couple of clapped out Land Rover Discoveries we picked up for a song. More detail on their

adventures lies within... We have also run a successful and well attended Ellicott Cup to select this year's football team and assisted in the launch and conduct of the Walk on Wales. As I write, WOW is still very much ongoing and we wish it well.

Field training has centred upon some demanding and professionally run cadres for Machine Guns, Anti-Tanks and Mortars designed both to increase our professional competencies in the support weapons themselves, but also to realign us for our Army 2020 (A2020) establishment. This has seen the movement of machine guns from Support Company to the Rifle Companies, each of which now has an integral machine gun platoon; and the Drums have stayed within Support Company but now embraced the Anti-Tank role. The Rifle Companies were then tested as part of a Battalion Field Firing Camp which saw them spend a week on the static ranges at Hythe and Lydd and then move up to Brecon for a week's live firing. The standard achieved was impressive and I am convinced we have laid a very firm foundation for the up-coming six-week deployment to the Falkland Islands by Number Two Company and elements of the Prince of Wales's Company in December, and for Number Three Company's exercise in Belize in the spring of next year. And all of these of course, are aimed squarely at preparing for the Battalion's exercise in Kenya in October 14.

So a good year by any standards. We have been busy but made our name across the piece and, importantly for Guardsmen, lost it nowhere. The Battalion has weathered the storms of a year of unprecedented change within the Army and is set to face A2020 well-recruited and hardened by our experiences at war over the last decade. We have an exciting year ahead full of foreign travel and rewarding training. We face it proud of our achievements and eager to surpass them.

"So a good year by any standards. We have been busy but made our name across the piece and, importantly for Guardsmen, lost it nowhere."



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

Y Ddraig Goch Ddwy Cychwyn - The Red Dragon Gives a Lead

Maj Lauanders
 Lt Lloyd George
 Lt Marsden
 Lt Hutton
 WO2 Ridgeway-Buckley 98
 CSgt Owen 75
 Sgt Soko 03
 Sgt Scarf 15
 Sgt Lewis 29
 LSgt Quimeru 22
 LSgt Rowlands 99
 LSgt Skitt 30
 LSgt Small 25
 LCpl Bamber 83
 LCpl Brown 82
 LCpl Divers 80
 LCpl Harries 44
 LCpl Jones 91
 LCpl Kastine 01
 LCpl Lodwick 12
 LCpl Roberts 72
 LCpl Rutledge 57
 LCpl Williams 94
 Gdsm Asare-Bediako 65
 Gdsm Baw 18
 Gdsm Bailey 51
 Gdsm Bilton 00
 Gdsm Brown 68
 Gdsm Cann 27
 Gdsm Carr 13
 Gdsm Carter 19
 Gdsm Collins 45
 Gdsm Cook 69
 Gdsm Duval 29
 Gdsm Evans 35
 Gdsm Evans 37
 Gdsm Evans 76
 Gdsm Frost 15
 Gdsm Felton 04
 Gdsm Forgan 87
 Gdsm Hall 65
 Gdsm Harris 35

Gdsm Henneberry 83
 Gdsm Heal 18
 Gdsm Hughes 13
 Gdsm Jackson 35
 Gdsm Jallow 89
 Gdsm Jones 20
 Gdsm Jones 23
 Gdsm Jones 60
 Gdsm Jones 71
 Gdsm Jones 84
 Gdsm Kropaceck 45
 Gdsm Lambrick 66
 Gdsm Lewis 22
 Gdsm Little 09
 Gdsm Morgan 54
 Gdsm Moriarty 36
 Gdsm Mottram 94
 Gdsm Murphy 04
 Gdsm Namakadre 21
 Gdsm Njie 81
 Gdsm Peek 34
 Gdsm Pervis 35
 Gdsm Petrakis 09
 Gdsm Picton 10
 Gdsm Powell 21
 Gdsm Powell 81
 Gdsm Rees 41
 Gdsm Reynolds 62
 Gdsm Rogers 73
 Gdsm Rowlands 75
 Gdsm Saunders 63
 Gdsm Singleton 87
 Gdsm Smith 05
 Gdsm Tavaga 93
 Gdsm Wannell 18
 Gdsm Ward 22
 Gdsm Watson 43
 Gdsm Williams 22
 Gdsm Williams 70
 Gdsm Williams 02
 Gdsm Williams 62
 Gdsm Williams 94



Carmarthen Freedom Parade

The Jamboys stepped off the plane at Brize Norton, decompressed and aware a busy year ahead awaited them, filled with public duties, tasks for other units, sport, and other yet unknown challenges.

It certainly has been a fast paced year, characterised by extremely hectic periods interspersed with tranquil moments of leave. This was apparent from the moment we returned from post-Herrick 16 leave and were thrown straight into a busy Christmas Period.

As we look back at the Forecast of Events, it is remarkable what the Company managed to achieve in such a short period

of time (a theme throughout the year). Having cross-briefed the Battalion on our successful tour, it was straight to the rugby field where an injury prone Jamboys battled tenaciously to make it to the finals; eventually being beaten by Support Company who had the greater depth on the bench. This complete, it was time for a homecoming parade in Cardiff before getting back on the square in Hounslow for



Swansea Freedom Parade



Gdsm Wannell during an Attack



Lsgt Rowlands Assaults an Enemy Position

the medals parade. The medals parade in particular was a proud moment for all, made even more so by the Company photo with HRH The Prince of Wales. With the Christmas lunch still digesting and carols reverberating The Jamboys took Christmas Leave.

When we returned the Company travelled to South Wales where it spent an enjoyable week conducting homecoming parades in Swansea and Camarthen. The citizens of both were incredibly hospitable, and having a drink at Sawnsea football stadium was a highlight. Sgt Hughes even had the opportunity to meet a professional footballer. As it turned out he was less interested by the sportsman than the Ferrari, which he managed to get a tour of the car park in.

Then came the moment the Company Sergeant Major had been waiting for – The Major General’s Inspection. It was all hands to sylvettes and trainer whitener, everyman in the Company certainly feeling the pressure. Greatcoats were appearing from every corner of Cavalry Barracks; Guardsman who had not quite mastered the ‘magic circles’ in training where being offered one-way tickets to Ascension Island. However the inspection came and went and the Company was officially able to mount Queen’s Guard,

conducting our first mount under the watchful eye of The Commanding Officer, The Battalion Second-In-Command and The Adjutant. The Jamboys did not disappoint and the first mount for the Battalion was an absolute success.

Others though, were safely tucked away on Salisbury Plain and Brecon with Lt Lloyd George and LSgt Rowlands conducting an Infantry kit trial, a fascinating insight into the procurement side of the British Army. It was also one of the most intensive range packages the section of men could hope to go on and it was clear their shooting had improved tremendously during the tasking.

Another interesting task conducted during this period under the command of Lt Marsden and Sgt Hughes was support for SAS selection in Scotland. This, once again, was an interesting insight into a less well-known part of the army. From the fierce cold of Scotland to the delectable powder of the French Alps, much of the Company spent a week on the Battalion ski trip. Sgt Scarf and LSgt Skitt both enjoyed time out there, and for a few of the Guardsmen it was time to apply for their first passports! Gdsm Saunders wowed and vowed by wearing a wedding dress on the slopes for the last day; even more amazing was the wedding

“As it turned out he was less interested by the sportsman than the Ferrari, which he managed to get a tour of the car park in.”

entourage that followed him throughout! This made it clear to all it was time for a break; the Company returned and took Easter Leave.

On the last day of leave the Nation was struck with the news that Baroness Thatcher had died. It was apparent to the Jamboys that we were to play a large role in the funeral. Four rehearsals later The Prince of Wales's Company were The Guard of Honour outside St Paul's Cathedral. The importance of the moment was not lost on a single man standing there. The men looked immaculate, with help from Drill Sergeant Myers and Griffiths and it is a day everyone can be proud of.

However there was no rest, as it was straight into the Queen's Birthday Parade rehearsal where the Red Dragon would once again take a lead as The Prince of Wales's Company were Escort for the Colour. Much of our time was spent going around the square at Pirbright Garrison (65 on last count). Eventually the big day came and everyone got their moment on TV. It was a proud moment for the Battalion and it was great that the efforts of the Company were appreciated by all who watched.

After a brief week of leave it was straight back onto the forecourt where the Company continued to become over familiar with the frontage of

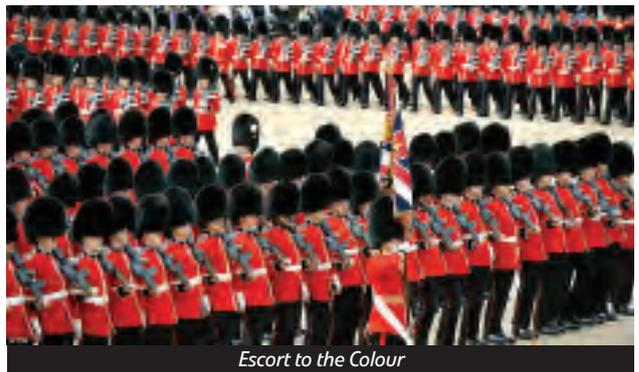
Buckingham Palace. However it was an impressive month for Lt Hutton and Gdsm Jones 60 who conducted an Expedition named Exercise Silk Dragon. This saw them undertake a drive from Cavalry Barracks, to Kazakhstan and back. Whilst in Kazakhstan they took part in the Battalion mentoring of the Kazakh army. It was clear this was an exceptional trip, and the Company was glad Lt Hutton's hard work, meant for a successful trip.

Now able to complete a Queen's Guard mount whilst asleep the Battalion came off Public Duties and now look forward to a package of live firing. This will see The Jamboys conduct a transition week in Hythe and Lydd before moving to SENTA and completing a LFTT package. It will be a great opportunity to improve The Prince of Wales's Company's firing and the training opportunities are abundant.

It is only fair to describe the last year for The Prince of Wales's Company as exceptional. We have taken part in some fascinating opportunities, and it has been a progressive year for the Company, unfortunately saying goodbye to some great characters but receiving a satisfying flow of new faces. It certainly feels the Company is ready for another round of decompression though.



The Funeral of Baroness Thatcher



Escort to the Colour

Y DDRAIG
GOCH DDYRY
CYCHWYN

“It is only fair to describe the last year for The Prince of Wales's Company as exceptional.”



NUMBER TWO COMPANY

Gwyr Ynys Y Cedryn - The Men of the Island of the Mighty



- Maj Salusbury
- Lt Birrel
- Lt Dinwiddie
- Lt Evans
- WO2 Davies
- CSgt Parry
- Sgt Green
- LSgt Challenger
- LSgt Greaves
- LSgt Johnson
- LSgt Lewis
- LSgt Lucas
- LSgt Marsh
- LSgt Sanigar
- LCpl Campbell
- LCpl Davies
- LCpl Edwards
- LCpl Evans
- LCpl Hughes
- LCpl Jones
- LCpl Kirumira
- LCpl Knill
- LCpl Price
- LCpl Thomas
- LCpl Williams
- LCpl Williams-Day
- Gdsm Adamson
- Gdsm Ashcroft
- Gdsm Bevan
- Gdsm Brock
- Gdsm Buretini
- Gdsm Carter
- Gdsm Clarke
- Gdsm Craze
- Gdsm Cole
- Gdsm Collins
- Gdsm Davies
- Gdsm Davies
- Gdsm Davies
- Gdsm Davies
- Gdsm Dimmock
- Gdsm Duffel
- Gdsm Edwards

- Gdsm Everett-Wolston
- Gdsm Foley
- Gdsm Gent
- Gdsm Groves
- Gdsm Harding
- Gdsm Harris
- Gdsm Harvey
- Gdsm Howard
- Gdsm Jobarteh
- Gdsm Jones
- Gdsm Jones
- Gdsm Kigotho
- Gdsm Kalis
- Gdsm Lewis
- Gdsm Lundt
- Gdsm Mathews
- Gdsm Mathews
- Gdsm Miles
- Gdsm Mortlock
- Gdsm Morgan
- Gdsm Moyo
- Gdsm Mulready
- Gdsm Mwelwa
- Gdsm Nadin
- Gdsm Nagata
- Gdsm Okeke
- Gdsm Priggj
- Gdsm Rhisiarts
- Gdsm Roe
- Gdsm Retalick
- Gdsm Roberts
- Gdsm Roos
- Gdsm Sandison
- Gdsm Siviter
- Gdsm Smith
- Gdsm Smith
- Gdsm Theophilus
- Gdsm Tonkin
- Gdsm Webb
- Gdsm Wright
- Gdsm Woosnam



Major J Salusbury introducing the President of the UAE to Number 2 Company who formed the Guard of Honour at Windsor Castle for the State Visit.

2013 has been in stark contrast to the previous year. The focus shifted from one extreme to the other with Number 2 Company leaving the counter-insurgency mindset to begin dusting off their bearskins and trying to remember how to carry out the drill movement of divisions into line at the halt.

The beginning of the year saw the arrival of two new platoon commanders, 2Lt Dinwiddie and 2Lt Evans, who embarked straight away with Number 2 Company to North Wales for Homecoming parades in Caernarfon and Bangor. We received a huge amount of support from the local population and, in doing so, further securing this invaluable partnership with the people of North Wales. While the Company was in the area it seemed a shame not to tackle Mt Snowdon. Despite several weather warnings and predicted 4ft snow drifts on the mountain Number 2 Company made a valiant attempt at the mountain but were severely hampered by a lack (none) of crampons.

February and March were very busy times for the Company

with the preparations for Spring Drills and the Major General's Inspection. During this time Number 2 Company was also supporting a number of Afghanistan focussed exercises for the next units deploying. Number 2 Company was able to give a lot of attention on these exercises to 2 Scots who would be taking over the role of the Police Mentoring Advisory Group (PMAG), passing on effective SOPs and drills which the Company had developed through its own hard won experiences not 6 months before. Towards the end of March the majority of the Company went for a week skiing to Les Contamines where they were lucky enough to get a fresh dump of snow and a welcome break before the hectic schedule of upcoming Queen's Guards.

From April right through to the



Number 2 Company on a day out at the Imperial War Museum



Number 2 Company enjoying some down-time at the Elicott Cup



Number 2 Guard on the day of The Trooping of the Colour for the Queen's Birthday Parade

end of August, Number 2 Company has been almost constantly on the ceremonial line mounting over 45 Windsor, Tower and Queens Guards. In the middle of this busy period were the rehearsals for The Trooping of the Colour on the Queens Birthday Parade which began about six weeks before the main event on the 15th June; the State Opening of Parliament and forming the Guard of Honour for the President of the UAE.

For the Troop itself Number 2 Company took the role of Number 2 Guard and rehearsed hard spending the majority of days at Pirbright on the square. All the hard work paid off in the end for what was a very special day that went completely without a hitch with Number 2 Guard performing their role perfectly.

With the summer over, Number 2 Company said farewell to Major J Salusbury who has taken up the appointment of Battalion Second in Command. Salusburys, however, come in pairs and the Company has been

passed to his brother, Major A Salusbury. Captain Bardsley, the Company Second in Command, left the Army to become a farmer.

Number 2 Company is now looking forward to deploying to the Falkland Islands for two months in December on Op FIRIC – the Falkland Islands Reinforcement Infantry Company. The novelty of Ceremonial Duties has definitely started to wear off and this will be welcome chance to have a break and practise being a 'green' soldier again. Throughout the year Number 2 Company has managed to get away on a few small Company level exercises and range packages but now the Company has the chance to immerse itself in soldiering with a busy October and November spent on the Battalion Live Firing Package and on a number of exercises. By the time Number 2 Company deploys in the beginning of December to the Falkland Islands the Company will be completely focused and ready for the challenges ahead.

"All the hard work paid off in the end for what was a very special day that went completely without a hitch."



Gdsm Foley exhausted by yet another day of Troop Training down at Pirbright

Number Three NUMBER THREE COMPANY

Fy Nŵ, Fy Ngwlad, Fy Mrenin - My God, My Land, My King

Maj Llewelyn - Usher
 Capt Bromfield
 Lt Luther-Davies
 2Lt Smith
 WO2 Williams 05
 Csgt Morgan 10
 Sgt Evans 31
 Sgt Jefferies 97
 LSgt Barnes 42
 LSgt Bennett 91
 LSgt Cunningham 89
 LSgt Edwards 97
 LSgt Haines 75
 LSgt Pheasey 74
 LSgt Owen 84
 Cpl Coldrick 14
 LCpl Bladen 10
 LCpl Doyle 38
 LCpl Howells 28
 LCpl Langley 62
 LCpl May 28
 LCpl McBride 06
 LCpl Millins 52
 LCpl Millins 79
 LCpl Morgan 44
 LCpl Nuku 31
 LCpl Riley 60
 LCpl Rowlands 39
 LCpl Strinati 08
 LCpl Watt 18
 Gdsm Allport 91
 Gdsm Allport 39
 Gdsm Ankrah 52
 Gdsm Bailey 51
 Gdsm Benbow 46
 Gdsm Brown 76
 Gdsm Butterfield 17
 Gdsm Button 50
 Gdsm Buxton 78
 Gdsm Ceesay 47
 Gdsm Ceesay 09
 Gdsm Ceesay 47
 Gdsm Dennis 17
 Gdsm Divavesi 77
 Gdsm Ebeso 93
 Gdsm Evans 95

Gdsm Foster 55
 Gdsm Garvey 55
 Gdsm George 87
 Gdsm Godsall 12
 Gdsm Hannaby 82
 Gdsm Harding 53
 Gdsm Harty 30
 Gdsm Harris 08
 Gdsm Hunt 79
 Gdsm Holland 80
 Gdsm John 11
 Gdsm Jones 22
 Gdsm Jones 97
 Gdsm Keane 72
 Gdsm Kemp 97
 Gdsm Korosaya 24
 Gdsm Lewis 39
 Gdsm Lewis 62
 Gdsm Locke 23
 Gdsm Matthews 80
 Gdsm McLaughlan 75
 Gdsm Miotti 60
 Gdsm Mitchell 10
 Gdsm Morgan 60
 Gdsm Morris 41
 Gdsm Mortimer-Rees 23
 Gdsm Murphy 38
 Gdsm Nabukebuke 30
 Gdsm Noyes 41
 Gdsm Openda 89
 Gdsm Parry 91
 Gdsm Payne 19
 Gdsm Perkins 20
 Gdsm Prudham 76
 Gdsm Roberts 25
 Gdsm Roberts 55
 Gdsm Rowlands 15
 Gdsm Skibuiewski-Woods 29
 Gdsm Sweetman 75
 Gdsm Taylor 97
 Gdsm Turner 17
 Gdsm Waqanisaravi 36
 Gdsm Watts 18
 Gdsm Williams 03
 Gdsm Williams 55



Guard of Honour - Ystradgynlais

2013 has provided an opportunity for the Company to reset following the demands of an almost 18 month cycle surrounding the HERRICK tour last year. As such, the Company have conducted tasks instantly recognisable to our Welsh Guards forbearers: Spring Drills, Queens, Windsor and Tower Guards, and also the Queen's Birthday Parade. Somehow in a frenetic timetable and mixed in with these more traditional events, we have found time for some wider training, both conventional and adventurous!

On return from Operation HERRICK 16 and once refreshed from some well deserved POTL, the Little Iron Men threw themselves into two weeks of parades, formal events and of course the 300 Cup. Our focus was one of hard work with some very hard play in the margins! As part of the Battalion parade in Cardiff, the Iron Men marched proudly through the city centre in early December, before being hosted at the Arms Park for the remainder of the day. We also took part in the Battalion freedom march through the Borough of Hounslow. As ever Number Three Company put in a strong performance in The

300 Cup - ensuring that every company had to work exceptionally hard to progress through each stage. Whilst an overall win eluded us, we came away happy and impressed with some of the new talent in the Company.

The somewhat hectic lead up to Christmas culminated in the medals parade. As proud families and friends observed, every man in the Company was presented his operational medal by the Colonel for their services in Afghanistan earlier that year, which was a fantastic way to draw a line under our time on operations. As a final hurrah to the year, and not wanting to opt for an easy "end



Millennium Stadium tour

of term” social event, we let the men loose on London armed with nothing more than a travel card and their initiative. Exercise Ironman aimed to challenge Guardsmen’s ability to navigate across the capital, visit key sites of interest and completing a series of tasks, some more testing than others. The fact that members of the company appeared in the news, on the radio and a host of other normally unfrequented venues, all thankfully above board, meant for some amusing stories as we came together that evening for the annual smoker held in central London.

Christmas leave was a prolonged and relaxing period for the Company seeing us return to work refreshed and reset for the new challenges ahead. The volte face that was preparation for public duties was taken in its stride, with much demand placed on the

Master Tailor for the numerous “specials” that are as ever always generated from the Iron Men! One of the most unique tasks of the early part of the year was indisputably when the Company provided the backbone of the planning and labour for the Drapers dinner night that allowed the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal to raise over £100,000.

With leave and POTL now a distant memory, the work flow in January steadily increased and focus centred firmly on preparation for our first Queens Guard in early February. Our ‘Company Commanders Week’ in late January involved a number of events dreamt up to test the mental and physical stamina of the men. We raced around Richmond Park with command

tasks and stretcher races thrown in for good measure, and were also able to visit the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to use the obstacle course and training area for a testing navigational exercise. But the highlight was when the Company travelled to south Wales to exercise the Battalions freedom of Powys. A cold day could not dampen the support we received from people who came from far and wide. In such a small town and in tight streets with crowds often 4 or 5 deep, the warmth and pride that the region takes in it soldiers was evident to see and a memorable day was had by all involved. Having had a tour of the Millennium Stadium the day before and met some of the Welsh team who were preparing to take on Ireland,

we returned to the Arms Park after the parade for Ryan Jones’ Testimonial Dinner. This was followed the next morning by a training session in the Cardiff City football stadium with a Premier League coach, which rounded off a memorable week.

Having successfully completed Spring Drills and the necessary Adjutant’s, Commanding Officer’s and finally Major General’s inspections, Queens, Tower and Windsor Guards filled the majority of February. During March however time was also found to undertake a CT1 (Compulsory Training Level One) exercise on Aldershot Training area. With few occasions to get the whole Company together the week provided us with an opportunity to revise basic

“The warmth and pride that the region takes in it soldiers was evident to see and a memorable day was had by all involved.”



Number Three Company – Ellicott Cup Winners

soldiering skills and fully immerse the most junior Guardsmen into the Little Iron Men. Immediately after this, a strong contingent from the Company was heavily involved in mentoring 2 Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards, prior to their imminent deployment to Afghanistan. Members of the Company instructed and advised on the FTX (Final Training Exercise) on the Salisbury Plain providing invaluable insights and tips from the Company’s experiences on operations. The Irish Guards improved exponentially and were clearly thankful for our help and

advice: *Quis seperabit!*

Following two weeks Easter leave, over 90 members of the Company took part in the State Opening of Parliament on the 8th May, which effectively marked the beginning of the Battalion’s principle Ceremonial Duties over the summer months. Having been granted the honour of conducting the Queen’s Birthday Parade in June, and for the Company to form Number Three Guard, rehearsals began in earnest months before. Despite the logistical issues of travelling to Brunswick Camp, where

rehearsals also provided opportunities for the Guardsmen to properly investigate the Battalion’s future home from 2015, we reached the required standards in good order. Prior to the Parade itself, the Company had produced fine performances in the Major Generals rehearsal and the Colonel’s Review, and all were eagerly awaiting the main event. When the Birthday Parade arrived, it was a beautiful day and the Little Iron Men, as ever produced an immaculate display for Her Majesty on Horse Guards Parade.

In July, Lt Luther-Davies and LCpl Malley received the Carmarthen community bravery award. After giving a talk to those present about what the Company had accomplished in Afghanistan, the townsfolk put on an incredible evening for both men who received a standing ovation at the end. As summer leave loomed each platoon organised a day out together. Seven Platoon travelled into London and went to the National Army Museum and Royal Hospital, Eight Platoon went to Thorpe Park whilst Nine Platoon went water skiing for the afternoon followed by a

“This success paired with the Companies triumph in the Ellicott Cup has furthered the Iron Man’s reputation for maintaining its place as the leading company in the Battalion!”



Number Three Guard – The Queens Birthday Parade

waterside barbeque. Company Headquarters had a fantastic lunch and tour around Fullers Brewery before sampling some of their produce.

During Summer Leave, the majority of the Company returned home and basked in the long awaited glorious sunshine. However, a few intrepid members of the Company led by the Company Commander conducted a daring and adventurous expedition driving to and from Kazakhstan to conduct training with the Kazakh Armed Forces. Exercise Silk Dragon was a seven week round trip visiting

nineteen countries across Europe and Central Asia, conducting numerous battlefield tours along the way, and testing every part of the teams resilience to get there and back.

As ever the now familiar cycle of Public Duties continues to occupy a large portion of our time, but we continue to maintain fitness, military skills and accommodate the many and varied tasks that are thrown our way. Of particular note is the continued success of the Company Choir which has now reached new and dizzier heights. After a

recording in October with Russell Watson, the choir will be performing in St David’s Hall in Cardiff late in the year, and will then perform in front of thousands next year in Edinburgh and London as part of the celebration to mark the beginning of the First World War. This success paired with the Companies triumph in the Ellicott Cup has furthered the Iron Man’s reputation for maintaining its place as the leading company in the Battalion!

At the time of writing, the Company are enjoying time in Wales on a multi-adventure

training package, providing soldiers and Officers to take part in the Walk on Wales charity expedition, conducting weapon and tactical training on Hythe and Brecon Ranges and providing guards in London and Windsor. The year has flown past for the Little Iron Men who have travelled all over the world and experienced and achieved so much. There are as ever things to do, and with the Army 2020 changes being implemented already, the Company remains on its toes, working hard in its constant pursuit of excellence.

FY NUW, FY NGWLAD, FY MRENIN

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Ofna Dduw, Anrhydedda'r Brenin - Fear God, honour the King

Lt Col Bossi
Maj Salusbury
Maj Bowen
Maj Dawson
Capt Baldwin
Capt Davies
Capt Fenton
Capt Hughes
Capt Young
WO1 Topps
WO2 Myers
WO2 Dunn
WO2 Griffiths
WO2 Radford
WO2 Ryan
WO2 Wilson
CSgt Canavan
CSgt Davies
CSgt Hayes
CSgt Hughes
CSgt Savage
CSgt Young
CSgt Evans
CSgt Parry
Sgt Davies
Sgt Harris
Sgt Heath
Sgt Hemmings
Sgt Lias
Sgt Mcfall
Sgt McEvoy
Sgt Paddock
Sgt Parry
Sgt Phillips
Sgt Prosser
Sgt Smith
Sgt Todd
Sgt Whatling
LSgt Buller
LSgt Cunningham
LSgt Davies
LSgt Davies

LSgt Davies
LSgt Devine
LSgt Evans
LSgt Gwilym
LSgt Hayman
LSgt Hayton
LSgt Horrell
LSgt Jones
LSgt Jones
LSgt Morgan
LSgt Obrien
LSgt Stevens
LSgt Stirling
LSgt Wilks
LSgt Williams
LCpl Bruford
LCpl Clowse
LCpl Glanville
LCpl Grindley
LCpl Jones
LCpl Jones
LCpl Lee
LCpl Smith
LCpl Pienaar
Gdsm Adams
Gdsm Adekoya
Gdsm Arnold
Gdsm Adjei
Gdsm Beattie
Gdsm Boulton
Gdsm Broome
Gdsm Clark
Gdsm Clarke
Gdsm Collins
Gdsm Dalton
Gdsm Davies
Gdsm Endres
Gdsm Evans
Gdsm Evans
Gdsm Hathway
Gdsm Howells
Gdsm Jones

Gdsm Mason
Gdsm Meredith
Gdsm Misibi
Gdsm Mitchell
Gdsm Mooney
Gdsm Pike
Gdsm Poole
Gdsm Pugh
Gdsm Richards

Gdsm Robinson-Shaw
Gdsm Rowe
Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Stevens
Gdsm Saho
Gdsm Trow
Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Watts
Gdsm Whiles

ATTACHED

Maj Zaffar
Revd Jones
Capt Ravenscroft
Capt Robinson
Lt Marx
WO2 Cooper
WO2 Mclay
WO2 Webb
SSgt Henton
SSgt Finlay
Sgt Collins
Sgt Chadwick
Sgt Evanson
Sgt Goodall
Sgt Leng
Sgt Lowe-Barrow
Sgt Santos Carey
Sgt Smith
Sgt Wills
LSgt Bentley
LSgt Jackson
LSgt Mclean
LSgt Anderson
LSgt Mckay
LSgt Morrey
Cpl Bell
Cpl Pell

LCpl Che
LCpl Souter
LCpl Johnston
LCpl Gurung
LCpl Logie
LCpl Pickard
LCpl Rai
LCpl Rai
LCpl Reid
LCpl Saru
LCpl Williams
Cfn Colwell
Cfn George
Cfn Hewitt
Cfn Jayes
Cfn Joyce
Cfn Mclenahan
Cfn Singh Dhindsa
Pte Afidemenyo
Pte David
Pte Herbert
Pte Koboah
Pte Moreau
Pte Rai
Pte Rai
Pte Robinson
Pte Townsend

HEADQUARTER COMPANY
Maj A F Bowen Coy Comd

Company Commanders changed over in December 2012 with Major Mark Cooling moving on and assigned to a QM post in Germany and subsequent promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. This is a huge achievement for someone who joined the army as a Gdsm all those years ago, 1950 something or other! Well done to him and the congratulations of Headquarter Company, and indeed the wider Battalion and Regiment, follow him into his new post.

You will read in this magazine how busy the Battalion has been and the reader can rest assured that life has been no different in Headquarter Company. The articles that follow from the various Departments express this very clearly. The demands placed upon Headquarter Company have been varied and aplenty. Manpower is always at a premium as extracting a member of the Company to do something other than his or her core business, places a burden on those who remain to fill the gap. Food needs to be cooked, vehicles serviced, medicals conducted and logistics set in place. However, it does not hurt to remind oneself of our core business as an Infantry Battalion. We exist to close with the enemy and although I am not expecting our chefs to launch themselves daily at the targets on X Range, I am clear that the threat on the modern battlefield is not as clear as it once was. In fact, in attempting to define the modern battlefield we may need to look only on our own doorstep in London. Headquarter Company, to that end, needs to be able to launch out of barracks and into a mindset that complements that of the Rifle Companies and Support Company.

The future will doubtless exhibit challenges as the

Battalion moves into a new barracks next year and a new role, that of Light Protected Mobility. With change comes opportunity and challenges and surely we all joined for that. I for one see exciting times ahead and I am keen to see what the shape of 1WG looks like when ready to drive out of barracks in our gleaming new vehicles in late 2014.

To this last year, we have worked hard as a Company, we have supported all Battalion activities and I am very proud of all that has been achieved in our role of both supporting and delivering 1WG core business. It is the people that make our Battalion what it is and it is abundantly clear that our Company is blessed with some very hard working individuals.

Company Headquarters has a strong team with our stores led by CQMS Young and LSgt Davies 83. Gdsm Broome has returned and has taken on an important role in the stores and we have also been joined by Gdsm Robinson-Shaw and Gdsm Smith 65 to support the CQMS. Cpl Gurung and Pte Afidemenyo have been working tirelessly to ensure that all administrative issue are kept at bay.

We have recently said farewell to our man mountain of a CSM

with WO2 Radford making his way towards the door of civilian life. He is thanked enormously by us all for his contribution and we welcome CSgt Parry 700 into the unusual and demanding post of CSM in a very complex team. I often say that we have an eclectic

mix of difficult people, not because they "are" difficult but because they have day jobs and to get them to do something else is often a challenge. Welcome 700, I hope you enjoy the ride and hold on tight!

I trust you enjoy the Department updates that follow.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPT
Maj K Dawson QM



The Quartermaster's Department has been completely turned over with individuals leaving, assigned and promoted. Congratulations to RQMS (M) Topps on promotion to WO1 and RSM 1WG and RQMS (T) Jones 27 also promoted and appointed as the Command Sergeant Major in Kabul. Sgt Williams 37 eventually peeled off the G1098 chair and has been assigned to Canada. Capt Robinson, WO2 Wilson, Sgt Farr and Gdsm Boulton have departed for civilian life and we wish them all well in the future and thank them for the significant contribution they have all made over their careers.

The year has been exceedingly busy with migration of new software in MJDI and JAMES whilst concurrently planning for the LSI. The Master Tailor and his team were tested to the full in preparing for State Ceremonial and Public Duties; what a great way to prepare LSgt Wilks to takeover as Master Tailor in the summer! Finally we have been heavily involved in preparing and

executing a number of RAAT Tasks with PI and Coy size deployments to a number of countries for example Kenya, Kazakhstan and the Falklands. LSgt Buller should be commended for his efforts in a daunting task in preparing vast amounts of ammunition for Bn live firing.

A new team with little experience and the daunting



Sgt Phillips G1098 – "Sir really, there isn't such a thing, have you tried Amazon..."



LSgt Cunningham Unit Spares Accountant – If this cups breaks I have another one!



Gdsm Pike G1098 Storeman - or is he, comments on a post card...

task of preparing for the LSI all departments have worked full force whilst supporting the Bn concurrently. Individuals were sent to learn the new MJDI Material Accountants Courses, something Sgt Parry grasped with ease finding loop holes in the system, baffling the subject matter experts and eventually forming best practise across the board. The LSI was commended by the Inspecting Team as the best unit they had inspected that had migrated to MJDI and they had inspected 77 units, both the QM and RQMS Dunn breathed a sigh of relief!

Finally after the LSI the department relaxed with a week's adventure training in Germany, sailing, kayaking and mountain biking at the British Forces Dümmersee Sail Training Centre (BFDSTC). WO2 Cooper the RCWO was tasked and prepared a very well organised experience! I would recommend this to all but don't recommend the 15 hour drive.

We have also supported a number of charities with the QM, RCWO and Sgt Chadwick assisting SODEXO in static cycling London to Helmand for ABF. Sgt Chadwick, enthused by his efforts, continued the bug and joined the cycle team from Chepstow to Chester as part of the Walk on Wales, covering 130 miles in just over nine and a half hours.

The football Ellicott Cup took the backbone of the

department with LSgts Wilks and Cunningham heading up HQ team; both RQMS Dunn and RQMS Ryan showing their age the following morning!

Tranche 3 Redundancies have hit the Catering Platoon hard losing a third of the team. Sgt Paddock however was delighted and intends to put his feet up and fish for his supper for the next 2 years, (no change there)! Farewells also go out to Cpl White who transferred to the EHT and LCpl James. Also of note the department has been busy improving their education such as CLM, Numeracy and Literacy Courses. Congratulations to LCpl Rai 417, who has recently been selected for promotion to Cpl, along with Cpl Anderson and Cpl McKay on receiving LSgt status.

Pte Robinson has been involved locally with Beavers Community School and teaching young children about healthy eating as well as helping with the School Fair in order to raise funds for improving the school, in which some of the pupils come from Battalion families housed locally. He has also been recently selected for promotion, well done indeed.

To sum-up this year the Quartermaster's Department has worked and played hard providing a high service across the battalion whilst keeping a sense of fun; something hard to achieve whilst in a demanding environment.



Sgt Davies 83 "I'm the Barrack Manager, I would be delighted, can I help you with that... now \$%^& away, I am a busy man..."

THE



PRESSURE

RQMS (T) WO2 Ryan on being told he would be without a QM Tech for at least 6 months. We weren't sure if he was laughing or crying at this point...



LSgt Horrell instructing first parades on the MT park in Cavalry Barracks



Gdsm Rowe pretending to enjoy being a driver!

“Let’s just say he was fit by the end of the day with all the visits he completed just to match the olive drab green paint.”

**OFNA DDUW,
ANRHYDEDDA'R
BRENIN**

MOTORISED 'TRANSPORT' PLATOON

Capt B Baldwin MTO

Over the last 12 months the Motorised Transport (MT) Platoon has been as busy as it was during the recent deployment to Afghanistan. Since the collapse of the Rear Operations Group it has seen some transition with new personnel coming in to bolster the platoon.

There is now a new MTO in Capt Baldwin who has taken the helm from Sergeant Smith to relieve him of some stress. Gdsm Evans 89 has come in and already trained on all the vehicle platforms. With that there has been some sad news that Sgt Smith 19 has been selected for tranche 3 redundancy and will leave late December. LSgt Allan has also been unfortunate and has been selected through the med board to leave the Army and good luck to them both.

After Christmas leave the platoon geared up to start the driver training packages and saw the first taking place at Pirbright and Aldershot. This was a very testing time for LSgt Hayton as seen with some of the students we had and some bold driving on the cross country circuit. Swiftly moving on from that the platoon had the dreaded LSI to which much credit to the likes of LCpl Pienaar, LSgt Harris and LSgt Horrell we passed with flying colours and a very well done indeed for their efforts.

As one obstacle falls another appears and the Troop was closing in on us. As you can imagine when told you are the unit providing the kits and capes capability that vehicles need preparing in a manner never seen before! We did get all 12 vehicles through a spray booth and fitted new canopies,

all just in time. We did however, have an experience were a tail gate needed painting and our very own Gdsm Rowe volunteered to go to the paint shop. Let’s just say he was fit by the end of the day with all the visits he completed just to match the olive drab green paint. Despite his efforts we then painted it black. All rehearsals took place and we travelled to London on every occasion and were never used. However, we now have the smartest land rover fleet in the Army.

After a great summer leave we geared up for another inspection and we wait for the Equipment Care Inspection (ECI) starting early September. We have to make this work as daily first parades are our bread and butter. There will be some hard work ahead for our newly qualified LCpl Grindley and his team. This will be the first test for the new Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Harris and CSgt Hughes 87 as the Platoon adopts the new Army 2020 ORBAT.

We are also looking forward to the Battalion exercise whereupon the platoon will have its first driving test under the new regime. LSgt Davies 84 will have to put in a first shift in 20 years so we look forward to the groans from his aching body.

MEDICAL CENTRE
Maj Zaffar RMO

The work intensity for 1WG has remained intense. The major event of course was the completion of a successful Op Herrick deployment where all members of the RAP played an important role in supporting the campaign. The RMO & the Practice Manager (Sgt Collins) manned the Primary Health Care Facility in Camp Bastion.

This was a busy job but executed with professional finesse. The PHC facility catered to the care of both the NATO forces and the LEC. The facility also provided on-site CPN, Dentist and GU specialists. Sgt Collins must have had one of the steepest learning curves when he found himself managing the PHC needs of 11000 personnel in Bastion instead of the 600 in the Barracks!

Non-deployable statistics - there was a specific focus to reduce the numbers of non-deployable soldiers. The extensive work done has resulted in a significant improvement to the extent that 1WG has one of the most

impressive figures in LONDIST.

PTSD has remained an important subject due to the history of the Battalion's experiences in Afghanistan. The Commanding Officer's direction has been to be alert to the needs of those personnel have been affected and to support them at every stage.

The RAP has a combination of both experienced staff and new comers. The emphasis has been to improve the standards of the medics by working on their medical-specific knowledge base. This was identified as the weakest area as the CMT spend more time in being infantry soldiers first.

CIS PLATOON
Capt A Ravenscroft R SIGNALS RSO

The CIS Platoon has seen a number of changes over the last 12 months since returning from Herrick 16.

Capt Ravenscroft, another R SIGNALS Officer, has now taken over as RSO saying farewell to Capt 'Dusty' Miller who left the Bn to become the Adjutant of 14 Signal Regt (EW). WO2 Smith 63 has also left and now works in RHQ leaving CSgt Savage to take up the mantle of RSWO, although he will be leaving shortly to resettle. Sgt Griffiths 42 has left for a training post in

Warminster with Sgt Lias holding the post of CIS CQMS temporarily prior to CSgt Hayes being parachuted in to bolster manpower losses and take over as the permanent CIS PI CQMS. Sgt Todd will also be leaving shortly to resettle leaving all BOWMAN planning (and headaches) to Sgt Lias.

LSgts Hayman and Gwilym have rejoined the platoon and

taken over as PI Sgt and Trg Sgt respectively. These left vacancies for LCpls Divers, Knill and Millins to take over as RSDCs of PoWs' Company, 2 Company and 3 Company respectively.

Earlier in the year the CIS PI conducted a signals training exercise in Longmoor which was a good refresh for the platoon and company signallers to get back into the conventional side of signalling

after HERRICK 16. The platoon then deployed to SENTA to carry out a confirmatory exercise in arduous conditions. The snow filled week proved completely opposite to the sunny Longmoor experience.

The platoon are looking forward to a varied next twelve months with members going to Brecon, Kenya, Falklands (Op FIRIC) and Belize before the whole Bn deploys to Kenya next summer.



RSO, Capt Dusty Miller, briefing his NCOs on how exciting signals can be... some left the platoon very quickly after this briefing!



2 sugars please butt... what did you say, it's not straight! CIS Platoon training at its pinnacle!



CIS Platoon Training in the DZ huts at Longmoor Training Area



Capt Miller sits back to admire the complete professionalism of his CIS Platoon SNCOs. If only he knew the full story



Capt Gill RAO and team before they took part in the AGC Triple Crown. The weapons were even dirtier after the event!

AGC DETACHMENT

Capt P Robinson AGC RAO

In May the AGC Detachment travelled down to Worthy Down, Winchester, to participate in the AGC Triple Crown. Capt Gill, Lt Marx, LSgt Mclean, Cpl Ohene-Darko and LCpls Clabby, Gurung, Rai, Shrestha, Sutton spent months training for this event.

We split down into two groups. Capt Gill, LCpls Gurung, Rai and Shrestha took on the gruelling 12 mile tab while Lt Marx, LSgt Mclean, Cpl Ohene-Darko and LCpl Sutton tackled the 4 mile tab and cheeky assault course. All members of the team were very tired but LSgt Mclean managed to get everyone over the 12 foot wall with his strength and encouragement.

The Detachment has seen many people come and go this year. Capt Gill, WO2 Godfree, SSgt Henton, SSgt Rees, Sgt Barnes, LCpl Shrestha, LCpl Sutton and Pte Lee have all said farewell to the Battalion whilst LSgt Morrey and Lt Marx are due to escape.

Capt Robinson, Cpl Coldrick, Cpl Gardner and Pte Porter have recently joined the Battalion. Capt Robinson has taken over as the new Regimental Administrative Officer and is looking forward to the new challenges that await him.

On a recent Detachment function everyone attempted to show off their skills on the ice rink in London, there were a lot of red faces as people hung onto the barrier for dear life - especially Sgt Wills and Pte Porter who both looked like Bambi on ice! However, some members of the Detachment thought they were playing bowling as they crashed through other rink users. Thankfully, no insurance claims have come our way - yet!

The Detachment is looking forward to the arrival of a much needed RAWO and FSA whose positions have been gapped for some time due to the battalion being a low manning priority after Ops. With deployments to the Falklands and Belize on the horizon there is no doubt that the Detachment will have a busy few months ahead.

“Some members of the Detachment thought they were playing bowling as they crashed through other rink users. Thankfully, no insurance claims have come our way - yet!”

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT
 WO2 (AQMS) D Webb REME

2013 has been yet another busy year so far for the Light Aid Detachment (LAD). The turnover of personnel returning from Operations and subsequently leaving for locations such as the Falkland Islands, LCpl Logie, and Kenya, Sgt Smith, has meant that once again the remaining members of the LAD have been asked to step up and ensure that equipment availability remains high.

The plethora of RAAT tasks tasked to the Battalion has seen the majority of the LAD disappear on short term tasking supporting activities as diverse as cadet training team camps and, of course, the demand from within the Battalion to support training remains high. The CIS PI exercise to STA being a highlight for both LSgt Bentley and Cfn McLenahan, both returning with considerably more winter recovery experience than they left with! The Battalion has undergone a number of significant changes, migration to MJDI and JAMES to name but two. The LAD have been heavily involved in supporting these changes, providing guidance in what training was required to meet the JAMES criteria and preparing for the forthcoming ECI being the main effort.

The LAD has still managed to find time in the FOE to engage in a number of sporting activities and adventurous training opportunities. LSgt Bentley, LCpl Reid and Cfn Hewitt have represented the Battalion at the LONDIST basketball championships

earning a well deserved runner up finish despite only having the minimum of training time, well done. The majority of the LAD also enjoyed the Quartermaster's department AT exercise conducted at the Army sailing centre in Germany. This was a fantastic week allowing the department a period of recovery after a frenetic schedule. It is fair to say that all who travelled to the sailing centre had a thoroughly good time.

Continuing on the sporting theme Sgt Goodall's success representing the Corps at Angling must not go unmentioned. A very productive year so far for Sgt Goodall has seen him collect a number of trophies and an even greater number of days out of the office!

In short the LAD has been working tirelessly throughout the year to maintain the Battalions equipment and it has had to cope with a number of challenges, however, this hasn't stopped the LAD cracking on and getting involved within the Battalion whenever possible.



Cfn Hewitt hard at work preparing vehicles for Ex BOWMAN JEDI



Quartermaster with members of the LAD on Ex RECHARGE

"The LAD have been heavily involved in supporting these changes, providing guidance in what training was required to meet the JAMES criteria."



Battalion RPStaff

GUARDROOM

Sgt M Prosser RP SNCO

It has been a relatively busy period over the past 12 months for the Regimental Police Staff. The main jobs we have carried out are Fire Safety, Discipline within Camp, Running the Guardroom, Camp Security, Custody and Queens Guards.

We have lost a member to support company and gained a new member from 3 Company. LSgt Sanigar has stepped into the world of FSG in Support Company and has been on the ground in Brecon ever since he left the department, and we wish him all the best in his new job.

LCpl Bruford joined us on the departure of LSgt Sanigar and he has been getting used to the change in pace and workload that being in the RP Staff brings. He has been enjoying his new role within the battalion (some say maybe a little too much). His thing is arriving in the office 30 minutes before everyone else in the morning and puts the

kettle on but I am sure that will change in time. His roles within the department include discipline, discipline and more discipline! AGAI 67 is his only friend right now and he's learning this harsh reality quickly.

LSgt Stevens has had a busy time after LSgt Sanigar leaving and he has taken on his extra workload of fire alarm checks as well as the 400+ fire extinguishers checks throughout the barracks. He loves his extra work, as the prospect of being away from the MPGS is very appealing to him. LSgt Stevens has been busy building on his working relationship with the Quartermaster this past 12

months and he hopes very much that that bond rolls on into 2014. As well as this he has been given his own office in the pride office to sort his fire alarm checks.

LSgt Morgan 65's role this year has been running the guardroom and making sure the 4 Cs are carried out. He's been working along side the MPGS and the guard teams on a daily basis, making sure the orders, paperwork, outside areas and standards of dress are of a high standard at all times. Recently he deployed to Otterburn on a joint exercise with the Irish Guards Battalion and a French Mountain Troop Company. His role was running the safety for the many ranges before the joint battalion/company attack at the end of the 3 weeks.

Sgt Prosser LSGC (me!) will be leaving us and the army this time next year. After 24 years in the battalion, he's due to join Civilian Street and I'm sure the transition will happen without a hitch. His main role this year was to oversee the rest of the department's jobs. Sgt Prosser's involvement in battalion and Infantry rugby has seen him coaching both sides ready for big games and tournaments such as the Infantry Corps competition and the Newbury 10's tournament which saw the battalion placed 3rd out of 40 teams across the British Army. His commitment to his coaching job has kept him fit and busy and hopes to carry this on into his civilian life after leaving the army with local sides near his home town.

"He loves his extra work, as the prospect of being away from the MPGS is very appealing to him."



Carley Harries hands Tudor Bear to HRH with Sue Bazan close by

WELFARE AND CHAPLAINCY
 Reverend K P Jones Padre and CSgt G Evans 62 UWSNCO

The most significant event this year for me as the Padre was the service at the National Memorial Arboretum where we remembered the Welsh Guards who did not return from Op HERRICK 16. Their names are now engraved on the walls along with all those military personnel who have died on active service since the end of the Second World War.

We have now passed the anniversary of each of these deaths and these have been marked back at Hounslow with prayers at the Chapel here attended by many of their comrades. Along with Welfare, one of my primary roles has been supporting the Battalion in this post-deployment period, and the conversations that have followed have been many and varied.

I was due to be posted at Easter but fortunately managed to be extended in post until the end of September. One of the benefits for me was to be able to attend the Queen's Birthday Parade, which was a wonderful occasion and to see the huge contrast in roles the Battalion performs, from operations to public duties and it has been a huge privilege to be part of this

time in the life of the Battalion.

It has been an extremely busy period for the welfare team since the end of Op HERRICK 16. Sgt Darren Whatling and his sidekick LSgt Phil Taylor have been coordinating the home visits for our sick at home soldiers. Sgt Whatling and LSgt Taylor have probably driven every road from North Wales (god's country) to South Wales on a weekly basis to visit our soldiers, I will not to mention any of the chuckle brothers "Navigationally embarrassing" excuses in the public domain.

We ended 2012 with a well deserved wives Christmas sit down dinner in the Sgts' Mess.

Unfortunately Capt Hughes' Father Christmas outfit had "shrunk in the wash" so Father Christmas did not make an appearance last year. The wives had a great night dancing the night away, strictly come dancing judges would have been amazed with the talent within the Welsh Guards wives dancing troop. Towards the latter end of the night myself and Capt Hughes were persuaded to start the X Factor Karaoke sing off to a medley of Tom Jones hits, by our own admission we were good even though the boo's and hisses from the wives told us otherwise. Little did we know that we were being filmed by certain wives whilst doing a rendition of Delilah, they then uploaded the video to you tube but we must have been good as we had over 150 internet hits.

Next on the agenda was St David's Day which was amazingly well attended by friends, family and also the bereaved families and it turned out to be a fantastic

Regimental day. The job of hosting the bereaved families was given to Capt Hughes and me. It was a very emotional day for the families of LCpl Lee Davies, Gdsm Craig Roderick and Gdsm Tuisovurua. All three families were made to feel exceptionally welcome by all. Sadie Lowry (Gdsm Roderick's mother) commented on "what a special day she had and will always remember it". Our Community Development Worker, Sue Bazan, could not believe her luck when she met HRH to discuss the adventures of Tudor Bear who had been away on tour with the lads. Sue was unusually lost for words, but that didn't last for long. I don't think HRH could get a word in edgeways.

Throughout the rest of the year Sue Bazan has had a summer full of activities for our families which has included Poppy Breaks which are holidays for children who leave their parents at home and enjoy a break at PGL in Liddington. Local farm visits and also coffee mornings have also taken place which are invaluable to the wives on the patch.

In the last year I have said goodbye to the majority of the Welfare team. Capt Hughes is now relaxing as the Regimental Careers Management Officer. Sgt Whatling has moved to pastures new and having taken voluntary redundancy and LSgt Taylor is now the mess manager at St James's palace. On the upside LSgt Keiv O'Brian has joined the team from recruiting in North Wales.

"Unfortunately Capt Hughes' Father Christmas outfit had "shrunk in the wash" so Father Christmas did not make an appearance last year."

SUPPORT COMPANY

Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth - Fear Nothing but Disgrace

Major Spencer-Smith
Capt Figgures-Wilson
Capt Major
Capt Emlyn-Williams
WO2 CSM Bowen
CSgt Griffiths 96
DMaj De Wit
CSgt Geen
Sgt Deren
Sgt Evans 07
Sgt Jones 78
Sgt Parry 95
Sgt Thomas 90
LSgt Cummins
LSgt Evans 13
LSgt Evans 35
LSgt Evans 88
LSgt Griffiths 04
LSgt Hill
LSgt Hillier
LSgt John
LSgt Lewis 51
LSgt Pearce
LSgt Potts
LSgt Rowlands 95
LSgt Simons
LCpl Chambers
LCpl Davies 47
LCpl Forde
LCpl Kirumira
LCpl Liddy

LCpl Martin
LCpl Meek
LCpl Parry 26
LCpl Rees
LCpl Ryan
LCpl Selby
LCpl Shepard-Smith
LCpl Tancock
LCpl Viavalevu
LCpl Van Eysen
LCpl Worthington
Dmr Agu
Dmr Armstrong
Gdsm Bishop
Gdsm Butler
Gdsm Campbell 85
Gdsm Cray
Gdsm Dade
Gdsm Davies 05
Gdsm Davies 85
Gdsm Davies 87
Gdsm Davies 89
Gdsm Dudley
Gdsm Dunn
Gdsm Edwards 86
Gdsm Edwards 95
Gdsm Evans 91
Gdsm Evans 94
Gdsm Faulkner
Gdsm Flynn
Gdsm Francis

Gdsm Fullman
Gdsm Griffiths 86
Gdsm Harvey
Gdsm Hawker
Gdsm Hertzog
Gdsm Hibben
Gdsm Hill
Dmr Hillman
Gdsm Holmes
Gdsm Hughes 13
Gdsm Hughes 29
Gdsm Hughes 41
Dmr Jawara
Gdsm Jobarteh
Gdsm Jones 79183
Gdsm Jones 99183
Gdsm Jones 84
Dmr Jones 91
Dmr Jones 92
Gdsm Kelly
Gdsm Kennedy
Gdsm Kingdon
Gdsm Kontodios
Gdsm Lewis 39
Gdsm Macedru
Dmr Maund
Dmr Misibi
Dmr Needs
Gdsm Nielbling
Gdsm Parfitt
Gdsm Parr

Dmr Parry 15
Dmr Parry 23
Dmr Parry 71
Dmr Price 51
Gdsm Reeves
Dmr Roberts 69
Gdsm Rodgers
Dmr Sarpak
Dmr Shepard
Gdsm Shields
Dmr Siwale
Gdsm Skates
Gdsm Soko
Gdsm Stephens
Gdsm Taylor 40
Gdsm Thomas 500
Gdsm Threadgold
Gdsm Toomey
Dmr Turner
Gdsm Walters
Gdsm Webb
Dmr Whittaker
Gdsm Williams 22
Dmr Williams 60
Dmr Williams 63
Dmr Wolfenden
Gdsm Woodman
Gdsm Woosnam

NAC OFNA OND GWARTH - FEAR NOTHING BUT DISGRACE



LSgt Lewis 88 Overseas a Gun Team In Action

2013 has been an unusual year with the coming and going of 3 Company Commanders and potentially a 4th on the horizon. Throughout all of this has been the steady hand of WO2 (CSM) Bowen on the tiller.

In most articles the authors are given to superlatives about how busy their year has been and it is without disappointment I am able to report that nothing changes. The beginning of the year focused on returning to the 'Blue Line' With an genuinely intense period running for 3 weeks the Bn re-fitted every man into a greatcoat, brushed up on our ceremonial skills, conducted 3 homecoming parades across Wales and managed to pass the Major General's inspection with flying colours. As usual Sp Coy did not having a leading role in the formation of the guards but assisted with the liberal application of SNCOs and JNCOs across the duty

companies to assist with their guards. It is without a shred of doubt that the star of the Bn was the Corps of Drums (even if as the previous Adjutant I do say so myself). Coming from an almost withered shell in early 2012, the Corps was on parade for the Major General, formally becoming the largest Corp in the Brigade of Guards with some 32 men. This was only achieved through some inventive manning by the RSM and DSgts, a heroic effort by the remaining drummers and old fashioned hard work by the new draft to get themselves up

to standard. The dividends have been clear to see throughout 2013 and no doubt beyond.

Equally both the Mortars and Recce have faced plenty of challenges not least on the manning front. I am delighted to report that although not full, both platoons are in a position to support the Comd Offr in their role and their strength will only improve. Additionally we have re-raised the Sniper Platoon. Although embryonic in structure, it has the makings of a top quality asset in the future and will no doubt improve with time.

The remainder of the year will culminate with the Bn Field Firing Camp in Sennybridge put together by the CSM and

CQMS. Not forgetting the usual Christmas shenanigans, no doubt Support Company will be in the thick of the action.

The Corps of Drum

The recent shake up of the FSG ORBAT has resulted in the CoD becoming, (as if it weren't already!) the single most valuable Battalion asset that the Commanding Officer has in his pocket.

It is common knowledge that my Drummers can do the job of any Rifle Platoon (probably with more panache). The Corps can most often be found strutting down the Mall in their finery, attracting many an admiring glance with their precise and tuneful music. In the margins, the Corps attends

"It is common knowledge that my Drummers can do the job of any Rifle Platoon"



LCpl Meek Finalising Arcs For His Gun Team



No 2 Company's Gun Team Prepare a Reactive Observation Post

glamorous parties in London and Cardiff, entertaining many of the nation's worthies and attracting a good deal of interest and praise, both for themselves and for the Welsh Guards.

What the untrained observer may not notice, however, is that, as of the 20th of September, the boys will have a steely edge to their gaze and a quiet self assurance which is entirely befitting of their new and crucial role. The Corps of Drums is now the Anti-Tank Platoon and, having successfully completed the FSG Cadre, is ready and qualified to rain death upon unsuspecting armoured targets from above! The boys are genuinely excited about this new string to their bow and, as the cadre has proven beyond doubt, more than capable of stepping up to the plate.

Over the next few years, the challenge will be to bring back that specialist anti-tank knowledge and skill that was diluted in the 'jack of all trades' FSG structure. To achieve this, and maintain the high level of morale within the Corps, it will be essential to throw ourselves at opportunities and to conduct green training alongside the heavy ceremonial burden that the Corps shoulders. The lack of qualified Junior Non Commissioned Officers is being remedied slowly but surely. LCpl Potts did extremely well on the FSG Team Commander's Course, passing with an Instructor Recommend. LCpl Rees will finish his Course in November. In addition we have three Dmrs on the Tac Course in October.

Progress is being made!

In the last twelve months the Welsh Guards Troop, Beating of the Retreat, Baroness Thatcher's funeral, the Ryan Jones Boxing and Drapers' Dinners and the Ride for Heroes event, as well as the weekly grind of Windsor and Queen's Guards, have kept the Corps extremely busy. The boys have shown a great deal of maturity and commitment over the last year in what has been an extremely busy and demanding period for the Battalion. The aspirations for the New Year include Javelin live firing in the Falklands, a possible deployment to Belize with Number Three Company, a spell of adventure training and there have been whispers of a Corps of Drums Tour to America! The Platoon is also looking forward to having their mettle tested in Kenya next year, putting into action all of the green skills that they have learnt and will learn over the coming months.

Vale (or for those of us who do not have Latin vocab as an essential skill), we bid our farewells to DMaj Lawman who has done such an excellent job of getting the Corps up and running after a period of operationally induced hiatus. He has gone to pass on his formidable experience to a new generation in the Support Weapons School. He is replaced by the dynamic DMaj De Witt who's boundless energy is a perfect match for

the manning and operational metamorphosis that lies ahead.

Mortar Platoon.

The Mortar Platoon formed up after post tour leave in the early December of 2012 having been spread across the Support Company police mentoring teams as well as supporting Number 3 Company in their role as Brigade Operations Company. Despite the initial made dash to get back into tunics the pace of life meant that it was not until March that the Platoon was able to focus on the art of "throwing bombs" again.

A select few (9) attended the Brigade Mortar Cadre held in Warminster. This Cadre gave them the opportunity to progress from complete novices with the 81mm mortar to a swept-up team able to carryout a fully timed fire plan in support of troops on the ground. Through sheer hard work and dedication Gdsm Hawker was named top student on the Cadre. He was not the only man who shone and The Welsh Guards proved hard work does pay off and completed the 5 mile heavy carry nearly an hour ahead of the other sections. Despite this great start to the green training we were soon back into our tunics for the 'Summer Season'. With significant support going to Number 2 Guard on the Queens Birthday Parade the men of the platoon were kept busy on the square

and in the Royal Guardrooms for many weeks.

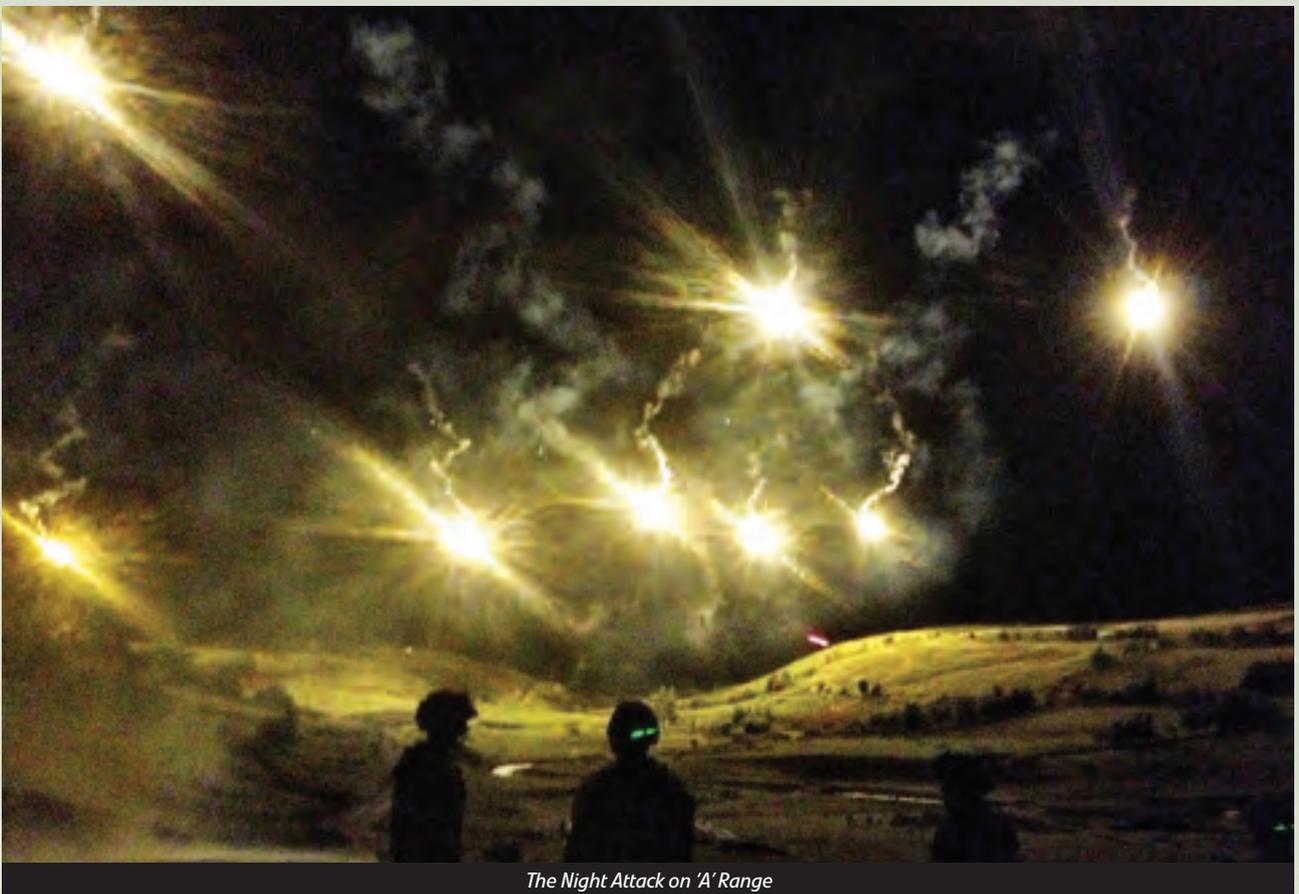
The back end of the year has seen the focus switch yet again towards the "green" side of life with the cadre in October, which will prove to be a demanding experience for all those involved. The hope of the Cadre is to train 50 individuals to be mortar qualified in order to support the Battalion in the large number of upcoming tasks. Those who have been especially "good" have been rewarded with a trip to the Falkland Islands which will allow them to fire in support of Number 2 Company. The deployment will also provide an opportunity for the section to conduct battlefield tours and try to understand what the Mortar men of 1982 went through and how the skills haven't really changed.

A number of individuals need to be congratulated on their successful completion of courses over the year. Firstly to LSgt Derren who completed the Mortar Zic's in June. This is a real achievement as the course is designed for Colour Sergeant and Warrant Officers. Secondly to LCpl Griffiths 04 and Evans 13 who performed extremely well on the Standards course after little preparation. They have shown great spirit and enthusiasm on their return from the course. This year's winner of the FASFOUS trophy went to Gdsm Hawker for his performance on the Brigade Mortar Cadre.

"What the untrained observer may not notice, however, is that, as of the 20th of September, the boys will have a steely edge to their gaze."



Members of The Mortar Platoon support the Army Benevolent Fund at Brighton Racecourse



The Night Attack on 'A' Range

**1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS
FIELD FIRING CAMP**
Capt T C Spencer Smith

The Battalion Field Firing camp took place in October and represented the culmination of annual training for the Rifle Companies and the Support Company Cadres.

The planning lay predominantly with my predecessor, but as with large Battalion level events the real muscle moves were put in place by WO2 (CSM) Bowen and CSgt (CQMS) Griffiths with stalwart support of the Quartermasters Department. Week by week the pieces slowly fell into place, and eventually with only a few last minute changes, we were ready.

The Rifle Companies each deployed consecutively to the Lydd and Hythe Ranges to conduct their initial training. These ranges covered everything from the basic ACMT (Annual Marksmanship Test) all the way up to the more complicated IBSR. With sterling support from LSgt Buller and his team, the range package proved a hit and allowed the companies to 'shake' out prior to the real test in Sennybridge.

The companies deployed to South Wales and took up residence in one of the farms on Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA), they each had four days of ranges prepared for them by the Permanent Range Team (PRT). The training programme consisted of Individual Fire and Manoeuvr, Pairs, Fire-Team and Platoon attack ranges run by Capt Young and his PRT. Through

extremely hard work and perseverance they delivered a truly exceptional package. In addition to the ranges the rifle companies added their own training serials including medical training, navigation exercises and of course the ubiquitous 8 mile TAB! In traditional Sennybridge style, each exercise culminated in a platoon attack on X-Range and a quick run around the assault course to ensure that the boys were truly exhausted.

The Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major Topps visited all of the platoon attacks and both enjoyed seeing the Battalions fighting power put through their paces. Of course no Battalion level exercise would be complete without a visit from a few senior Household Division officers. Colonel Hugh Bodington LVO MBE, Chief of Staff London District visited No 2 Coy, the Major General Ed Smyth-Osbourne CBE dropped in on No 3 Coy and they also hosted the Deputy Commander London District, Brigadier Smith CBE on the final platoon attack day. After a frantic 4 weeks the Battalion completed all their live firing and preparation for deployments to The Falkland Islands in December and Belize in early 2014.



The Gdsm Appreciating How Hard Constructing an OP is



The Finished Product - Nothing to See Here!



The Culmination of The Medical Training Exercise



The Prince of Wales's Company During Tab To The Ranges



BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

A MILITARY MUSIC SPECTACULAR Featuring Beating Retreat 12th & 13th June 2013

By LSgt Andy Mercer, Welsh Guards Band

With the summer ceremonial season in full swing and rehearsals for the Queen's Birthday Parade done and dusted, it was time for 'A Military Music Spectacular' 2013, (Beating Retreat, to the old and bold). This year's event, however, seemed to have extra significance as the second performance was being held in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. This was the first time in which Her Majesty The Queen had attended the event since 2006.



The Opening Fanfare performed by the State Trumpeters from The Household Cavalry Bands

Once all the performers had marched on and the formalities had taken place, The Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery got the show off to a great start and performed a 6-Gun Musical Drive. Keeping the equine theme going, The Household Cavalry Mounted Bands were next to perform, with a unique and captivating rendition of Skyfall, sung by Musician Amy Appleby, Life Guards Band.

Having waited patiently throughout the show thus far, and after providing the backing to most of the evening's music, it was the turn of the Massed Bands of The Household Division. With a display that featured Also Sprach Zarathustra, Marche Slav, Flying Colours and Army of the Nile, the Massed Bands marched around Horse Guards Parade before fronting up on the central carriageway in anticipation of the finale sequence.

After The Massed Corps of Drums had executed their set with precision it was the turn of The Massed Pipes and Drums, comprising 1st Battalion Scots Guards, 1st Battalion Irish Guards and The London Regiment. Showing off their skill and dexterity with some fast moving fingers, they finished off their set with the hugely popular Highland Cathedral.

After the reflective nature of 'Retreat', it was time for the finale in which The Battle of Vitoria was depicted. This was presented in the form of Beethoven's masterful composition and also in the re-enactment of the battle by The Napoleonic Association. Complete with lights, fireworks and explosions, it was a fitting end to a spectacular show.

The Band and Bugles of The Rifles amazed the crowd with their performance of Zorba the Greek and stunned the Massed Bands with the speed in which they moved across Horse Guards Parade.

This year's event, as in previous years, was again a fantastic masterpiece of musicianship, creativity and military precision all rolled into one, and proved to be a huge success.



Lt.Col. Stephen Barnwell, Senior Director of Music, Household Division, conducts the Massed Bands in the finale sequence

BRUGES ANNUAL TATTOO, 2013

By Musn Pete Geldart, Welsh Guards Band

This year on Saturday 6th July The Band of the Welsh Guards embarked on a short trip to Bruges, Belgium for the 26th annual Bruges Tattoo. After spending a total of nearly 10 hours travelling we arrived at Koksijde, the air base on which we stayed for the weekend, an hour outside Bruges.

This year on Saturday 6th July The Band of the Welsh Guards embarked on a short trip to Bruges, Belgium for the 26th annual Bruges Tattoo. After spending a total of nearly 10 hours travelling we arrived at Koksijde, the air base on which we stayed for the weekend, an hour outside Bruges.

On arrival we soon familiarised ourselves with the local area and prepared for the engagement the following evening. After travelling into the heart of Bruges we were fortunate enough to have some down time in which we were able to experience the city and all it had to offer. This was a fabulous experience with many opportunities to eat local and traditional food and to see the unique markets and shops. There were even opportunities to learn about the history of the city.

Rehearsing for this Tattoo took a fair amount of preparation including having to decide which marches to play and

which static pieces would be most appropriate for the engagement. Our interesting and semi-complex display was then put together. Rehearsals prior to travelling to Belgium had gone well, although we had to adapt the display slightly due to the size of the venue.

We delivered a very successful performance on the night which included not only our own display but we also performed a spart of the finale along with a variety of other marching bands from around Europe.

I found this engagement to be very rewarding knowing that bands from the Household Division are regarded as being among the best in the world. Being part of such a band has given me the opportunity to play in countries where we are highly regarded and most of all greatly appreciated. Our contribution to this tattoo was certainly enjoyed by the large crowd.



The Band of The Welsh Guards march on to rapturous applause



On the move: the Band perform the popular "Bow-tie" movement

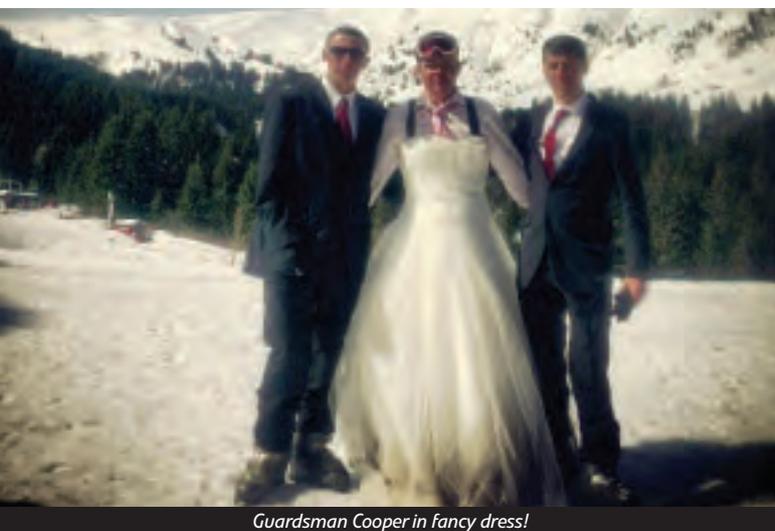
“We had to adapt the display slightly due to the size of the venue.”



Conquering the French Alps



Sgt Bob Mitchel (IG Band), CSgt Andy Grimwood (IG Band) & LSgt Eddie Eccles (WG Band)



Guardsman Cooper in fancy dress!

INSTRUCTING SKI FOUNDATION 1 1st Battalion the Welsh Guards Exercise Cockney Cymru

LSgt Eddie Eccles, Welsh Guards Band

Having successfully completed the Joint Service Ski Instructors (JSSI) course in Oberstdorf, Germany, I was eager to put my new instructional techniques to the test. My first expedition as an instructor was to be with 1 WG, instructing a total of 80 Guardsmen late in the 2013 ski season.

Some careful negotiation with the Director of Music and 'The Boss' my wife, I was eventually given the go ahead to instruct on the expedition.

Following the 16 hour coach trip we finally reached the glorious snow peaked region of Les Contamines in the French Alps.

On arrival, we were greeted by Tony T.S. (owner of Ski4less), himself an ex-REME QMSI who, knowing the ways of the Army, swiftly got the men kitted out and accommodated. This was followed by a great first evening witnessing the Welsh Rugby team's victory in the 6-Nations.

The following morning saw us make it up the mountain for the first of five days skiing. I was soon to learn that 18 year old Guardsmen have no fear, they just want to get down a mountain as fast as they can!

The first two days were spent on the nursery slopes getting the students acquainted with new equipment. The art of falling down was mastered very quickly, closely followed by getting back up and most importantly how to STOP!

The students were introduced to on-the-go lessons which ranged from mountain safety, accident procedures, environment awareness and piste map navigation, combined with the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) rules.

Eager to see Mont Blanc from the top of Les Contamines, the order for day three was to get mileage under their belts with a few tool box techniques thrown in along the way, such as "Stepping" and their favourite "Angles" which involves a teapot-like stance whilst belting out YMCA at the top of their lungs to the mountain goats!

The second week brought with it two familiar ex-Welsh Guards Band faces in Sgt Bob Mitchell and CSgt 'AG' Grimwood (Irish Guards Band) which for CSgt 'Jay' Green (1WG) was a chance for some banter to be directed at 3 Bandies! For me it was a fantastic opportunity to instruct alongside two of my former instructors.

Week two day five saw 10ft of snow fall over night producing perfect conditions. CSgt Grimwood then led the way over a 4ft drop and his skis

popped out of their bindings in the thick snow. His skis were swiftly buried by the pursuing 24 guardsmen.

The last day brought with it fancy dress - onesies, Buzz Lightyear and Gdsm Cooper in a wedding dress! Unbeknown to his wife...!

At this point the instructors made a hasty retreat and let the guys enjoy some free time to exercise their rights as newly qualified Ski Foundation

One (SF1). The progression from all the beginner groups had been simply astonishing!

Personally, I gained an enormous amount of self-pride witnessing the teamwork and physical courage displayed as they conquered the mountain together. I would like to thank Major Launders and Major Salusbury for allowing me this fantastic opportunity and I look forward to teaming up again sometime in the future.

ROYAL ASCOT, 2013
By Musn Laura Knowles, Welsh Guards Band

Earlier this year, The Band of the Welsh Guards completed a five day engagement at Royal Ascot. This engagement comes around once every five years for us so it was a new experience for many in the band.

We started each day by marching into the winner's enclosure to entertain the public with a couple of pieces before taking our place on the Grand Stand, ready to play the National Anthem as the Royal Procession arrived. We then spent the rest of the day on the bandstand entertaining the crowds between races. *Our rendition of We are the Champions* always proved popular. The atmosphere was buzzing every day and after a while the band couldn't help but join in the fun and we began to cheer on the horses!

It was an honour to be a part of such an important day in racing history as The Queen's horse, *Estimate*, claimed victory in Royal Ascot's Gold Cup. It was the first time in the race's 207 year history that it had been won by a reigning monarch. Unfortunately the

hot weather didn't quite last the entire week. However, even the rain on the last day could not dampen the spirits of the people. The crowds were out in force for the community sing along. It was quite a sight to behold sitting on the bandstand watching as a hundreds of people all came together to sing some of the classics such as *We'll Meet Again* and *Hey Jude*, not to mention the sea of union flags flying high and proud during *Rule Britannia*.

We finished our encore on the last day and the crowds were still crying out for more. The band couldn't help but smile as we played a rousing rendition of *New York, New York*, one last time.

Providing musical support to Royal Ascot week was a real privilege and a fantastic experience.



Members of The Band of The Welsh Guards enjoying the experience of Royal Ascot



Musician Natalie Cutland (centre) picked a winning horse



Crowds gather around The Band of The Welsh Guards at Royal Ascot



The Band of The Welsh Guards lead the Royal British Legion parade on Llandudno Promenade

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CONFERENCE 2013 Llandudno, Wales

By Musn Bethany Laws, Welsh Guards Band

On the 17th May 2013 The Band of the Welsh Guards travelled to Llandudno, North Wales, to perform at the annual conference of the Royal British Legion. We arrived on the Friday night at the hotel provided for the duration of our stay which was a short walking distance from both the venue and the sea front.

Saturday morning brought the Opening Ceremony of the conference. Musical support was provided in the form of a marching band to kick-start proceedings. On Saturday

afternoon the band led individual Regional Standards and members of the Royal British Legion along the promenade to the Llandudno War Memorial, where a wreath

laying ceremony took place. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Sergeant Jon Hammond.

Saturday evening saw the opportunity for the band to deliver a public concert. This was conducted by the Bandmaster, WO1 (BM) Craig Bywater and featured solos from Sergeant John Boyd and Musician Emily Henry as well as a vocal duet performed by

Sergeant Lee Fomes and Musician Kate Challinor.

Sunday morning consisted of the Closing Ceremony in which the band led the Standards into the conference hall to partake in their traditional event. This marked the end of the band's trip to Llandudno, a short trip in which we had delivered various elements of musical support to the Royal British Legion.

THE FUNERAL OF BARONESS MARGARET THATCHER Operation 'True Blue

By Musn Charlotte Dell, Welsh Guards Band

Tuesday 16th April 2013, the Funeral of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, saw The Band of the Welsh Guards forming part of the Guard of Honour. Having not lived through the Iron Lady's time in government, I was not one to view a strong opinion on her policies; rather it was a chance to play proudly for a patriotic woman and leader.

It was immensely pleasing to see everything run smoothly, both the early morning rehearsal the day before and the full funeral itself. I have to say there was slight trepidation that perhaps protestors would interfere with events; however Lady Thatcher was able to have the respectful and dignified funeral she deserved.

The moment The Band of the Welsh Guards began our procession to St Paul's Cathedral, there was a poignant atmosphere throughout the streets. It appeared that hundreds had lined the funeral procession route, ready to pay their last respects as the gun carriage bearing the coffin passed by.

I was stood to the rear of the band once in position of the Guard of Honour and was able to look on as the carriage arrived, her coffin draped in the union flag. A sense of pride stirred within me. The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines played Chopin's *Funeral March* which sent a shiver through my spine as they accompanied the gun carriage. A formidable tension built as the music grew louder and the carriage drew closer.

This was, without doubt, a remarkable moment in history. It was a privilege to be a part of this event and to provide a fitting compliment to a distinguished figure as the country celebrated her life.

"A formidable tension built as the music grew louder and the carriage drew closer."



The Funeral Procession of Baroness Thatcher



The Band of The Welsh Guards forms part of the Guard of Honour outside St. Paul's Cathedral

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2014

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Colonel-in-Chief
Colonel of The Regiment

Her Majesty The Queen
His Royal Highness The Prince of
Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC
Brigadier R H Talbot Rice
Colonel (Retd) T C S Bonas
Captain C Beare
Major (Retd) F K Oultram
Major K F N Roberts MMus FLCM LRSM psm CAMUS

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel
Regimental Adjutant
Temporary Equerry
Assistant Regimental Adjutant
Director of Music

'1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel D L W Bossi
Lieutenant Colonel G R Harris DSO MBE
Major J D Salusbury
Major E N Launders
Major A J Salusbury
Major T J Badham
Major T C S Spencer Smith
Major K Dawson
Captain C J P Davies
Captain D W Pridmore
Captain C S N Fenton
Captain A Ravenscroft R SIGNALS
Captain A Major
Captain B Figgures-Wilson
Captain R Emlyn-Williams
Captain A Hughes
Captain B Baldwin
Captain F O Lloyd George
Captain J A Bromfield
Captain T Hutton
Lieutenant J Marsden
Lieutenant E Birrell
Lieutenant J O Dinwiddie
Lieutenant T A G Evans
Lieutenant A J N Smith
Lieutenant D Luther-Davies
2nd Lieutenant J Webster
2nd Lieutenant J Farmelo
2nd Lieutenant O Alsop
2nd Lieutenant E Clarke

Commanding Officer
Commanding Officer (wef Fri 24 Jan)
Second in Command
Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Officer Commanding Support Company
Quartermaster
Adjutant
Technical Quartermaster
Operations Officer
Regimental Signals Officer
Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Officer Commanding Fire Support Group
Regimental Careers Management Officer
Motor Transport Officer
Second in Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Second in Command Number Three Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second in Command Number Two Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commander Number Three Company
Platoon Commander Number Three Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander Battle Course
Platoon Commander Battle Course
Platoon Commander Battle Course

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Brigadier R H Talbot Rice	<i>Head, Armoured Vehicles Programme, Defence Eqpt & Sp</i>
Brigadier B J Bathurst OBE	<i>Chief CJ5 HQ ISAF</i>
Brigadier R J Æ Stanford MBE	<i>ACOS LF Army HQ</i>
Colonel R H W St G Bodington LVO MBE	<i>Chief of Staff London District</i>
Lieutenant Colonel G A J Macintosh OBE	<i>Commanding Officer Cambridge UOTC</i>
Lieutenant Colonel G Bartle-Jones	<i>British High Commission, Pakistan</i>
Lieutenant Colonel R G B Pim	<i>Commanding Officer The London Regiment</i>
Lieutenant Colonel B P N Ramsay MBE	<i>Chief Ops UN Mission Southern Sudan</i>
Lieutenant Colonel M Cooling	<i>Commander Episkopi Support Unit</i>
Major G C G R Stone	<i>SO2 Operations Directorate Ministry of Defence</i>
Major D W N Bevan	<i>Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales</i>
Major H G C Bettinson	<i>Chief of Staff, Equipment Directorate, Army Headquarters</i>
Major CT Sargent MBE	<i>Academy Adjutant RMAS</i>
Major M L Lewis	<i>Company Commander 1CG</i>
Major T A Smith	<i>SO2 G7 Trg, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div</i>
Major T A H Eastman	<i>Second in Command 1IG</i>
Major H S Llewelyn-Usher	<i>MOD A Block</i>
Major J W Aldridge	<i>SO2 Op Plans A, Army Headquarters</i>
Major S C Broughton	<i>SO2 ROW Plans PJHQ</i>
Major J D Livesey	<i>SO2 Ops Directorate MOD</i>
Major N R K Moukarzel	<i>ICSC(L)</i>
Major N Mott	<i>SO2 E1/E2 Combat Sldrs APC Glasgow</i>
Major A F Bowen	<i>ICSC(L)</i>
Captain A Dunlop	<i>OC Training Team, Fort Polk, Louisiana</i>
Captain G C Charles-Jones	<i>Adjt New College, RMAS</i>
Captain J M Young	<i>Instructor Infantry Battle School</i>
Captain M C Simpson	<i>OC HDPRCC</i>
Captain F J Wright	<i>OC Guards Para Pl, 3 PARA</i>
Captain M Pollard	<i>RCMO 1IG</i>

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Lieutenant M J Wright	<i>Platoon Commander</i>
Lieutenant A W Budge	<i>Platoon Commander</i>

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF AS OF 1 JANUARY 2014

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	24815189 W02	DP	Brown
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (des)	W02	S	Boika

REGIMENTAL BAND

Band Master	25032421 W01	C	Bywater
Band Sergeant Major	24862977 W02	S	Charles

1ST BATTALION

Regimental Sergeant Major	25014288 W01	M	Topps
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Mcint)	25026698 W02	P	Dunn
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech)	25015807 W02	LM	Ryan
Drill Sergeant	24921250 W02	E	Griffiths
The Prince of Wales's Company	25061898 W02	M	Ridgeway-Buckley
CSM Number Two Company	25066690 W02	A	Davies
CSM Number Three Company	25040205 W02	C	Williams
CSM Headquarter Company	24898807 W02	P	Radford
CSM Support Company	25007191 W02	SG	Bowen
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer	24902063 W02	M	Smith

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Garrison Sergeant Major London District	24520588 W01	WDG	Mott OBE MVO
RSM Honourable Artillery Company	24797497 W01	A	Campbell
RSM UOTC Bristol	24906414 W01	JJ	Jenkinson
RSM Londons	24842827 W01	J	Jones
Counter Terrorist Training Team	24738040 W02	GW	Jones
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	25050230 W02	CA	Taylor

LONG SERVICE LIST

ACIO Wrexham	24623898 W02	RJ	Brace
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HONOURS AND AWARDS

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Major CT Sargent

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT

25014288 WO1 Topps
25075959 CSgt Geen
24963177 Sgt Green
24905652 Sgt Prosser
25070109 LSgt O'Brien
25069830 LCpl Laing
24896746 Gdsm Bolton

JOINT COMMANDERS COMMENDATION

Lieutenant Colonel D L W Bossi
Lieutenant J Marsden

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR VALUABLE SERVICE

Major E N Launder
Captain B N H Bardsley
Sgt R Heath

COMMANDER LAND FORCES CERTIFICATE

Major K Dawson



BATTALION EVENTS



Kazakh roads

EX SILK DRAGON: ON NOT SO SECRET SERVICE IN CENTRAL ASIA

by Capt Emlyn-Williams

Disbelief and suspicion were my initial reaction to Lt Hutton's excited announcement that Maj Llewelyn-Usher was organising an expedition to drive to Kazakhstan, and needed some volunteers.

The Battalion had been selected to provide a Short Term Training Team to mentor a Kazakhstani battle group prior to an assessment as to their suitability for NATO operations, and an opportunity had been spotted to see a little more of the world. I initially assumed that

Tom Hutton had fallen for a ruse similar to the 'who wants to get their motorbike license' trick often played by mischievous Colour Sergeants at Sandhurst (enthusiastic volunteers were almost always then given a different and unpleasant task). I saw in my mind's eye the intrepid and

hopeful road trippers carrying everyone's luggage at Heathrow, having found out that they had actually volunteered to be the baggage party!

The trip went from too good to be true to concrete reality as the eight members of the team knuckled down to do battle with the forces of bureaucracy and parochialism. The lack of precedent for the trip meant that the military adage which advises against starting with a blank document was hard to follow. We were venturing into the unknown in more sense than one; whilst the exhilaration steadily built as routes were planned, so too did the workload,

compounded by the pace of Ceremonial Duties in Battalion. The preparation phase of the trip flashed by in a whirlwind of activity; vehicles (sixteen year old land rover discoveries) were found, risk assessments written, funding secured, embassies harangued, maps plotted and stores sourced.

Our collective diplomacy was tested early on when trying to arrange visas from bemused Embassies in London. Surprisingly, we met the least resistance in the Russian embassy, which turned around our visas in twenty four hours and even gave us a discount. Suspecting that we were being lured to Russia for the purpose of interrogation, we manfully resolved to resist any honey traps which might be set along the way and not to divulge any secrets of state, no matter how beautiful the agent! Finally, on the 25th of July, Mr Blue and Mr Green (as our wagons were rather unimaginatively named) rolled out of Cavalry Barracks, roof racks groaning with supplies and occupants full of anticipation and excitement. Like Charlie Marlow in Conrad's Heart of Darkness, we were ready to lose ourselves in all the glories of exploration and fill in the space on the map, blank to us, that was central Asia.

Only the uninitiated would consider a road trip to be a holiday - driving for long stretches is boring, uncomfortable and tiring. Fortunately, this is familiar ground to most soldiers and the humdrum nature of daily

"Like Charlie Marlow in Conrad's Heart of Darkness, we were ready to lose ourselves in all the glories of exploration and fill in the space on the map, blank to us, that was central Asia."

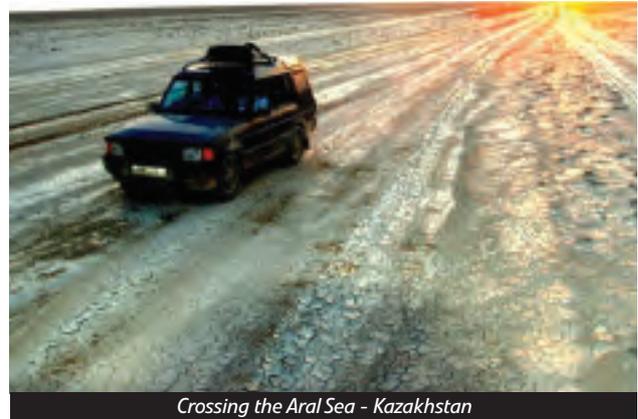
life on the road was mitigated significantly by the humour which binds people together in adverse circumstances. The boys, LCpl Price, Gdsm Jones 60 and Lewis 39 and Cfn Millington were endlessly amusing; the sound of South Walian banter accompanied the trundle of the wagons as we forged a path through Europe. Having decided that it would be churlish not to stop over in Prague, we booked into a hostel and sallied forth into the city. Whilst wandering through the magnificent central square and cloistered promenades, our sense of wonder was slightly undermined by seedy characters who emerged from the shadows to offer the dubious delights of the local nightlife.

The next stop was a sobering guided tour of Auschwitz Birkenau. The harrowing displays of shoes, hair and suitcases piled high in glass cabinets as well as the gas chambers, on the walls of which were visible scratch marks made by victims attempting to scabble towards the air vents, were incredibly moving. It was a subdued group who sat down for a late lunch in Krakow. It was interesting, given the recent news that a ninety year old Auschwitz guard was to stand trial for war crimes, to canvas the men on their opinions as to whether or not the ordinary camp guards were culpable, or whether they were simply obeying orders. It was a reassuring testament to the independent mindedness of the British soldier that he unanimous opinion was that they were every bit as much to blame as the officers in charge.

The rest of Poland, Ukraine and Russia flew by in a blur of flat,

agricultural and industrial landscapes. We encountered our first serious vehicle problem when one of the brake callipers failed, (on a steep hill of all places) and disaster was averted only by Cfn Millington's skilful driving and use of the handbrake which prevented the ensuing cross country driving from writing off the car! It was whilst we were sitting by the side of the road, bemoaning our fate that we were first exposed to the unbelievable kindness of strangers, a theme that was to permeate the expedition. Not only did a local mechanic offer to take us to a Land Rover garage which happened to be less than ten miles away, a passing motorcyclist invited us to stay in her house, and plied us with Polish vodka until the early hours. Things became even more surreal when a beaten up Ford Cortina screeched to a halt in the driveway, and out stepped a gothic apparition (complete with studded bracelet, hot pants and a six inch hunting knife fixed to her belt) which turned out to be our host's daughter. We left the next morning, bleary eyed, grateful and slightly relieved to be on our way!

After a brief battlefield tour in Volgograd which included a visit to the Stalingrad museum, we were on the road again, this time headed for the desert leg of the journey. The elation as we crossed into Kazakhstan was tempered by the knowledge that we were still only half way to our final destination of Almaty and there was a distinct slump in morale as we encountered the first pot holed stretch of road. Kazakh pot holes are biblical in proportion and ten times the size of anything we may encounter in the UK.



Crossing the Aral Sea - Kazakhstan



Bibi Khan Mosque - Samarkand



Shell Hill, above the Sandbag Battery - Inkerman - Crimea



Back at CBH - 11,000 miles later

BATTALION RUGBY TEAM 2013

Captain B Baldwin

The Battalion's rugby team has had a very exciting year to say the least. The decision to enter the Army competition for this season was made over a conversation while making lunch at the Afghanistan Police Headquarters (PPHQ). After that, the cogs started to turn and then Quartermaster, Major Bowen, used his powers of delegation to put things in place.

Sergeant Prosser was tasked to attend the fixture meeting and gain any information and kit for the forthcoming season. That threw some surprises that included the squad missing some post Operational leave and also Christmas leave to meet full fill fixture requirements. To top it off the Fijian contingent had applied for special leave that would not see them back in the UK until January 13.

So the season began and we travelled to our first opponents, 12 Regiment Royal Artillery. The squad was depleted and it was testament to those rugby players that came off leave. It was a typical winter's day and the pitch and conditions did not suit us. We lost but not by much and it gave us some encouragement knowing it was not our strongest side. Game 2 came just before Christmas leave pitting us up against the then current Army champions, 17 Port Maritime Regiment. We travelled to Harrow to what must be the biggest rugby pitch in NATO. Again we could not put out our strongest team but a valiant effort by all but

another very narrow loss. This put us under some pressure to then have to win all remaining games. First of which was in Scotland with 39 Engineer Regiment to whom had never lost on that ground. Even with a weakened team, we went there with confidence and a sound game plan and pushed them all over the park with a good first win. The second followed straight after and a good convincing win it was again. With this result, our narrow losses, the lower order teams pulling out and giving us the extra wins, we were through to the next round.

Into the Quarter Finals we marched with a full side to pick from for the first time. We had a good week to prepare and once again had a game plan that would stop our opposition. What we couldn't plan was the weather and the night before it snowed and the pitch was so hard we had to cancel. This was to the amazement of the referee even though he could not even pierce the surface with a key and then stated they play on harder grounds in the summer. The game cancelled and

pencilled in for the next day we travelled back to prepare once more. The day after we went back to Tidworth to tackle the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh and the game went ahead. We played with such intensity they could not live with us and some sound kick and chase resulted in us dominating from start to finish.

Into the Semi finals and pitted up against the 1st Bn Royal Welsh and, with the game played on neutral ground at Newbury, gave us some time to prepare and also some extra game time. The day of the semi final saw once again snow but the game went ahead. It was a hard fought game and with the weather now at its worst, driving rain with snow saw the coldest rugby team ever. With the game so tight it went into extra time and with lady luck on our side, we saw their number eight attack LSgt George in their 22 and the linesman had his flag raised for foul play. Penalty to the Welsh Guards and young outside half, Gdsm Groves, kicked it for us to go through. A great team effort and the longest shower ever to de frost - I dread to see Newbury's water bill.

Preparation for the final was some what of a challenge with a Major General's great coat inspection stuck into the middle. We did, however, get a great opportunity to organise a training week down in Wales based out of RAF St Athan.

That was something that will be etched deep into the memory. The sand dunes in Bridgend were especially emotional - even our so called fit ones were on their hands and knees being physically sick. We also had a great day out at the Ospreys training ground with the coaching staff off, (Tandy, Bevington, Humphries, Fotuali'i, and Tipuric), Dan Biggar and Richard Hibbard came to chat and have some photos taken as well. So on to the final. Up in front of us were 39 Engineer Regiment who we had beaten in Scotland. Their confidence was high but was a weary of over confidence, something I and my staff were keen to stamp out. The 39 Engineer team was totally different from our previous meeting so that quickly focused the men to the task ahead and the game plan that we had trained for. Prior to the game the Commanding Officer and Ryan Jones came into the changing room to give the team - talk first the Commanding Officer then Ryan. You could see why he was the national captain - it took me the remaining 7 minutes to pull the team from the ceiling. The game for me was something of a blur as both teams went hammer and tongs for the full 80 minutes. It was not a spectacle but at least it was a win. Great celebrations followed with some drinks in Aldershot and then back to the Barracks sports bar and finally the Sergeants mess. There I spent what seemed like a month's wages ringing the bell but what followed is only gained from being a champion.

"This was to the amazement of the referee even though he could not even pierce the surface with a key and then stated they play on harder grounds in the summer."

Millennium stadium game

This is something of a privilege for both us and the Royal Welsh and will continue on an annual basis. It gives our boys a great chance to play on the hallowed turf and an extra piece of silver ware. This year saw us missing eight key players from what can only be described as our first choice team. This was now a chance for our young guns to gain some experience and also allow me to gauge the enemy for next season. We lost 15-7 but great things came from it, not least our young ones stepping up to the plate and now the Royal Welsh going away with false hope. Bring on 2013/14 season.

Army Caps

- 2010 LSgt Dwyer
- 2011 LSgt Dwyer
- 2012 LSgt Dwyer
- 2013 LSgt Dwyer, LSgt George, LSgt Hiscock, Gdsm Nambukibuki
- 2013 Gdsm Buretini (sevens)

Army A 2013

Gdsm Bilton

Army development squad 2013

- Lt T Evans
- Gdsm Evans 35
- Gdsm Carter
- Gdsm Groves

Selected Infantry Coaching staff 2013-14 season

- Capt B Baldwin
- WO2 Radford
- Sgt Prosser
- LSgt Devine

Welsh Guards Squad 2012-13

1. LSgt Quamuri
2. LSgt Dwyer
3. Gdsm Walters
4. LSgt George (Captain)
5. Gdsm Bilton
6. Sgt Soko
7. LSgt Sanigar
8. Lt Evans
9. Gdsm Devise
10. Gdsm Groves
11. Gdsm Tyres
12. Gdsm Evans 35
13. Gdsm Buretini
14. Gdsm Nambukibuki
15. LCpl Nuku
16. LCpl Walters
17. Gdsm Davies 05
18. Gdsm Soko
19. LSgt Lewis 88
20. LSgt Hiscock
21. Sgt Lewis 29
22. Gdsm Carter
23. LCpl Jane
24. Gdsm Cray
25. Gdsm Classbe
26. LSgt Devine
27. RQMS Ryan
28. Sgt Scarf
29. LCpl Lodwick
30. LSgt Rowlands
31. Gdsm Fullman
32. Gdsm Davies 11
- Capt Baldwin (Rugby Officer-Coach)
- WO2 Radford (Coach)
- Sgt Prosser (Coach)
- LSgt Devine (Conditioning coach)
- LSgt Hayton Admin NCO



Capt Bardsley enjoying some of the Les Contamines back country

EX COCKNEY CYMRU: Battalion skiing trip to Les Contamines, France

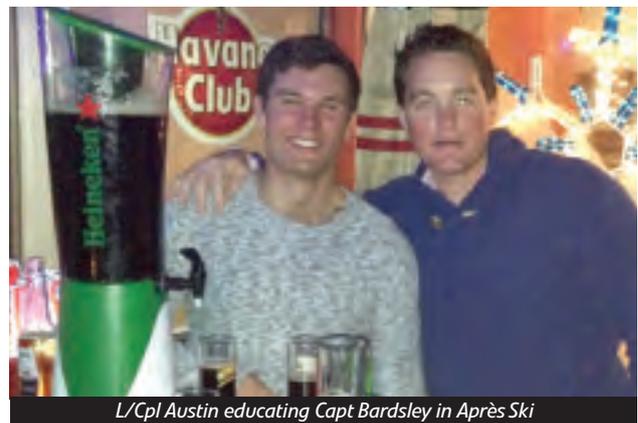
by Capt BHN Bardsley

On Friday 8th March 2013, under the command of Maj Lauanders, a proportion of the Battalion deployed for two weeks to the resort of Les Contamines in France.

The first week was enjoyed by Number 2 Company and Number 3 Company, the second week by the Prince of Wales' Company and Support Company. In total 80 members of the Battalion participated in the trip, with abilities ranging from complete beginner to a few seasoned professionals.

The snow gods were on the Battalion's side. Twenty centimetres of fresh powder

arrived on the first day combined with bright sunshine - conditions could not get much better. The six instructors: Major Lauanders, CSgt Geen, Sgt Skitt, Sgt Eccles, Sgt McCovoy and Sgt Harriot (HAC), all did a sterling job in improving each and every man. In doing so everyone achieved either the basic ski proficiency or for those that had skied before, the advanced ski proficiency.



L/Cpl Austin educating Capt Bardsley in Apres Ski



Maj Lauenders taking full advantage of the snow conditions

The Guardsman brought the Welsh sprit in abundance to the Bars and clubs of Les Contimines, and took the ski hard, play hard mentality to a whole new level. However with the excitement and promise of fantastic skiing the following day, the 07:30 muster parade was never missed. A special thank you must go to Sgt Scaff and Sgt Skitt who did a fantastic job making sure the G4 side of the expedition ran without a hitch.

A few exceptional characters came to light throughout the exped, the first being Guardsman Sambuca (Harding 53) who made his soul purpose to buy everyone in Les Contamines a shot or two. It is a shame that his skiing ability did not match his level of generosity. The second is Padre

Jones who at the grand old age of 48 completed his very first weeks skiing. As much as he enjoyed it, and his terrible jokes we greatly appreciated by all, we are not sure he will be going back in a hurry due to the physical and mental toll it took on his body.

The Battalion is always under pressure to send a small skiing team to compete in the Infantry skiing competition instead of using the funds for an expedition such as this one. However, this trip has again justified the decision to send 80 people for a week to get valuable experience that would usually cost our civilian counterparts a small fortune. The two weeks were both a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Bring on next year.



Gdsm Saunders re-living his recent wedding



The victorious Jamboy 2 boat at full tilt

THE PRINCE OF WALES COMPANY – Eton Dorney Dragon Boat Racing Festival

Lt T Hutton

Dragon Boat Racing is an up and coming sport in the UK. Fiercely competitive, it pits teams of ten men and women against each other in minutes of water borne fury. It is a test of skill and endurance, but more than this, of timing and most teamwork.

The modern sport has its roots in an ancient folk ritual of contending villages held over the past two thousand years throughout southern China, as an opportunity for community celebration and bonding.

Teams of up to ten people crew thirty foot long, narrow, flat bottomed, canoe style boats with a helmsman at the rear and a drummer at the front. The sport in the UK has been dominated by corporate teams who regularly attend Dragon Boat Racing festivals as team building exercises and days out, bringing in ringers to give themselves a competitive advantage over their rivals. One such event was forecast for the 3rd July 2013 at Eton Dorney lake, promising a full day of competitive racing, with up to twenty different crews, each vying for the title.

In a moment of inspiration Sgt Scarf of the Prince of Wales's

company realised that this could be a fantastic opportunity to build team spirit and take part in a physically tough exercise whilst representing the Battalion in a public forum at the same time. Teaming up with his platoon commander, they were able to acquire generous funding from the Regimental Trustees and put a team together. With the crew spaces oversubscribed, a 'row-off' selected the men who would form the crews, with the remainder coming to support. Twenty eight men of the Prince of Wales's company travelled to Eton on the 3rd July with high spirits but little idea of what to expect. The day was fantastic. With the weather holding and bar open, crews were able to enjoy the racing from the Eton Rowing Club boathouse with its fantastic facilities. Clay pigeon shooting and other activities were also



LSgt Lawrence proudly displays the Dragon Boat winners trophy

on all day for those who could find the time.

It soon became apparent that the competition was fierce, and crews decked out in their team kits looked raring to go. With no prior experience of Dragon Boat Racing on our part, the teams from EDF in their matching kits, and the body-building Acton Refinery team posed the greatest competition. What they hadn't realised however, is that it is always the Red Dragon that gives a lead.....

The format of the event was a series of heats, with three boats racing at a time. Each event was timed with the two fastest times combining to form the qualifying time. The fantastic team from Gable Events, the organizers, kindly offered us a second boat free of charge, enabling all those who came down to participate in the racing. From the outset as Jam Boy One and Jam Boy Two crews took to the water, it was clear that the Welsh Guards teams were made for the task. For these men, who kept the time immaculately whilst marching as the Escort

on The Queen's Birthday Parade two weeks previously, rowing in time came naturally. The high level of fitness, team spirit and determination displayed by all rowers, set formidable times, eventually qualifying both team for the finals.

The Final was first past the post. For the two Welsh Guards crews it was a race between ourselves. We had had fantastic instruction through our qualifying races from our professional helmsman, a Captain Birdseye figure and something of a Yoda in the Dragon Boat Racing world. Sitting on the start line, with our drummer Guardsman Jones 16 looking resplendent in Tunic and Bearskin it was all to play for. It was a punishing sprint, with the lead changing 5 times but race eventually going to Jam Boy Two, with Jam Boy One milliseconds behind, both boats coming within 1 second of the course record. Good natured ribbing from the other participants that we somehow had an unfair advantage was soon quelled by the organizers who

commented that with no prior experience, our two teams had been able to win by working as one, as a team in unison.

Following the trophy and medals presentation the event was finished off by a fantastic gourmet BBQ and drinks that ran into the evening. The interest taken by the other teams in the Battalion and wider Army was met with relish by the men of the company who showed a fantastic public image of the Welsh Guards answering questions and socialising with the other teams.

This sort of event brought all members of the teams together. From those who had shared the experiences of Herrick 16 to the new draft men of the company. A whole day spent away at this type of event, achieves much of what we desire to see in our soldiers; team work, physical fitness and determination, as well as being fantastic fun and providing good morale.

I know all who took part on the day are grateful for the opportunity to compete, and are therefore thankful to the trustees for their backing of the teams in entering the event.

ORATORY SCHOOL CCF

Lt J P Marsden

For some time informal links have existed between the Oratory School CCF and the Welsh Guards. In recognition of this, and to mark their centenary year, it was agreed that the CCF would re-affiliate to the Welsh Guards from the Rifles.

The first Oratory School CCF camp took place in Tidworth in 1913 and the CCF continued to run throughout both World Wars with many of the boys from the school serving with distinction in these periods, most notably Lieutenant-General Sir Carton de Wiart. The school's CCF was at a low ebb by 1966 after two moves of the

school site resulted in a fall in numbers. By 1967 the CCF revival was well underway however, and by the early 1970s sections of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force were set up. Since then the CCF has gone from strength to strength and this was demonstrated by the re-affiliation parade.



The Commanding Officer inspects the cadets



The Band of the Welsh Guards marches past the saluting dais at the front of the Oratory School

The day began with a parade which saw the three contingents of the CCF form up at the front of the school, with the Army contingent resplendent in their new Welsh Guards Regimental headdress for the first time. The Welsh Guards Band added to the air of ceremony and celebration of the occasion with a fine performance that the spectators thoroughly appreciated, in spite of the blustery weather. Major Neville Topham, an ex-Welsh Guards Drill Sergeant who now heads up the Army section at the school, led the parade on behalf of the school. Both the Regimental Adjutant and the Commanding Officer were in attendance to inspect the Cadets, with Colonel Bonas

taking the salute from the dais when the parade marched past. The standard of drill and turnout was excellent and this was in no small part due to the drill evening the Cadets received a week prior from Sergeant Scarf and Lance Sergeant Rowlands who attended the school to administer a crash course.

With the parade concluded the cadets were fallen out to be shown as much as possible about what the Battalion had to offer with various stands showing the weaponry used on tour including HMG, GMG, Javelin and a .338 sniper rifle. Furthermore there was a PTI on hand to advise the Cadets on fitness standards in the Army and a ceremonial stand

to showcase the current activities of the Welsh Guards in the build up to Trooping the Colour. Unsurprisingly there was equal interest in getting hands on the weapons and trying on a bearskin both from the Cadets and the school staff. Whilst the VIPs were invited by the Headmaster and the CCF Contingent Commander to attend lunch, the Guardsmen were hosted by the Cadets offering them the opportunity to ask questions in a more relaxed environment.

With lunch concluded the Cadets returned to the parade square for the presentations to exchange hands. The school presented the Welsh Guards Officers' Mess a silver statue of a Cadet, and the Battalion presented the school with

framed Regimental Colours replicas, a signed picture of HRH The Prince of Wales and a montage of the Regiment's year, including photos of Operation Herrick 16 and ceremonial duties. The Commanding Officer concluded proceedings with an apt speech, informing the Cadets of the provenance of the symbol that they were now wearing over their left eye and welcoming the new bond forged between the school and the Regiment.

The day was rightly a celebration of the links the Oratory School and the Welsh Guards have shared over many years. The formal affiliation of the CCF, as the newest of these links, serves to cement, recognise and formalise a relationship that will continue long in to the future with the bond growing stronger as the Welsh Guards approach our own Centenary in 2015.

"The day was rightly a celebration of the links the Oratory School and the Welsh Guards have shared over many years."

WELSH GUARDS SPORTS TOUR 2013

Lt T Evans

28 members of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards deployed to Europe on a sports tour and battlefield tour. The trip covered over 2000 miles over a period of 8 days, playing rugby and football in three different countries.

The first stop of the tour was at SHAPE in Belgium where there where both football and rugby matches planned. After two short training sessions, both teams headed into Brussels for an afternoon of culture before matches were played in the evening. The rugby team played against the number one team in Belgium. It was a hard fixture, the Welsh Guards XV defended very well however the opposition managed to find gaps and came out on top with a narrow victory. The football team had a fixture against a local civilian team, which they won 2-1. Their defence in midfield was outstanding as was their will to succeed. It was a very promising start to the sports tour.

Both teams then made their way to CENZUB in France, which is the French centre of excellence for Close Quarter Battle. The rugby team conducted training sessions with the CENZUB rugby team, which had only recently been formed. It was great to see the guardsmen interact with their French counterparts. This training session gave the team the opportunity to practise some of their more complicated moves against a solid defence. The football team played against the instructors at CENZUB who were a strong side but with the speed and flair of the Welsh Guards football team proving to be too much for the opposition to handle. The

Welsh Guards triumphed 3-2 with a strong all round performance.

This trip was an excellent opportunity for the members of the Welsh Guards to learn about the role of the Welsh Guards and other units in the Second World War. The tourists visited War Memorials and held a service in honour of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. The War memorial gave an opportunity for all to reflect on previous conflicts around the world.

The final stop of the tour was the NATO School of communications in Latina, Italy. Both teams headed into Naples and Rome to experience some Italian culture and cuisine. Sadly we were unable to formalise a rugby fixture. The football team played their final game against a team based 15km outside Naples. After a slow start the team came back from behind to win in a very convincing game 3-1. The football team had a very successful tour which will put them in a good position for their final match which will be played at Cardiff Park Stadium.

All in all it was a very successful tour for the Welsh Guards. The men were true ambassadors for the Regiment. The relationships formed over this period will no doubt lead to greater things on distant battlefields in the future.

CYCLING - "The Long and Winding Road"

Captain C Fenton

Rising out of the saddle, struggling to find that hidden reserve of energy, the final push for the line was nothing that Sir Bradley Wiggins would have recognised. The previous 129.5 km, over some nine hours, had taken their toll.

The knowledge though that the finish line was waiting around the final bend of that winding mountain road was enough to help find that previously elusive reserve. The cocktail of emotions that followed on from finishing L'Etape du Tour in the French Alps were: jubilation that it was all over; relief that Team WG had avoided the dreaded sweep-up car and injury (a number of serious crashes had occurred on the technically demanding downhill sections of the route); frustration that training had not been done and a better time achieved; and eventually exhaustion. This was 7 July 2013 and a team of three, the author, the Adjutant and Capt Major, had come a long way, both literally and figuratively, from the first team training ride of 20 km around a snowy Richmond Park in November 2012.

Following the return of the Battalion from Op HERRICK 16 many more people at Regimental Duty were keen to get on their bike. For some it was seen as a low-impact opportunity to improve fitness, and maybe for others an opportunity to wear head-to-toe lycra. Whatever their motives a good number of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes participated in a range of events between March and September 2013: The highlight was certainly the Ryan Man cycle from Pembrokeshire to

Wellington Barracks, London. The event was superbly organised by the team at Princess Gate Water and supported by LSgt Jury and his recruiting tem. It involved around 100 people, mainly from Wales, including rugby legends Ryan Jones, Rhys Williams and Ian Gough. A fantastic weekend was had by all, and £45,000 was raised for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. Other events included L'Etape du Tour, Annecy France; and the cycling leg of Walk-on-Wales from Chepstow Racecourse to Chester Racecourse, which involved participants using all sorts of wheeled contraptions to get there. The key lesson identified from all of these events is that although these challenges were, and are, achievable with little or no training and a never give-up attitude, cycling from Pembrokeshire to London, or 130 km around the French Alps would be much more rewarding and enjoyable with proper training and preparation!

Next year the Club's intentions are: to expand the interest of road cycling across the Battalion, and to enter a team into the Army road racing series; to expand the Club's remit to include mountain biking and triathlon; and to conduct regular training sessions, particularly over the Winter months, in preparation for the riding season next year.



MOTOR CROSS NOTES
Sgt Hughes 39

The Welsh Guards Enduro Team entered the Team REME Summer Series Round 2 last with 4 riders: Sgt Scarf 15 and the author, PoW's Coy; Gdsm Cole, Number 2 Company; and Gdsm Campbell from Support Company. Gdsm Cole entered Expert and the remainder Sportsman.

Gdsm Cole had a really good race, impressing Col Mike Tizzard, the Army Motor Sport Officer. He finished 5th in a strong class with three of the riders above him being former British Champions. He will enter Expert event in the Army Championships later in the year and has a good chance of riding in the Army Team next year.

Having taken an early lead in the first lap, the author crashed out, breaking the bike and requiring a pit stop. After a little throwing up, he managed to get back in to finish the race. Sgt Scarf also crashed in a tricky wood section but, with help from spectators, got back on his bike. Gdsm Campbell finished the race – his first for a while as he had to have a few months off because of he

broke his bike in an RAF round earlier this year.

After a tricky tight race all Welsh Guard riders completed the round in good form with only a few broken bits of bike. As for the second round, we are in good stead for the forthcoming Army Championships. It was also good to see some friendly faces from Battalion as we rode round a demanding course.

This is a relatively new sport for the Battalion and it has been encouraging that there has been so much support. Hopefully as we are now established and bedded in, we will continue to receive support as we tackle the rest of the summer series and push on to the Army Championships.



*Captains' and Subalterns' Tournament, Tidworth, 20-21 July 13
L-R: Lt Col Bartle-Jones, Maj Bettinson, Capt Davies, Lt Marsden*

BATTALION POLO RESURRECTION
Capt C J P Davies

There was a time, many years ago, when the Welsh Guards were consistently the best polo team in the Army. In the meantime there have been numerous players who have played competitively however operational commitments have served to interfere with the establishment of a regular Battalion team.

This year saw a concerted effort to put Welsh Guards Polo back on the map which it had dominated for so many years previously.

One week after the Queen's Birthday Parade five members of the Battalion, essentially those who supposedly knew how to ride, made their way to Tidworth Polo Club for an introductory 3 day course on Polo. Set in stunning grounds adjacent to Tedworth House, it was fortunate that there were few prying eyes to witness our ungainly attempts at picking up a new sport. Whether this was falling off chairs, falling off horses or simply failing to hit the ball after a 40 metre run-up the whole course had little fear of succumbing to over-confidence.

The days were spent carrying out a variety of activities. 'Chairs' was an hour of standing on a chair and practising our swings, watching in fascination at where some people managed

to hit their balls. This was followed by half an hour of polo-specific riding lessons which essentially became an opportunity for the Household Cavalry Trooper on the course to show off. 'Stick and Ball' was an hour of individual time to practise hitting the ball, on the pony this time. Finally, we rounded each day off with a chukka, 7 minutes of riding round in circles chasing the ball and ignoring most of the rulebook at the same time. Fortunately for us and our very patient instructor she did see some improvement by the end of the course. Overall the course was exceptionally good fun and a great introduction to the game, so much so that all five of us have returned regularly during the summer for further instruction. As mentioned at the beginning the aim this year was to kick-start Battalion involvement in Polo. To that end the year would not have been complete if we had not entered a



Lt Col Bartle-Jones follows through, Captains' and Subalterns'

predominantly Battalion team in to a tournament. The Captains' and Subalterns' Tournament was our target. Due to commitments elsewhere we only had 3 Battalion members available, however, Lt Col Bartle-Jones, a very experienced and skilled player, kindly agreed to step into the breach. Whilst the results of the two matches may have been slightly predictable for such an

inexperienced team, the first step on the ladder has been taken.

We aim to build upon these foundations. Over the next few months several Guardsmen will be introduced to riding at the Sandhurst stables with the hope being that they will catch the bug and maybe next year find themselves in Tidworth for three days discovering how exhilarating the game can be.

INTER REGIMENTAL POLO

Brigadier R H Talbot Rice

This year the Regiment fielded one of only five teams to enter the Inter Regimental competition this year: the team included three Welsh Guardsmen – Brig Robert Talbot Rice (the Regt Lt Col), Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones, Capt (Retd) Rupert Hackwill (who came over from South Africa to play in the match); and was ably captained by Col Michael O'Dwyer IG.



Left to right: Brig R H Talbot Rice, Capt (Retd) R Hackwill, Col M O'Dwyer IG, Lt Col G Bartle-Jones

In the quarter final they faced the very well drilled higher goal Royal Navy team; the game was great end to end stuff – very watchable – with the Welsh Guards having several near shots at goal in the first chukka. Michael O'Dwyer did a great job opening up the play; and Rupert Hackwill brought his South African high goal experience to bear on a hot

day, doing a really good job of closing down the Navy's key player. The third chukka started well with a quick goal from Michael O'Dwyer, but the Navy then took and kept the lead for the remainder of the match. The Navy went on to beat the Household Cavalry in the semi final, but were beaten by the King's Royal Hussars in the final.

RYAN JONES TESTIMONIAL YEAR WITH 1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

Maj A F Bowen

Capped by Wales for the first time in 2004, Ryan Jones helped his country secure a first Grand Slam in 27 years when they completed a clean sweep in the Six Nations championship in 2005. That summer saw him play in all three tests for the British & Irish Lions in New Zealand, where he was the player of the series.

With 73 caps at the end of the 2012/13 season, Ryan is now one of a select group of just six Welshmen who have won three Grand Slams. Ryan has captained Wales on a record 32 occasions, surpassing Ieuan Evans's record.

was killed by a rogue Afghan policeman. The letter was distributed to all Welsh Guardsmen and it had a profound and positive influence on unit morale due to Ryan's high profile in Welsh rugby.

Ryan sent a letter to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards during our tour of Afghanistan in 2012 expressing his sorrow at the death of LCpl Lee Davies who

In September 2012 some of the Battalion's wives and girlfriends (WAGS) took part in a cycle ride and Ryan's contribution in the saddle



Ryan Jones with the Triple Crown



Brigadier Peter Williams breaking the fantastic news to the WAGs on Wheels participants that they had raised £25,000. Ryan Jones is seen on the left of the photograph after he had completed his turn in the saddle.



Ryan Jones with the WAGs, some looking pretty rough after a few hours in the saddle or perhaps an hour sleeping on the floor mats in the gymnasium. Bit of lippy and some mascara wouldn't go amiss girls!

assisted in raising £25K for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. Ryan has since visited the unit on numerous occasions as part of his testimonial year and he is a hugely popular character with the young soldiers, all of whom idolise Welsh rugby heroes. Ryan has been exceptionally generous to the WGAA and has set aside £50K from his testimonial to give directly to our Appeal.

Battalion Rugby

Battalion rugby has also benefitted enormously from Ryan's influence. Following several training sessions with the Battalion rugby team, Ryan gave an inspiring and emotional speech immediately prior to them taking to the field to win the Army Premiership

Trophy in March 2013. As a rugby mad battalion, this win had a hugely positive affect on morale and in the recuperation of a battle weary unit; Ryan's contribution was significant.

Testimonial Events

Welsh Guardsmen have been present at all of Ryan's testimonial events, from dinners in Cardiff to a race day in Llanelli, to a Boxing Night in the Lancaster Hotel in London in which all fighters came from the Battalion. Welsh Guardsmen supported and took part in the RyanMan cycle ride from Pembroke to London, stopping off in Cavalry Barracks along the way for a much needed pit stop. The Battalion ran a combat weekend for 20 civilians who had a taste of life as a

Guardsman; some of those who attended may never be the same again!

Events still to go as this goes to press include a Question of Sport event in Swansea, a Grand Finale in the Millennium Centre in Cardiff where the Welsh Guards Band will be front and centre with high profile names from the entertainment industry. The final event will be a dinner in the Churchill War Rooms in early December where Col Tim Collins will be speaking.

All in all this has been a fantastic project to have been involved in. Ryan Jones is a man mountain in Welsh sporting terms and his contribution to the Welsh Guards this year has been

superb. We have all made a true friend in Ryan and the £50K he has donated to our Appeal will boost our funds no end. But this year has not been about money, it has been about getting involved in countless events that have taken place and having fun along the way. Ryan is a true gentleman, he cares passionately about the boys and this is manifestly obvious every time he visits us or we go to one of his events.

Thank you to Ryan from all Welsh Guardsmen, young, old, past, present, injured and from the families of our deceased. We wish him well in his future and I am sure many of us will be watching closely as he moves from rugby into the unknown world outside sport.



Ryan Jones in Wellington Barracks getting a feel for the uniform worn in Afghanistan



Put a bit of effort in lovely boy... there's still 4000 miles to go!



1ST Battalion Welsh Guards Medals Parade, 6th December 2012, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow





CSgt Peters and LSgt Cunningham lifting the cup

BATTALION FOOTBALL 2013
WO2 AM Davies

2013 has been a busy time for the Battalion and during breaks in the work schedule the Battalion Football team has been quietly ticking along. The squad has seen a change in Football Officer with Captain Miller getting posted in May and WO2 Davies taking the reins.

Back in April Captain Miller took a squad of 12 on a joint rugby/football sports tour. The tour consisted of 3 48 hour stays, in 3 countries; Belgium, France and Italy. In Belgium they stayed just outside Brussels and had a couple of training sessions on the first day. The following day they played a match against a local team resulting in a 4-0 win. The visits to Italy and France had a similar pattern, resulting in a 2-1 win against a local Italian team and 3-1 win against the French team.

In May the Battalion team played against the Royal Welsh team in Cardiff City stadium. This was Captain Miller's last game as the football officer and was a fitting send off for a person who had done much to raise the profile off the Battalion team.

After the end of the sports tour the Battalion went straight into drill practice for Trooping the Colour which resulted in limited opportunities to conduct training. When training was held there was a smaller than normal

attendance due to other commitments. To combat this and coupled with the new season starting in October, the Battalion decided to hold the Ellicott Cup at the end of August. This is the football equivalent of the 300 cup and the trophy is a lasting memory of Gdsm David Ellicott who was a former Number 2 Company member who was sadly killed prior to the Battalion deploying to Iraq. The tournament was a huge success enabling the squad to be stripped apart and

totally rebuilt with the right balance of experience, youth and a new found appetite for Battalion football. It also demonstrated that the Battalion has a very high standard of footballers at its disposal. The result of the tournament itself saw Number 3 Company lift the trophy after beating Support Company in the final.

The future of Battalion Football is very bright and I am anticipating a successful season.

“The Battalion has a very high standard of footballers at its disposal.”



Worthy runners up, Support Company Team



Regimental Adjutant receiving the Book Autumn Storms from the author Gerard Wuyts

A TRIP TO HECHTEL 7 – 9 SEPTEMBER 2013 Colonel T C S Bonas

Many readers of the Regimental Magazine will know that each year the Mayor of Hechtel – Eksel invite the Welsh Guards to join them to remember and commemorate the liberation of Hechtel in early September 1944. The Association for a great many years have accepted this invitation and, up and till recently, have sent a large contingent of Association members.

In the last couple of years, and for a variety of reasons (costs, numbers, age), the Association have not been able to mount a Hechtel trip and which also coincided with visits to other battle sites and laying wreaths in Cemeteries where Welsh Guardsmen are buried. Last year Brigadier Johnny Rickett and his wife Fanny, kindly represented the Regiment/Association and this year myself, Vivien and Brian and Sandra Keane attended.

We duly set off from St Pancras on Eurostar to Brussels on the

morning of Saturday 7 September, a trouble free journey. This was not so trying to get out of Brussels with a hire car and what with trams, tunnels, really inadequate sign posting and significant traffic we did not quite make the timings we envisaged. But we made it to Lommel (close to Hechtel) where we were booked into quite a chic hotel with an excellent restaurant and bar area. The Council would not hear of us paying for the hotel which was incredibly generous of them. That night

we were treated to a ten course exceptionally delicious dinner (thank goodness the portions were small) in a local restaurant and our hosts, the Executive Council members, could not have been more generous. We certainly slept well that night!

Sunday is always the day Hechtel commemorates their liberation. It follows the same format every year, a march from the Town Hall to the Church, a church service, a march to the cemetery and then to the Town's Monument, a specially created place in which stands a Sherman Tank. The Service in the church is always adapted to take into account our presence and the choir really do sing our National Anthem well. The local Band provide the marching music (and they are very good), the locally based Logistics Company provide the Firing Party to fire volleys at the Cemetery and Monument and many of the Veterans Units and organisations (in the Region) provide the Standard Bearers. Speeches are given by the Mayor, who incidentally is a new one this year (Jan Dalemans), and I reply on behalf of the Regiment/Association. Whilst the days ceremonies are there to remember those who fell in the battle of Hechtel as well as the 35 towns people who were murdered by the Germans during the week, it is nevertheless rather a colourful affair.

With the ceremonies finished by 1 pm, and when the

Association were there in force, we were then hosted to an excellent lunch in the town hall with yet more speeches and which usually turned into quite a singsong. This year, however, we were kindly invited to lunch with Raf Truyens (the Mayor for many years and an Executive Council Member) and his family sitting out in his sun drenched garden. We returned to London the next day.

Our trip had been most successful and Regimentally I think I can say that Hechtel, of all the many places the 1st and 2nd Battalions fought through in NW Europe, we have one of the closest bonds too. They go to enormous lengths to look after us and are immensely proud of their connection to the Regiment. It is a special place and I am hoping that for their 70th anniversary next September we will once again field a strong contingent.

Finally, I have to mention a man called Gerard Wuyts whose father was murdered by the Germans in the town during the battle. In 2004 he published a very detailed book on the battle of Hechtel with excellent pictures, maps and illustrations, the only problem for us being that it was in Flemish. But this year, and to my surprise, he presented me with his book "Autumn Storms over Hechtel" 6 – 12 September 1944 in perfect English. It was a lovely touch and I look forward to showing it to those able to make the trip next year. (Hechtel will be on Sunday 7 September 2014).

www.walkonwales.org



WALK ON WALES
Captain Jan Koops

After a full year of organisation, Walk on Wales was launched from the steps of the Senedd in Cardiff by Lord Guthrie, our President, following the blessing of the baton at Llandaff Cathedral. The ensuing ten weeks saw the beautiful baton, engraved with the names of the 50 Welsh Guardsmen killed in active service since WWII, travel the entire length of the stunning Welsh coastline.

Starting with Team 1, the baton was passed on to each of the eleven teams as the Walk progressed round Wales, with local events taking place during each stage, co-ordinated by each of the teams. The Walk would never have achieved all it did without the selfless and inspiring leadership that these Team Leaders demonstrated.

Each morning, often with family members in attendance, one of the names on the baton was commemorated during a drumhead service before the walkers set off. In this way each day of the Walk had its own special focus which, when combined with many colourful, interesting walkers

and the diversity of the beautiful coastline, gave everyone who took part a sense of joy and contentment.

From the start, the Walk was supported by an impressive flow of new and diverse walkers, all brought together under our wonderful family 'umbrella'. Each and every town and village that we passed through did their bit to support the walkers and the two charities, the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal and Combat Stress, for whom we were raising money. The village of Aberporth gave us the most humbling welcome with school children, along with their families and friends, lining the streets, singing and

cheering us on our way. The hospitality that all participants were shown by the local and wider communities touched us all very deeply and is something we will both cherish and never forget.

Inevitably, as our team of walkers entered its final stages, numbers began to swell with up to 160 walkers joining daily. The days were filled with laughter and chatter as old friends were reunited (often after up to 30 years apart) and the banter flowed, embracing everyone on this magical journey. And mention must be made of the very kind invitation by the Prime Minister to attend a reception in 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 29 October where Jan Koops and Dai Graham were able to explain to

Mr Cameron what the walk was all about.

So, to the final day where over 400 people arrived in Sully for the drumhead service. As Sam Bossi's team lead us through Penarth and past the pier, so the numbers of walkers grew and as we were led by the Band of the Welsh Guards up to the steps of the Senedd, there were over 700 walkers, stretching back across the Barrage. It was a truly wonderful and inspirational sight.

Over the duration of the Walk we have managed to raise over £350,000 with further funds still being collected. It is not too late to donate, which you are able to do by going to the home page of our website at www.walkonwales.org and clicking on the 'Donate' button.



"Over the duration of the Walk we have managed to raise over £350,000."





COLONEL IN CHIEF'S CUP GOLF COMPETITION 2013

**Captain (Retd) Peter Richardson
formerly Welsh Guards**

The preliminary rounds of the Cup were held at Worplesdon Golf Club on 4th April. There were 9 team entries representing every Regiment of the Household Division.

Each team consisted of 6 players that played foursomes (alternate shots) in pairs. We received a bye in the morning matches and met the Coldstream Guards in the afternoon. Each of our pairs managed to win and overall won by 11 holes up. The games were played in very cold conditions and at one time it looked likely that the golf

would have to be abandoned because of a blizzard. Astonishingly the snow melted as if by magic and the fight continued to a very satisfactory result for the Welsh Guards.

The finals were held at Worplesdon at the end of August in stark contrast to that of the earlier rounds, the sun

was hot and so was the competition. The Welsh Guards team met the Grenadier Guards in the semi-final, winning all of our matches. Household Cavalry defeated Irish Guards by narrowest of margins. Holes up were tied, each side had won one match and the countback procedure was used for the first time to decide the one halved match. The Household Cavalry won by virtue of being one up as they stood on the 18th tee for the halved match. In the final the Household Cavalry defeated Welsh Guards by 3 holes up, winning two matches and losing one. The Household Cavalry were fortunate this year but their ascendancy may be nearing its end as the Welsh Guards are narrowing the gap

and will contest the Cup with ever more fervour next year.

Our team were runners up and won the Colonel's Prize, the team consisted of (see photo) seated: Capt Peter Richardson, Robin Malcolm, standing: Col Sandy Malcolm, Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones, Robbie O'Rourke, Captain Andrew Morgan. (Captain Ben Bardsley played in the preliminary rounds)

The trophies and prizes were presented by Robin Malcolm, Captain of the Guards Golfing Society.

Should any Welsh Guardsman wish to join the Guards Golfing Society either as full or associate members please contact Peter Richardson by e mail p.richardson10@ntlworld.com



OTHER ARTICLES



Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier Inspecting the Training Battalion at Sandown Park St David's Day 1944

border into Belgium. One cannot imagine their feeling and those of their countrymen who greeted them after four years of occupation.

They entered Brussels on 4th September under the command of a distinguished Welsh Guardsman, Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier whose 231 Brigade had landed on D-Day and was temporarily attached to the Guards Armoured Division. Brigadier Stanier recalled, "I took them up to the outskirts of Brussels so they could enter the city together with the leading British troops.

The Brigade fought in the Netherlands and Germany by which time they also included Belgians who had joined them after liberation. It was a long road from Tenby in 1940 to Munster in 1945 and there were many casualties. One who stayed the course was Armand Poupaert who with his family escaped from his home town of Ostend in May 1940. They fled by boat to Southampton and settled in war-time Britain.

Armand joined the Brigade in Tenby and served with it until the end of the war. He got to know Wales very well and look a liking to it's mountains, so different from the flat landscape of Belgium. He drove a Bren Gun carrier and while weaving his way through the crowds in Brussels saw his cousin, neither had known if

FROM TENBY TO GERMANY The Crusade of the Belgian Brigade Piron Roy Lewis

In May 1940 the Germans invaded neutral Belgium and after eighteen days of fighting against overwhelming odds King Leopold surrendered.

The Belgium Government and many soldiers and civilians escaped to Britain and formed a government and an army in exile. The new Belgian army was created in Tenby three days before the Belgian Infantry Brigade took shape under the command of Major Jean-Baptiste Piron. It became known as the Brigade Piron.

Headquarter was in the Atlantic Hotel in Tenby where there is a plaque to commemorate their stay there. From being 450 strong in 1940 the Brigade increased to 2000 Officers and men in 1944. They trained in many camps Wales including Carmarthen, Crickhowell and Chepstow before they embarked at



Tilbury on the 3rd August 1944 for Europe. They entered active service on the 9th August and fought their way through France until the great day came when they crossed the



Battlefield Tour 2003, Leopoldsburg, Military Museum. Armand Poupaert rides a Bren gun Carrier for the first in 60 years. With him is Padre Willie Pryor

the other was still alive. While on duty in Dover Armand had met Audrey who was serving in the Wrens and when he returned to Britain in 1952 they were married. He worked in the motor trade in London but with his memories of Wales in mind on retirement moved permanently to Abergavenny where they soon found friends in the Monmouthshire Branch of the Welsh Guards Association.

Armand was an associate member and he and Audrey rarely failed to attend a gathering or the Branch or the annual Welsh Guards Battle Field tour when Armand returned to many places he had fought in as a young soldier. A native of Ostend he spoke French as well as Flemish and was often called upon to interpret when the tour party needed it.

He was overjoyed to meet former members of his Brigade when the Monmouthshire Branch formed links with the West Flanders Branch of the Brigade Piron Association and

visited each other's countries for dinners and official occasions.

In September the Welsh Guards Association went to Belgium to mark the 30th anniversary of its liberation and the part played by two Welsh Guards Battalions who were in the Guards Armoured Division. Jean-Baptiste Piron, then a General, was present at the parade in Brussels but tragically died sitting beside Sir Alexander Stanier, the Brigadier who had led him and his men across the border in September 1944.

In June 2013 Armand Poupaert, a lively and active man all his life suddenly died aged 91 in his adopted home town of Abergavenny and is survived by Audrey. His funeral service amid the mountains he loved was particularly moving and when Welsh Guardsmen acted as bearers and provided a guard of honour. The Branch Standard was displayed as a tribute to a very special member and friend.

THE LONGEST JOURNEY - Falklands Revisited

Lieutenant Colonel (r) Tony Davies OBE
Chairman Falklands Veterans Foundation (RSM 1 Welsh Guards 1982)

Having travelled to the Falkland Islands some dozen times in the past decade, on Pilgrimages and Charity Business regarding Liberty Lodge, I have seen the benefit that hundreds of Veterans had received from such visits.

With this in mind, together with the C.E.O., Derek (Smokey) Cole, I proceeded to plan a Welsh Guards orientated Pilgrimage to take place during February 2013. With the help of several of our Island Friends we soon came up with a very interesting and workable itinerary. Both Smokey and I have visited the Islands three times in the past year so it was not difficult to put everything in place. I then set about the selection process, the result, a combination of who would want to go, who might benefit from the Pilgrimage, and indeed who would add something to the whole experience.

The journey South, was as expected a little tedious! R.A.F. Civilian Charter flight, arrive at Brize Norton at 7pm, take off at 11pm, 9.5 hours to Ascension Island, off the plane for 2 hours and back on for another 8. The good news, no delays. We arrived at the Islands, some more refreshed than others,

Ben Parry slept all the way, Everett never shut up and both Bill and Nicky Mott kept bumping into people they knew, which did have its advantages as we later were to experience. On arrival at Mount Pleasant we were met by our old friend and veteran, Gary Clements Royal Marine, in the Liberty Lodge Mini Bus and taken to Stanley. Everyone by now wide awake and picking out, some way off route, some of the old landmarks from 1982.

Liberty Lodge, an idea conceived by Smokey, owned, built and run by the Falklands Veterans Foundation, on land donated by The Falklands Island Government, is a haven in the South Atlantic for Veterans and families of Veterans who took part in the South Atlantic Conflict of 1982. It is supported by major Ex Service Charities and, to date, since its opening in 2009, not a single veteran or family member has been charged a fee for its use. Run by a local



Davies, Nicky Mott, Andy Brinkworth, Bill Mott



manager and administered from the FVF UK Office, we totally rely on grants and donations from Charities, businesses and those who stay at the Lodge for its upkeep. There are four double/twin rooms incorporating a flat, disabled facilities and many more attributes. It boasts to be one of the finest houses in Stanley. On Rowland's Rise, overlooking the entrance to Stanley harbour, it is situated on one of the best plots on East Falkland. This together with the granting of Indulgence Facilities to all 1982 Medal Holders, has ensured a steady stream of occupants annually. www.falklandsveterans.org.uk

Suitably refreshed we set about the visits programme, starting where we all landed, at the jetty in San Carlos Water. Although our visits described here are as they took place, I have juggled them around

slightly in order not to confuse the reader, (who may have been there), on the route and order of march we took in 1982. Contrary to popular belief by some media operatives, The Welsh Guards did play a further part in 1982 after the Sir Galahad was bombed on 8th June.

Then came visits to San Carlos Military Cemetery, The Museum and on to Goose Green, Darwin and the Argentine Cemetery. En route we had stopped at the spot where L/Cpl Thomas 03 was killed below Wall Mountain on 13th June 1982.

The photograph with Davies, Nicky Mott, Andy Brinkworth and Bill Mott was taken at the place where L/Cpl Christopher

Thomas 03, was killed by an Argentine shell during the battles for the "run-in" to Stanley. In the background can be seen Mount William and Tumbledown to the left on the crest. In order for visitors to recognise the site, a new Cairn has been built on the road near the minefield, outside which the cross and tributes lie. Just a mile further down the road towards Stanley, we also stopped at the site of the Scots Guards diversionary attack, prior to the main attack on Tumbledown on the night of the 13th June. This is where D/Sgt Danny Wight and L/Cpl Pashley R.E. died attacking Argentine trenches. We then with our local guides, went to the top of Mount Harriet, when during the night attack, L/sgt

Mahoney and his Milan Team, Kevin Sincock, helped out 42 Commando in taking out Argentine strong points during their attack. We then made a very poignant trip to the top of Mount Tumbledown, where Ron Mackenzie, (RSM 2 S.G.) in 1982, talked us through the attack. Ron ably supported by us all, read the Scots Guards Collect and laid a tribute at the cross on the crest of Mount Tumbledown. A very moving experience.

A day later we then held a Service at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy, on the headland overlooking the site where the Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram were bombed on 8th June 1982. Equally as the day previous, a very emotional

“Contrary to popular belief by some media operatives, The Welsh Guards did play a further part in 1982 after the Sir Galahad was bombed on 8th June.”



Ron MacKenzie

experience. Three of those present had been injured and as a result, casualty evacuated after that fateful air attack. (several others took place after the ships were hit). Three others had also been on the ship and luckily escaped uninjured. The wind was blowing at 75 miles an hour which unfortunately prevented us launching the boat to take us over the site to lay a wreath. Not to be deterred, The Reverend Richard Hines, Stanley Cathedral, conducted a service at the memorial. Ben Parry read the Roll of Honour and Andy Brinkworth laid the Wreath. As well as the 10 Pilgrims present were, Carol Green and her husband Phil,

sister of Gdsm Paul Green who was killed on the ship. The Manager of Liberty Lodge, Ellen Davis, also Tim and Jan Miller, great friends, hosts and supporters of all Welsh Guardsmen who have returned in the past fifteen years or so to the Islands.

On the morning of 14th June 1982, the rest of the Battalion, supported by two Companies of 40 Commando, carried out a heli-borne assault on Sapper Hill, shortly after which was when the Argentine forces capitulated and the surrender announced.

We also, during the Pilgrimage managed to visit the Internment Site for all our Killed

in Action during the conflict, at Teal Inlet. We also managed to visit Sapper Hill, Mount Longdon, The HMS Glamorgan Memorial near Gypsy Cove and the Penguin wildlife sanctuary at North Shore. The 1982 Memorial In Port Stanley and had a very moving visit to the Garden of Remembrance where there is a tree planted with the name of every person killed in 1982.

All ten of us were hosted by the Governor, His Excellency Nigel Haywood at Government House, and also generously wined and dined at Tim and Jan Miller's house, (where we sang for our supper), and the following night again at Ian and Sheila Stewart's house. At the Miller's House we formed the 8 plus 2 Club, (82). Eight Taffs, a Jock and a Matelot! Agreed to meet every year from henceforth, and Ron MacKenzie duly elected as first chair. As it was formed in Tim and Jan Miller's house, we also made them honorary members.

Having been involved in organising and assisting many pilgrimages for veterans and some family members, of all the trips that I have made

South, apart from my own first pilgrimage, I would without a doubt say that this to me was the most beneficial. I am certain none of us had not laughed, yes cried, nor felt so close to each other, since we all left the services. All the first time "returnees" were extremely moved by their experiences, all delighted to meet with, socialise with and experience at first hand exactly how the Islanders themselves felt. This, in turn helped them understand exactly what they had gone through. To see what has transpired since 1982, to feel the sorrow, gratitude and total togetherness from the Islanders themselves, I am certain has helped everyone of those present. They now all want to go back again, all made new friends during their trip and I am certain, are all better able to deal with their own "issues" from 1982. They are now also far more knowledgeable as to what they took part in, during the Falklands War.

The importance of such visits cannot be over emphasised, the benefits of which everyone who has been will testify to. More than a number of members of the Task Force of 1982 are still experiencing problems in coming to terms with their experiences. We still have many veterans calling on the expertise of Combat Stress and other Service Charities for help, and in the main, this is not purely financial. We are very grateful for the Continued Support received from the Army Benevolent Fund (The Soldier's Charity), and other Service Charities. We would also like to thank the Welsh Guards Benevolent Fund who also assisted in making this trip the tremendous success that it was. Thank you.



Service at Fitzroy



OUT OF AFRICA COMES A MULTI-FACETED DIAMOND



OUT OF AFRICA COMES A MULTI-FACETED DIAMOND

Chris Beynon

George Morgan began his long and interesting life on 14th January 1931. He was born in Roath, Cardiff and was educated at Roath Park Boys School.

Upon leaving, he went to work for Great Western Railways at Cardiff for three years before enlisting in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in July 1948.

George, it must be said wore caps, hats, beret and kepis of varying shapes and sizes throughout his military career that even James Lock & Son would be hard pressed to keep track of. Welsh Guards, Rhodesian and Nvasaland Staff Corps, 6th (Independent) Company Rhodesia Regiment, 2nd South African Infantry Battle Group, 701 Battalion South West Africa Defence Force and Special Duties Witwatersrand Command, South African Defence Force! Oh, and 14th Int!! Bare headed there, mind you.

George has more gongs on his chest than my brother Sylvest- (can any of us match him?):

British GSM clasp NI, South Arabia, Borneo, commendation LSGG.

PJM (Malasia) DMM (Rhodesia) GSM (Rhodesia)

Zimbabwe Independence Medal, South African GSM, Internal Ops & External Ops, South African – oh bother it, my hands got cramp! He has more variety than Heinz – and they were established in 1869.

George has written a really interesting account of his life serving King, Queen and country which will be produced in full in Welsh Guards centenary rugby book. I hope this article and assorted photographs whet your appetite.



THE ARTIST AND THE MASTER COOK

Roy Lewis

Racing and the Welsh Guards have close links and particularly with one of the country's most famous courses, Sandown Park in Esher.

The newly formed 1st Battalion trained there between March and June 1915 and the Regiment's Training Battalion moved to Sandown Park in June 1940 where it was based until August 1946.

After surviving one of the strictest basic training regimes in the Army at the Guards Depot, Caterham recruits became Guardsmen and entered a new world. Freedom

was one major difference between Caterham and Sandown Park, especially freedom to walk out into Esher or Kingston, a luxury rarely enjoyed in the Depot where attempts to "walk out" very often resulted in staying in after being thwarted by the Sergeant of the Guards at the main gate.

Training facilities at Sandown Park were limited as a

distinguished Welsh Guardsman, Sir Carol Mather once said, "Apart from a wooded knoll there was no green grass at all except that of the racecourse itself which was flat as a pancake." But Pirbright and Bisley were near where new Guardsmen daily fired Lee Enfield rifles and Bren Guns, threw grenades and came to terms with a projector Anti-tank weapon, the PIAT which had a kick like a mule.

There was no assault course but field training took place where horses once ran and the men slept in stables and tote buildings and drilled on the car park. It was a military version

of finishing school and after training Guardsmen joined one of the three Service Battalions.

Local houses were requisitioned for some of the men and also a platoon of the Auxiliary Territorial Army (ATS), twenty women who carried out administrative duties under the command of a Sergeant. They wore the Leek on their uniforms and became part of the family.

Among the many great characters who served there was Joseph William Isaacs, known as Joe in the family and Ike in the Regiment. He was born in Abertillery, Monmouth

in 1903. After working in a local colliery he sought a better life and joined the Welsh Guards in 1923, Regimental number 2731610. He served in the 1st Battalion at home and in Egypt and in 1938 qualified as a Master Cook Class 1.

He served in Wellington Barracks at the same time of the Coronation of King George V1 and his son Ray recalls him saying he received the Coronation Medal "in recognition of the number of eggs I cooked to feed the exceptional number of troops in the Barracks." Ray remembers being on the roof of the Officers Mess and seeing the Mounted Regiments or the Indian Army forming up to join the Coronation procession.

After a brief spell in the newly formed 2nd Battalion he served in the Training Battalion in October 1939 until his discharge in October 1945, a legend in lifetime and one privileged to have his portrait painted by one of the nation's greatest artists who was killed serving in the 2nd Battalion in Normandy.

Rex Whistler, a famous painter of murals, book illustrator and stage designer was aged 35 when he volunteered for service in 1940 and was commissioned into the Regiment. Everywhere he was stationed he painted and when the Guards Armoured Division was formed he designed the Divisional sign which was based on the "Eye" which the Guards Division of 1915-18 had worn.

Whilst at Sandown Park Rex Whistler painted two portraits, one of fellow Officer Jack Lewes a founder member of the SAS who was killed in the

December 1941 in the Middle East and Sergeant Isaacs the Training Battalion Master Cook. The portrait of Sergeant Isaacs hangs in Regimental Headquarters and there is a copy in the Guards Museum in Wellington Barracks. According to Ray Isaacs when his father served overseas he lost the top joint of his finger when mincing meat which seems to be restored in the portrait.

He was one of many great characters of his time and was at Sandown Park when tragedy struck in nearby Imber Court on Sunday 30th June 1944. In the midst of sports day at the Metropolitan Police ground a V1 flying bomb landed and killed twenty and wounding more. Eighteen Welsh Guardsmen, one Army Physical Corps NCO and a private in the ATS lost their lives.

Ray Isaacs is a very loyal Associate Member of the London Branch of the Welsh Guards Association and it is easy to see why. His father was active in the branch after his retirement and was present at Sandown Park in November 1946 when the Colonel of The Regiment, The Earl of Gowrie VC, unveiled a plaque commemorating the occupation of the 1st Battalion in the Great War and the Training Battalion in the second.

Joe Isaacs worked in the catering trade after completing 22 years in the Regiment but his retirement was sadly cut short when he died aged 52. The portrait of him keeps his memory alive and thanks to his son Ray his story has now been told.

LE CHEMIN DE LA LIBERTÉ
 - following one of the hardest wartime
 escape routes across the central
 Pyrenees into northern Spain
 Paul de Zulueta



The author and son at the Col de Pecouch, the Spanish frontier immediately behind them

On the night of 12th September 1943, a 19 year old mountain guide and 'passeur', Louis Barreau, was betrayed by French collaborators - 'La Milice'. Surrounded by German troops in an isolated barn, now ablaze, above the village of Sentenac-d'oust, he dashed for safety towards the Bois de Plantach. Louis Barreau was cut down before he made 50 metres.

Sixty years on, almost to the day, my younger son, Hughie, and I stood at the marble cross marking the spot where Louis was murdered. By then we had walked for just three hours and 14 kilometres along the 'Chemin de la Liberté' from France to Spain. As I gulped some water, Hughie lingered at the memorial lost in thought. He was the same age as Louis had been at his death.

The Chemin de la Liberté, is one of several escape routes from France to Spain and, at Grade Five difficulty, its most taxing. The trail runs from the bridge over the Salut river in Saint-Girons (100kms south of Toulouse) to Esterrri d'Aneu in Spain. The escape route is just over 50 miles, 35 hours of strenuous plodding, starting at a height of 1290 ft and

climbing to over 8000 ft with an unnerving number of ascents and descents each day. Over the course of the War, there were some 35,000 successful escapes across the Pyrenees by French men and women alone; and around 6,000 by Allied servicemen - mostly aircrew. But of these, only 782 escaped over the mountains of the Ariège - the Chemin de la Liberté, a fact that bears witness to its difficulty.

The "good escapee" says the 1944 document Tips for escapers and evaders "is the man who keeps himself fit, cheerful and comfortable; a man with sound common sense, and above all a man of great determination." I could not recall any such description from my army confidential reports. And I began to



The author passing the crashed remains of a Halifax bomber'

wonder about my motivation for such an arduous journey. The Welsh Guards had given me the priceless gift of friendship and a lasting affection for 'adventurous training' ever since a failed attempt to complete the 'haute route' across the Alps in the spring of 1978. The evenings were also beginning to draw in on that wonderful ceremony of innocence of carefree holidays with my two sons, the elder now hard at work in the City; the younger, my companion on this journey, now in his penultimate year at university. I was touched he felt the same.

And so we completed the first day from Saint Girons to the manned refuge hut at Aunac – 23 kilometres and ten hours of meandering paths, a compass bearing here and there, a longed for lunch of salami and strong Pyrenean cheese at the village of Alos with its "lavoir" of ice cold water to replace the five litres we had drunk between us before lunch.

I remember that night getting into my goosedown filled sleeping bag, headtorch on, reading Rosemary Bartlett's biography of Tolstoy, a miniature bottle of Lagavulin – cask strength – jostling for attention to my side and thinking it is life's contrasts that give it such joy.

September 1943. We tried not to lose sight of what it must have been like for an escapee then. Wearing espadrilles, a tatty suit, maybe an overcoat stuffed with a few sausages and cheese, but little else to sustain them. Hughie and I were 'Northfaced up', a toasty refuge hut to look forward to most evenings, a chef to rustle up a warming stew, and little prospect of being ambushed by a patrol from SS Das Reich. I tried also not to forget the 102 'passeurs', men like Louis Barreau who acted as guides on the escape routes who were either shot out of hand, or met an even grimmer end in a Nazi concentration camp. Their names included Louis's

father, Norbert Barreau and Louis's uncle, Jean. The name Barreau remains revered in the Ariège region.

At first glance, the second day from Aunac to La Cabane de Subera with just 16 kilometres to walk seemed relatively trifling. But the geology of the Ariège region of the Pyrenees, dominated by jagged limestone rocks, Mediterranean vegetation, the grass sharp to the touch, makes for hard going. The weather the week before had not been kind and the path became steep and sticky, climbing up 2,000ft to the Col de la Core, down a few hundred feet then up again to the Col de Soulard (5,210ft). From there, it was a steepish descent to the refuge at La Cabane de Subera (4,946ft) – our billet for the second night. The Cabane has no warden and we had rather hoped for solitude, but found ourselves sharing the manky bunk beds with five Frenchmen who were there until the snow arrived in early October 'refurbishing' the hut. After a few skirmishes in our O level French, we lapsed into a few desultory hand signals. Sleep should have come easily but, for me, it rarely does above 5,000ft, not helped by one of the Frenchmen, Algerian in appearance, who got up every two hours to make himself a cup of tea.

We started day three unrested and a little anxious. We only had eight miles to walk but with two climbs of just under

3,000ft. But at least the day seemed set fair. The mountain ponies of the Merens breed, sturdy and Jet black, and so legend has it, used as pack horses during Napoleon's march on Moscow in 1812, roamed the upper slopes of the Pic de Lampau; vultures, kites, eagles and buzzards with their plaintive 'pee-weeeee' sound swept above us.

After two hours climbing, we came across the wreckage of a four-engined Halifax bomber which crashed here during the last days of the War. A stone plaque in memory of Flight-Sergeant Donald Thorne and six other crew members marks their final resting place – a commemorative wreath of fading poppies placed in 2004 by former members of 644 Squadron – tied to the plaque. I felt both proud and inexpressibly sad and thought of the final scene of *Blackadder Goes Forth* and Lieutenant George's request for "permission for lower lip to wobble, sir".

At around 1pm we made it to the Col de Craberous at 8,000ft. Swivel-eyed marmots sitting bolt upright on the boulders leading up to the Col observed our progress. I remember remarking to my son, Hughie, "Well, we've broken the back of this little jaunt". In my experience such a sentiment is always a precursor to a sharp reversal in fortune. In my complacency, lolling under the cornflower blue sky, I looked across to the Col de Pécouch and reckoned we had just three hours walking until our arrival at the Refuge des Estagnous, one of the more well-appointed huts in the

"I felt both proud and inexpressibly sad and thought of the final scene of *Blackadder Goes Forth* and Lieutenant George's request for "permission for lower lip to wobble, sir".

Pyrenees, with not one, but two chefs. I forgot all I had been taught, failed even to take a compass bearing, and toddled off barely casting a backwards glance at the clouds rolling in from the Vallée de Bethmale below.

The afternoon unravelled. We took what I thought was the quicker route to the base of Mt Valier's peak, now cloaked in heavy cloud and mist, then a traverse for 50 minutes to the Col de Pecouch marked by navigation cairns. But once you miss one cairn, you are likely to miss the lot and the mind soon begins to play games, imaginary routes appearing here and there, all rational thought slipping quickly away.

Some four and a half hours later, I said to Hughie, as calm and steadfast a companion as one could hope to have, "look, I'm sorry, I really haven't much of a clue where we are, cock-up city Idaho beckons, we'd better try and make our way back to where we had lunch." He looked concerned and touched my face affectionately with his left hand. "I think you're right dad, you do look pooped."

Retracing your steps. Easily said; never easily done in life. Stumbling across scree and snow, my boots so sure footed in the Chilterns now like dancing pumps, we shuffled down Mt Valier's north face, giving each other quiet words of encouragement from time to time. We got back to the Refuge des Espugues, where we'd had lunch, at 7pm, two Mars bars and a bag of nuts between us but, fortunately, plenty of water from the source at the refuge. The shepherdess, living and

working in the hut from May to October, viewed me with tired disdain but was good enough to give us a bowl of steaming rice before we rolled into our sleeping bags. I slept fitfully, beating myself up over such a rocky error of judgement, a torchlight procession of 'what ifs' running through my mind.

The next morning the fine weather had returned, and the views and route to the Col de Pécouch pixel sharp. But the day before had worn us both out, and all that we could manage was to climb to the Col de Pécouch and clamber down to the Refuge des Estagnous. We were now just three hours from the Spanish frontier to the south. It must have been an uplifting moment for those 782 who escaped this way during the War, weary to the point of collapse, ravenous with hunger, but Churchill's 'broad, sunlit uplands', within their grasp.

We tucked into a lunch of pate, cheese and salami with an 'ice cold in Alex' beer. Within half an hour we had slipped into Val d'Isère mode, basking in the early autumn sun. With a twinge of guilt I remarked to Hughie,

"It's still a beautiful day, we've got five hours left of sunlight, shall we press on, back for dinner by 7, I would have thought?"

Hughie raised an eyebrow, smiled and carried on reading his book.

"Well, it was just an idea," I said.

The next morning was our final chance to make it to the frontier. It was raining hard and we could barely see ten feet in front of us. I chose to



Look what's behind you! the author oblivious to an impending reversal of fortune!

ignore the French guide standing next to me.

"Rassurez-vous, il sera clair au sommet."

Clear at the summit it may have been, but I reminded myself that goals in life, though important as an aiming mark, often reveal an unconscious wider purpose. We decided to begin the three and a half hour descent to the pre-arranged pick up at the Aire d'acquel, content that we had shared an experience whose memory would endure.

There remained some unfinished business: the Michelin One Star restaurant in Saint Girons. We chose the 35 Euro menu: gateau de fois

gras, boeuf de Chalosse, chariot des fromages; and the Armagnac soufflé. Towards the end of dinner, I said to Hughie,

"Promise me you'll have a crack at this again when you are 57, with one of your children, God willing?"

His face wore a somewhat quizzical almost mocking air.

"Papa, I rather hoped at 57 I would be on my yacht somewhere in the southern Peloponnese, you'll be 94 then and I hope still with us, whiskey sour in hand."

We smiled and raised our glasses to one another as the waiter wheeled in the Armagnac soufflé.



Navigation cairns, what navigation cairns!

THE WELSH GUARDS 1916 CORNET

Jeff Heenan. (Hon. Secretary London Branch)

In December 2012, John Tipton and his wife Betty, (John's father was in the Welsh Guards and John and Betty have been Associate Members of the London Branch Welsh Guards Association for over 30 years) saw a BBC Antiques Roadshow, which showed a musical instrument called a cornet which had been presented to the Welsh Guards by HRH The Prince of Wales in 1916, and used in France during the Great War.

The cornet belongs to Paul Gratrix, from Swansea. John contacted the BBC who forwarded his query to Paul Gratrix:

And the story unfolds:

Paul writes:

The story starts when I was 14 (22 years ago). I was a tuba player (and still am) and discovered the cornet for sale in a flea market. It was without case, dented and black all over. I purchased it as I was collecting musical instruments. When I arrived home I cleaned the cornet to discover the following inscriptions:

"This cornet was presented to the Welsh Guards by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and used in France during "The Great War" the front of the cornet says : WG. 1. 1916.

'History of the Welsh Guards', by Dudley Ward.

The King had approved (19th March 1915) of the King's Colour, The Regimental Colour and the eight Company Colours. He also conferred a further distinction on the Regiment by sanctioning the title of 'The Prince of Wales' Company, for the leading company of the 1st Battalion."

*** According to the Royal Archives, it is thought that the Cornet was presented by HRH The Prince of Wales to the Welsh Guards in France in 1916, to mark the naming of The Prince of Wales Company.*

The valves are individually numbered 13, 14 and 15 which indicates that it must have belonged to one person. I have always been interested in finding out who this cornet belonged to and would hope this could be made possible.

It was an amazing coincidence that when I found the cornet I was already planning a career in the Welsh Guards as a bandsman! I applied to join when I completed my GCSE results and was told that because they were good results I should consider A-levels. I took this advice and did A-levels. Having passed these I returned to "Sign up" and was told to consider doing a degree and that with a degree I could enter as an Officer and would start on a higher wage. I again took this advice and successfully won a place at the Royal College of Music to study.

On completion of my degree (5 years) I returned once again to sign up to the Guards. As I was about to sign up to the Guards



the recruitment officer told me that I would go to Kneller Hall for my training and start on bottom rank. I questioned this and explained about my degree but was told I could go in as an Officer with a degree in anything except a bandsman and I would have to start at the bottom.

As you can imagine this was a bit of a shock and when I explained this to my father he stated that he would not entertain the idea of me joining on bottom rank as he had paid so much money to keep me at university. It was with great sadness that I was forced to choose a different career. The

cornet has a lot of sentimental value to me as I have had it in my possession for 22 years.

I am willing to loan the instrument to Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards for on the understanding that at any time I wish to have the cornet back it will be returned to me.

I understand the importance of the instrument in relation to the history of the Welsh Guards and the anniversary year.

Paul Gratrix

(Our thanks to John Tipton, Paul Gratrix and Nick Farr for informing us about this part of The Welsh Guards History.)



SOME ACTIVITIES OF THE EAST GLAMORGAN BRANCH DURING 2013

Robert Kennelly
(Associate member East Glamorgan Branch)

The East Glamorgan Branch continues to be a success with an average of 12 members attending every month. In this we are blessed by having the facility of the Gelliwasted Club in the middle of the town and a very cosy assembly room given over to our Branch.

Sadly during the last year we have lost our 2 remaining wartime members, Lionel Gowen and Glan Hughes, Lionel served at the end of the war in Belgium and then Palestine. Glan joined the Welsh Guards in 1945 but remained in the UK as a driver - we miss them very much.

The Branch has three very active officers: Howard Main, Ken Haines and John Hooper. During the past year we have organised two very well subscribed days' out - the first being to Parliament in June followed by our now annual trip to Imber Court. The London trip was a most interesting day and a great experience for all, but be warned - from the Great Hall of Westminster to join the walking tour there are a number of steps to climb, rather a hard pull for some of our older members. It was a beautiful warm evening when we set out to return home - then as we entered Cheney Walk Chelsea we stopped - and one hour later we were still in Cheney Walk, totally snarled up in the chaos that is London traffic. It took a bit off the edge of the day as our supper arrangements at the Sally Pusey pub in Wotton Bassett at junction 16 had to be cancelled. (It is worth noting by any Branches on the M4 that the Sally Pusey is well worth a visit, £8 for a carvery meal - enough for a Guardsman!)

Our annual trip to Imber was well supported with about 30 members attending. During our visit we were again reminded of the dreadful events of the that faithful and the grave loss of life that occurred by woeful happenstance. It is so sad to think of those fine young men and the sacrifice they made in 1944, now very much part of Welsh Guards history.

We also never forget our little ceremony in Ynysangharad Park to honour the six lads of the town who fell in the Falklands war, once again the members turned out with ladies in style for our lads.

We had a most interesting address from Captain Mark Adams, the PSAO of the Royal Welsh at the Broadway TA centre. He told of one of his winter tours in Bosnia and the problems to overcome in that benighted part of the world, the cold being just one of them. As a young soldier during a tour of Sneakey Beakies in Northern Ireland, Corporal Adams as he was then, received a Military Medal for his efforts there. Our next event will be an address by Catrin Collier our most famous author from the town and whose father served as wartime Welsh Guardsman; we look forward to it greatly.



“He told of one of his winter tours in Bosnia and the problems to overcome in that benighted part of the world, the cold being just one of them.”



WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

THE WELSH GUARDS COLLECTION



Thomas Plant with Stan Evans



Shrewsbury branch of the KSLI and their Ladies

THE WELSH GUARDS COLLECTION

Established 1995

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- Chairman: Colonel T CS Bonas
- Treasurer: Mr J O Williams
- Secretary: RQMS D Brown
- Curator: Mr ST Evans, Cartref ni, 44 Crossfield Avenue, Over, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 1EG
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As I reflect over the past months since our last editorial I begin to realise what a topsy turvy season it has been.

Before the season had actually started we were hosts to the very popular BBC series "Antiques Road Trip" The programme in its seventh series revolves around two Antique experts travelling around the Country in classic cars aiming to buy the best bargains from a £300 starter given to each. At the end of each program their purchases are included in a local auction to see who can make the most profit. Whilst they travel around the Country they drop in on local activities and attractions. On the 22nd of February we were visited by

the BBC camera crew and all that goes with it including the very popular expert Thomas Plant arriving in a 1960's Triumph open top sports car despite all the rain. We were filming for four and a half hours for a clip on the programme that will probably last six or seven minutes. (Well that's showbiz?) The BBC team said "it was probable in the whole previous six series that the Welsh Guards Collection was up there with the best they had filmed and had enjoyed the whole experience immensely. The show will be aired later on in the year. Look

out for Thomas doing a stag! Our season really gets going at Easter weekend but as you will recall the whole Country was flooded out and Park Hall was no exception to the constant downpour and howling winds which saw fewer visitors than normal. It was as though Easter had been cancelled. Still on the positive side it did give us a little more time to do them "behind the scenes jobs" polishing cleaning and display rotation, we like the display to look as fresh as possible. To add to our worries we are very much down on our "front of counter staff" who assist our visitors whilst they enjoy the

experience. Through natural wastage, age, ill health other commitments etc, we have lost two more staff this year. Our Building Services Manager Graham Binnie has not enjoyed the best of health this last year and attends regular visits to the hospital and Specialists. Graham tells me he can see some light at the end of the tunnel and hopes to be back to his "old self" sooner rather than later. Our Treasurer John Williams has taken over the immense task of Secretary / Treasurer of the Montgomery / Shropshire branch of the Welsh Guards Association He is also



MDO Charles Singleton, Stan Evans and Mathew Lucas



Members of the Cardiff Branch

one of the founder members of the Oswestry Town Museum which is also a very demanding job as you would expect in its infancy. Our very best wishes to them both. At this point I would like to thank two members of our team who are not Ex Welsh Guardsmen but wanted to help out, Dan Powell from Park Hall who is ex Royal Tank Regiment and Albert Barkley another local man who served with the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Had it not been for these two guys we would have had to close for two days every week. To every one who helps out no matter how great or small we could not survive without your input. My personal thanks goes out to you again. We have a new MDO (Museums development Officer) for the next year or so Charles Singleton and is doing his best to try to recruit volunteers from the public centre. If you think you could spare the odd day to help out I would very much appreciate your joining us. On a far brighter note artefacts are coming in at an amazing rate, almost every month visitors will bring items in and on some occasions they have no Welsh Guards Connections at all. Also we must thank all those kind people who give us

financial support, On this occasion I would like to thank the members of the Bangor Sub Branch WGA for the unexpected donation we received last June. It was a massive gesture from such a small body of men and an especial thanks to "Dai Moggs" for making it possible. To assist in the production of 100 year book to commemorate the formation and celebration of the Welsh Guards 100th Birthday, Brian John has been working along with Mark Jenkins (ex Adjutant 1WG) who visited us in March in supplying hundreds of photographs portraying our existence over the past 98 years to Mr Gareth Lewis to professionally scan these photographs to be digitised later for inclusion in the book. This has been a massive job for Brian but he has carried it out in his usual meticulous manner. Well done Brian I hope you get the recognition you deserve. On that same day we had a visit by the Shrewsbury branch of the KSLI and their Ladies and on that day Albert was on duty

so it was extra special or him and his band of brothers. Being a Cardiff boy myself it was particularly pleasant for me to welcome on 21st September Secretary Tony O'Shea and 15 members of the Cardiff Branch Welsh Guards. Talking of days as a youngster particularly Canton, Grangetown and Ely and of course once or twice mentioning my beloved "Bluebirds" back where they belong in the premiership. As we look forward to the next two years and what they mean to us, the outbreak of the 1st WW in August 1914 and then of course our formation in February 1915 a special display is a must for this once in a lifetime event. We have been extremely fortunate and privileged to take delivery of one of the biggest private collections of genuine authentic uniforms weapons and artefacts relating to the 1st WW in the Country. The "Mathew Lucas Collection" is the result of 36 years of compulsive dedication in uncovering and safeguarding these treasures for the likes of

us to enjoy. We made an exception to our loaning in policy on this one occasion and Mathew has allowed us at the WGC to display these treasures for the following two years. I can't thank Mathew as much as he deserves but you can by making the effort to visit us and see them. Mathew from Leamington Spa is pictured with MDO Charles Singleton both members of the "Western Front Society" We are also working with "Firing Line" The history of the Welsh Soldier and the National Army Museum at Cardiff Castle from the early months of next year. Our host at Park Hall has once again come to our rescue and have given us another building to house this unique display. Thanks again to Mr Martyn Hughes and his fellow Directors at the Countryside experience. Once again if you feel you would like to get involved with any of these activities I am always at the end of a telephone. Regards, Stan 67

"To every one who helps out no matter how great or small we could not survive without your input."



BRANCH REPORTS

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

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Since the Regiment has returned from active duty in Afghanistan they have been tremendously busy on the home front with Freedom Marches, Trooping the Colour and numerous other high profile activities. There has also been a healthy contact between the serving and non-serving parts of the Regiment, and we can thank the Commanding Officer for taking the lead.

This year, for the first time in many years, there will be a visible presence from the Battalion at several Freedom towns on Remembrance Day, which will be very much appreciated by Association members. We also hope that Officers will support their affiliated Branch functions when requested since this goes a long way in encouraging the younger generation to attend. Branch committees work extremely hard in arranging these events, and such attendances helps to boost their morale.

Once again the Association was invited to celebrate St David's Day at the Cavalry Barracks Hounslow. This is always a special time, to meet young Guardsmen and their families, and to help bridge the gap between the generations. Hopefully the Association will be turning out in force again in 2014.

Next year the Association is planning to hold a Battlefield Tour incorporating Hechtel, which it has done for many years in the past. In September 1944, the Welsh Guards captured Hechtel from the Germans, and ever since the local people have held an annual service of remembrance, and to give thanks to the Welsh Guards.

In 2015 we celebrate 100 years since the formation of the Regiment and plans are already in hand. It will be a fantastic year incorporating Presentation of New Colours, the Troop, Regimental Dinners and many other events. A Regimental Battlefield Tour will also take place, visiting battlegrounds of WW1 and WW2. It is going to be a busy time, and chance for us all to celebrate together.

Finally let us not forget why we have an Association – it was

created for you, with one of the aims being:

"To maintain connection between past and serving members of the Welsh Guards and promote their mutual interest and the welfare of the

Regiment generally and also to help those in difficulty financially or health-wise"

Please support your local Branch, they are there for YOU.

Brian Keane *Secretary General*
 E-mail: briankeane39@gmail.com

CARDIFF BRANCH

(Founded 1919)

President: Colonel C J Dawnay
Chairman: David W Parry (22831847)
Treasurer: Alex Webb (22370877)
Secretary: Terry O'Shea (24047142)
 43 Pwll Evan Ddu
 Coity
 Bridgend, CF35 6AY
Telephone: 01656 655889
E-mail: terenceoshea@talktalk.net

The year started with the January Parade by the Battalion in Cardiff, which was enjoyed by all, and we would like to thank the Battalion for inviting us to join their day. It was the best of starts to 2013.

February: The Ladies night Dinner had to be cancelled at short notice due to an unusually high number of members being affected by illness, the knock on effect of which resulted in the Annual Draw having to be held at the earliest available date following the cancellation. The draw, held at the United Services Mess on Monday 4th March was a great success - thanks in the main to the efforts of Mrs Boston and her team of helpers who put on an excellent buffet which was enjoyed by all.

St. David's Day, as guests of the Battalion was a most pleasurable one, and we thank

them for making it possible for us to join them at Hounslow.

It seems that the Battalion has taken the lead in high profile national events this year, on a scale like never before. Members have been greatly impressed by the outstanding professionalism displayed nationally and broadcast around the world. "We are very proud of your success and wish to offer our congratulations for all your hard work in achieving such high standards in the short time from operational to ceremonial".

25th August saw the start of the Walk on Wales charity event from Cardiff Bay, where we

were able to join with the crowd of well-wishers to give them a good send off.

In September a group of members visited The Welsh Guards Collection at Oswestry where we were given an excellent tour and talk by the Curator, Mr Stan Evans (67). The group thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and would highly recommend the trip to others.

On our return journey we stopped at the Prince of Wales Pub in Ross-on-Wye, to round off our day with an excellent meal.

October saw the cancellation of our Branch Dinner, the delayed Darts and Shooting competition at Maindy Barracks and also the announcement that the Branch

Ladies Night Dinner scheduled for the end of November would not take place.

At the time of writing this report we will be looking forward to being able to welcome the 'Walk on Wales' walkers as they finish in Cardiff. Also, to remember our fallen comrades in November at Cathay's Park, Falklands Memorial and the National Memorial Remembrance ceremony.

Please note:

Branch AGM will be held on the first Monday of June 2014

Branch meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at the United Services Mess, Wharton Street, Cardiff. ALL WELCOME.



EAST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

- President:* Lt. Col. D C Macdonald-Milner
- Chairman:* Howard Main (23577106)
- Treasurer:* W John Hooper
- Secretary:* Ken Haines (23523287)
Trevone, Duffryn Road
Rhydfelin
Pontypridd CF39 5RU
- Telephone:* 01443 492316

The year began with the Branch celebrating St David's Day with the Battalion at Hounslow. Everything went without a hitch, and we all agreed that this was the best one ever.

Early in the year we lost two very good Association members when Glan Hughes and Lionel Gowen passed away. They will be sadly missed and our thoughts and condolences go out to their families.

The biggest event in our area this year was when the Regiment was given the Freedom of Rhondda Cynon Taf. There was a massive

turnout by Association members in and around the surrounding areas as well as the people of Pontypridd and Rhondda valleys. Sadly, the local television companies did not think it worthwhile to report on the day, except for a fleeting image on the news.

Next on the agenda was our annual jaunt across the Severn Bridge to Paignton, where we all enjoyed a wonderful few days.



Gort Barracks 1961 or 1962

In May, a barbeque was organized by Associate members, which again was extremely successful resulting in a great night being enjoyed by all. Our thanks must go to Terry, Steve, Peter and 'Big Al' for all their hard work.

Next was a trip to the Houses of Parliament. The trip itself was great but the journey back horrendous. The coach left London at 6 pm and due to the volume of traffic (which was bumper to bumper) did not arrive back in Pontypridd until almost 1am the following morning. I suppose this could be called an 'unforgettable journey!!'

(A report on the trip can be found in the magazine written by Bob Kennelly.)

A few of the Branch went to the Millennium Stadium to watch the Battalion play rugby in the Sir Tasker Watkins Challenge Cup against the Royal Welsh. Unfortunately the run of the ball wasn't with us on the day, but a

good match nevertheless.

Imber Court this year was yet another successful day with a very good turnout from the Branch. On our return we visited the Falkland Chapel at Pangbourne. Even though we didn't have time to stay very long, the staff looked after us extremely well. After leaving Pangbourne we travelled to Wooten Bassett for a meal (one we missed on our return from the Houses of Parliament earlier in the year due to traffic hold-ups!)

We now look forward to the delayed "Darts and Shooting competition" since we have to defend our last year's winning title. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that the roof on the Sergeants' Mess will soon be repaired.

Finally a huge vote of thanks to everyone at Maindy Barracks for all the help and support they have given us over the last year, it is very much appreciated.



Members of the East Glamorgan Branch at the Darts and Shoot



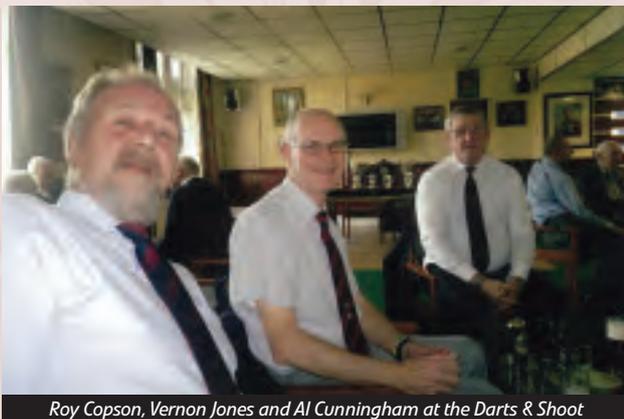
Rob Rees, Roy Copson and Andrew Brown



WoW Barbecue



Andrew Brown, (Best Shot, Darts & Shoot) with Captain D Davies



Roy Copson, Vernon Jones and Al Cunningham at the Darts & Shoot

L.LANELLI BRANCH

(Formed 1974)

President: Mr John Harding
Chairman: Keith Horrell (24838137)
Treasurer: Vernon Jones (22217890)
Secretary: Alan Cunningham (24125105)

197 Cockett Road
 Cockett
 Swansea SA2 0FH

Telephone: 01792 554151 (Home) (Work: 07976971336)
 E-mail: alan.Cunningham1@ntlworld.com

The Branch had a busy year with the usual Branch meetings, and holding a barbecue for 'Walk on Wales.' Collection boxes were also placed along the way and a healthy sum of £2646 was raised. Some members also took part in a bicycle ride from Shrewsbury to Swansea, raising over £2000 for them.

This was very much a team effort, and we thank all who played a part, especially the Llanelli Cadets, under the direction of a former Welsh Guardsman, Major Ray Batsford.

A few members visited the Pembrokeshire Lunch, and we pray for the former Secretary, Trevor Warr, who at the time was undergoing medical treatment.

The Branch would like to remind everyone that we now meet every two months (the first Thursday of the month), and in 2014, our first meeting will be Thursday 6th February. New and lapsed members are welcome.

We wish all those stalwarts on the sick list a speedy recovery and return to Branch duties and activities.



Alan Cunningham and Vernon Jones

LONDON BRANCH

(Formed 1926)

President: Lieutenant Colonel C F B Stephens
Chairman: A H Doughty BEM (2741552)
Treasurer: Douglas Wilcox (2739697)
Secretary: Jeff Heenan (23523251)
 27 Mount Gardens
 Harrogate
 N Yorkshire HG2 8BS
Telephone: 01423 879326
E-mail: jeffheenan-wgalb@hotmail.co.uk

Our Christmas Celebration Lunch for 2012 featured the "Abba Girls" which was an excellent afternoon's entertainment, with many members taking full part with the Abba wigs etc. (various photographs are about showing how members fully enjoyed themselves!) The Christmas Lunch 2013 has another surprise with full audience participation, along with our usual sing-along! Members are asked to bring their sunglasses!

It has been decided to cancel First Friday Meetings in April, May, September and October 2014, due to the high cost of travel etc. Members are encouraged to attend the Branch Annual General Meeting, St David's Day celebrations and the Remembrance Day Church Service and Parade.

Again our thanks to all our Committee Members, and of course our Chairman and Treasurer Richard Doughty and Doug Wilcox, for all their hard work.

We continue to encourage more retired Welsh Guards to support the Association, whether at our meetings in London or the various events that take place around the country. We do need younger members in London Branch, but appreciate the difficulties and the costs of attending the meetings. The Association in general is looking at ways to encourage people to attend

meetings throughout the country. If we have not heard from you for some time, drop us a line/email address so that we can keep you up to date.

An invitation has been received from the Mayors of Montchamp and St Charles de Percy in Normandy inviting the Welsh Guards to take part in the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings on the 6th June the and Battle of Normandy. The visit is being planned for 6th June 2014. Arrangements are still being looked at time of writing, if you are interested, please contact Hon. Sec.

Sadly during 2013 some members have passed away, our thoughts and condolences go to their loved ones, their names are entered in the Memoriam section of the Magazine.

And Finally: John and Betty Tipton whilst attending the Welsh Guards Ludlow Races, met a gentleman by the name

OUR MEETINGS IN 2014 WILL BE:

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2014

Meet at 4pm Garrison Sgt. Mess, then 4.30 pm Annual General Meeting (London Branch)

If there is one meeting you should attend it is this one!!!

1ST MARCH 2014

St. David's Day (Details from RHQ)

Welsh Guards Association Annual General Meeting

(Date and Location to be notified from RHQ)

(London Branch first Friday meeting from 4pm onwards.)

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 2014

Trooping of the Colour.

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2014

Imber Court Meeting

(To be confirmed by RHQ note change of day to Sunday)

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2014

Remembrance Sunday (Details from RHQ)

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2014

Lunchtime Christmas Party. (Date to be confirmed)

*Please note that our meetings now start at 4pm.
Lunches at 12 noon.*

We meet at the Garrison Sgt's & WO's Mess at Wellington Barracks, by kind permission of the Garrison Sergeant Major W D G Mott, OBE. MVO. Welsh Guards.

of Frank Tipton, (no relation) Frank has been looking after his brother's grave in St Mary the Virgin Church Bromfield Shropshire, and next to his brother's grave is 2735754 Gdsm John Lewis who died in 1940. His name is on the War Memorial along with Frank's brother, 4207862 Gdsm Leslie Tipton Welsh Guards. Our thanks to Frank Tipton for his kindness and for also looking after John Lewis's grave – there are some nice people about!

Ironically Frank applied to join the Welsh Guards, but they had their full quota, he then tried to join the Royal Artillery, his father's Regiment, they also had their full quota, so he eventually managed to join the Royal Air Force Police.

Our yearly thanks to Brian Keane and Major Keith Oultram at Maindy Barracks and RQMS Des Brown and Yvonne Mitchell at RHQ for all the help and assistance during the year.

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

(Formed 1953)

- President:* Captain Harry Legge-Bourke
- Chairman:* Tom Peters (23523035)
- Treasurer/Secretary:* Errold Jones (24581438)
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- Telephone:* 07903417048
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Well here we are again with another year gone. The Branch as a whole has had a busy time of it with get togethers and a few 'jollymens' outings.

The Branch once again celebrated St David's Day with the Battalion at Hounslow Barracks, with a Church Parade and a lovely "short" march past (personal reasons!) and a fantastic atmosphere afterwards. The scoff was excellent and the entertainment in the Marquee kept everyone tapping away for hours.

Just a short three weeks later a few of the Branch attended the Army Cup Final at Aldershot. Again, a fantastic atmosphere with a result in no doubt whatsoever.

We were saddened by the cancellation of the Bi-annual Dinner, as I had personally visited many of the pubs and clubs in Merthyr warning them of the Association's forthcoming arrivals.

Last year we couldn't field a team for the Darts and Shoot. This year we are looking forward to the fray. As of now there is trouble with the roofing but we are waiting with anticipation for another date as our trophies have been "on loan" for long enough.

The Branch as a whole is looking forward to the Centenary Celebrations that are being arranged for us. I think that over the next twelve

months the excitement will heighten once the Committee or the 'Committee for the Committee' has put final touches to what is going to happen.

This year the Branch has been hit by the death of some backbone members. In September of last year John Williams (54) passed away in London. Although living in London since leaving the Battalion, John was a Merthyr man through and through.

Then in February we lost Ivor Thomas who lived in Aberbeeg but somehow managed to get over the valleys to attend meetings regularly until it got too much for him. Ivor was a member of the Branch even before I was born.

Just recently we have lost Mr Grant Harper (Chairman of the Branch for many years). Grant was one of the Original "F Troop" who helped form the Branch back in 1953. Everyone who knew Grant will remember him with a smile on their faces. Grant, even at 92 hardly ever missed a meeting - the only times he did was after he'd attended the A.G.M. and Troop weekend in London when he always seemed to go A.W.O.L. for a month or so.

These members will be sadly

missed and our thoughts and condolences go out to their family and friends. We also give our best to those who are not in the best of health and hope for speedy recoveries.

Meetings are still held the first Monday of the month at the Ex Serviceman Club Merthyr Tydfil at 20.00hrs. Old and new members are made very welcome.

MIDLANDS BRANCH

(Formed 1953)

- President:* Captain T Macdonald Milner
- Chairman:* R Jaynes (2739272)
- Treasurer/Secretary:* Jonathan Bayliss (23523208)
2 Weston Court
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- Telephone:* 01608 684834
- E-mail:* baylissjonathan@hotmail.com

The past year has been very quiet for us again. Our Christmas Lunch 2012 was cancelled due to lack of numbers to make it viable, also, the Hon Secretary went to Australia to give his daughter away at her wedding.

The Annual Lunch was held on April 28th 2013. Forty two people attended but only about one fifth were Association members. Colonel and Mrs H Boddington together with Major H Bettinson also attended. Another invited guest was Captain Lucy Sewell of the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry TA who had been to Afghanistan with the Battalion on their tour last year. Unfortunately she

was unable to come due work commitments as she is also an Inspector with Warwickshire Police. I know her very well as we worked together in the Police.

We hope to carry on as a Branch but we are finding it difficult to say the least.

Best wishes and good health are sent to all members of the Midlands Branch, and hoping you can support the Branch in 2014.



Steve Liversage and Malcolm Davies the Monmouthshire Branch taking a break on their 'Walk On Wales' adventure

MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

President: Captain D M Davies
Chairman: Alan Mountjoy (239297747)
Treasurer/Secretary: Steve Liversage BEM (24141822)
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Telephone: 01495 302567
E mail: Vicar54@live.co.uk

Despite a membership scattered far and wide, the Branch keeps to its traditions of holding monthly meetings and social gatherings as well as supporting Association events. The purpose is to reunite in the real sense of the word not via technology and this also applies to the families of members who are part of us. There are many towns in the Branch area and over the years we have arranged events and meetings in them but we also get practical support from exiles who travel long distances to take part in our affairs.

We hold meetings which are mini-reunions on the second Thursday of every month and most of them are at Branch HQ, The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny. The exceptions are in May and October when we meet at The Capel Hotel in Bargoed, a very friendly venue, and in February when our Annual General Meeting is held in the Council Chamber of Abergavenny Borough Council.

For several decades we have been closely linked with the Ancient Borough and every Mayor invites the Branch to hold our February AGM in the

Chamber which is followed by a Civic Reception in the Mayor's Parlour. This is an ideal way to start our year and in turn we invite the Mayor to our Reunion Dinner in the Angel Hotel.

At the 33rd Annual Reunion Dinner to be held there in October 2013 two serving officers who are members of the Branch were present, the previous Adjutant in the Battalion Major Tom Spencer Smith and his successor in the role Captain Christopher Davies. Their presence strengthened the links between the serving and non-



Branch Secretary Steve Liversage presenting the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy to Guardsman Moriarty

serving halves of the Regiment.

Also present were Brian Keane the Secretary-General of the Association, Major Glyn White and Lieutenant Colonel Eric Sturdy who pronounced Grace in Welsh. He was Medical Officer in the Battalion in Berlin in the early 1950s and has many stories to tell of the leading Nazi war criminals in Spandau Prison, in fact he written a novel based on Hess which is shortly to be published. Taking time off from his job at Buckingham Palace was Sergeant Shane Brandon, fresh from Balmoral, who comes from Pontypool and who regularly attends the Dinner.

Four great Guardsmen of the 273 era enjoyed meeting each other and we were honoured to see them once again, Ray Cumbley (2WG) from Cornwall, Bill Powell (3WG) from

Cwmbran, Gilbert Priddy (3WG) from over the Severn Bridge and Eric Jones (1WG) from Merthyr who will celebrate his centenary in 2015 along with the Regiment.

The Monmouthshire Branch Trophy awarded to the Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year was first presented in 1968 and the winner's list consists mainly of rugby players. The 2013 winner was a boxer, 30154036 Guardsman Moriarty from Anglesey, a member of Prince of Wales's Company who made a great impression and received the trophy and a certificate from Branch Secretary Steve Liversage. He was the first boxer to become Sportsman of the Year for nineteen years.

The major Regimental event in 2013 was 'Walk On Wales' which raised funds for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan



VIP Guest at the Monmouthshire Branch Dinner

Appeal (set up in 2009) and Combat Stress (1919). Among the walkers were Steve Liversage and Malcolm Davies who last trod Mother Earth seriously on route marches in Surrey. It was not a stroll in the park but a test of endurance which was tiring to say the least. Other Branch members personally raised large amounts of money in their local areas and also deserve great credit.

In 1963 there was no Magazine as impressive as the one we have today, it was called an Annual Report but was full of news of the Battalion and Band and also of all the Branches, the latter containing lists of members and where they lived. It records that we had three survivors of the Great War and six others who still support the Branch fifty years later.

They are 23104153 Derek Davies (Ebbw Vale now Wiltshire), 22831721 Mervyn Delve (Abertillery now Gloucestershire), 2741392 Roy

Lewis (Ebbw Vale), 2739251 Bill Powell (Cwmbran), 2741085 John Tunley (Ebbw Vale), 22831602 Alan Woodhouse (Abergavenny). Another stalwart of the past 23836045 Malcolm Fry, once of Cwmbran but for many years retired in Pembrokeshire, attended his local Branch lunch in Pembroke Dock in October and recalled the many events Monmouthshire Branch held in the 1970s.

We appreciate the hard work and the thought that goes into the Association and thank Brian Keane for all he does for us. We rely on ourselves for funds and also the support members have from their ladies who enjoy our functions and are part of the Regimental family. 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War and 2015 of course will be very special for us all. We will plan Branch events in the Regiment's centenary with everyone in the Branch family in mind.

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MONTGOMERY/SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1950)

President: Mr R G P Plowden
 Chairman: Mr B John (23523171)
 Treasurer/
 Secretary: Mr J O Williams (23860183)
 83 Balmoral Crescent
 Oswestry
 Shropshire SY11 2XH
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 E mail: j83williams@talktalk.net

The main event of the year to most Welsh Guardsmen was to watch the Welsh Guards Trooping the Colour. This years Trooping of the Colour was a brilliant display and all that took part are to be congratulated. Those who attended the Colonels Review or lucky to have had tickets for the actual day or just watch the parade at home on their TV, all commentated on how much they enjoyed it and thought it was a wonderful parade.



Captain Ben Parry presenting Brian John with the Loyalty Trophy at the Wroxeter Lunch

The Branch AGM was held before our St David's Day Lunch where Captain Parry announced his retirement as Secretary, The Secretary position would be taken over by myself and the position of Branch Chairman by Mr Brian John, Capt Parry would hand over his duties after the Wroxeter Lunch in July.

The St David's Day Lunch was held at our regular venue at the Henllan Nr Welshpool and was well attended. As always there was plenty to eat with good company.

The main event of the Branch was the summer lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel Nr Shrewsbury. Our guest was Major (Retd) J Warburton-Lee who gave an interesting talk and update on the Walk On Wales charity walk. It was decided to donate the raffle takings for the day (£230.00) to the Walk On Wales charity.

After the talk the Branch wished to show their appreciation to Mr Brian John for his loyalty and the contribution he has made to the Branch over the years from helping at Dinners to arranging transport and driving the coach to various journeys. Brian, once more takes up the position of Branch Chairman. He is second generation Welsh Guards, his father Ted John was a founder member of the Branch and served on the committee for 25 years. Brian was presented with the Statute for the Branch Loyal and Dedicated Service by Captain Parry which was sadly one of the last duties he would make as Branch Secretary.

Ben took over the reins from Dick Roberts in 1993 and has from the start said he would do the duties of Secretary until he retired from his civilian job, and after 20 years that day has



President Mr Roger Plowden with Mrs Di Parry Capt Ben Parry with their gifts and the Presidents wife Mrs Helen Plowden.



Captain Parry presenting yours truly with the Gavel and the duties as Branch Secretary - his smile says it all!

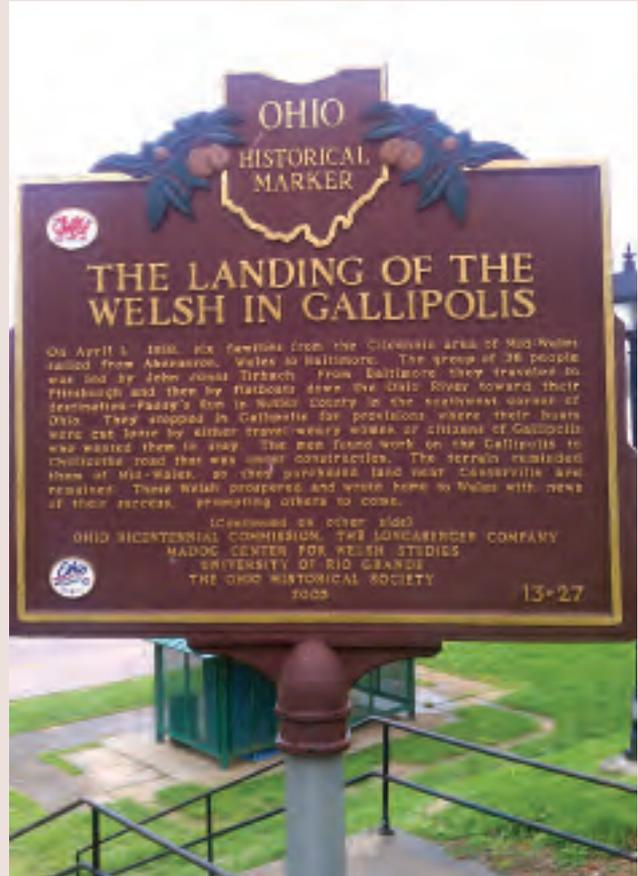
finally arrived. The Branch decided to show its appreciation to both Ben and Di for looking after us for so many years and we were able to take that opportunity at the Wroxeter Hotel.

The presentation was made by our President Mr Roger Plowden and his wife Mrs Helen Plowden. The look of complete shock and surprise on Bens face was in itself a picture but also proof that we had managed to keep the presentation a secret. Ben was presented with a claret jug and four wine glasses engraved with the Regimental Crest and Di was presented with a cut glass vase and a bouquet of flowers. (The costs were met through donations from our members)

Once Ben had recovered he made his final presentation by

handing over the branch gavel to yours truly. All I can promise the Branch members is that I will not use the gavel with as much enthusiasm as Ben did!! Ben and Di are taking the opportunity in their retirement to travel around Europe in their caravan. I know Ben will manage to visit the odd vineyard or two in the quest for his search for a few bottles of claret wine! On behalf of the Branch members I wish to say thank you both and hope you have a long and happy retirement, and the best of luck in your new adventures as 'Travellers' and hopefully we will see you at our Branch lunches.

I would like to close by wishing our Members, Associate Members and Friends a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



NORTH AMERICA BRANCH

(Formed 1986)

Treasurer/ Secretary: Andrew Suter (24704978)
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I am glad that I can contribute this year on behalf of all the former ex patriots here in North America. Around this time last year Hurricane Sandy was about to hit the U.S coast and you all know how devastating the storm was you really had to be there to believe it.

It is always a challenge to keep it together when you witness first hand the devastation mother nature can throw at the planet. I think one of the most devastating storms I arrived at was after the F5 tornado that hit Joplin

Missouri, 200 mph plus winds hit for twenty minutes shifting a massive hospital two and a half feet of its foundations, it was the only building standing after the storm hit, an analogy that can be used would be like a nuclear blast hitting, and





Devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy

everything being decimated flat to the ground. The picture says it all, even the bark was ripped off the trees, flag poles bent in half. The day the storm hit, a high school graduation was about to take place at the high school. The day before, a decision was made, due to high attendance, that the graduation should take place at the university instead. The next day the tornado flattened the school avoiding possibly hundreds of deaths: the tornado was mile and a quarter wide. Unfathomable back home when we moan about gale force winds!! and Aberavon losing again!!

I have tried tirelessly to drum up reports from all the old Guards here but I think the Welsh in general abroad like to keep a low profile, I think I have only ever met 3 other Welsh Patriots in the twelve years I have lived here. If you are on facebook you can catch up with my travels on facebook, talk about miles on the road also, Owen Gwyn Evans 09 he is up and down the east coast seems like every week from Prince Edward Island Canada to Miami Florida, rather him than me, but fair play to drive six hours over here is as easy as driving from Cardiff to Swansea back home, it's a breeze, I would like to see his diet improve though his photos of his on road dishes are not exactly cholesterol friendly.

I stay in touch with Dave Keen and he enjoys his retirement also in Canada, as a lot of you

know he was the Chairman here for a long time, he travels to the UK and was last at a function with his Beefeater friends last year.

What an amazing turnout for the Walk on Wales Afghanistan appeal enjoying catching up with all the daily reports and seeing old friends and as always glad to contribute where I can. Tommy McDonald Milner had a good kayak journey to support the appeal, along with Chris Beynon representing the Rugby lads. A big pat on the back from all the Welsh here in the USA.

This is a story of irony, when I first went to my wife's home in Ohio I noticed there were Welsh flags flying everywhere and road plaques displaying Welsh byway signs. Cut a long story short there is a massive Welsh cultural studies there at Rio Grande, amazes me to this day to see the Red dragon flying proudly displaying Cymru-Am-Byth flying proudly in the town. You can find out more by visiting the website <http://www.rio.edu/madog/> The photos show the local signage posted. Not bad for a small proud nation.

Time to sign off. Please call me some time or drop me a line would love to catch up. My old friend Ken Evans is coming to the states November the 18th for a couple of weeks, we plan on hiking and visiting a few civil war sites one of his favorite pastime studies (the term study is light) sorry Ken.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH

(Formed 1946)

President: Major K Oultram
Chairman: Trevor Davies (22831186)
Treasurer: Arnold Brassey (24125038)
Secretary: Keith Bonehill (22831043)
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The year 2013 was a quiet one for the Branch. Our annual Lunch was held in December (2012) again at the Mercure Hotel, Christleton, Chester. We find this to be an excellent venue, and will continue to use in the foreseeable future. The Scots Guards Association Band played a selection of music for our entertainment, which was enjoyed by all.

As I mentioned last year, we hold 'Chairman led' meetings during the months of January, April, July and November (which is our AGM), the remainder being 'Social meetings' well attended by members and wives, who enjoy buffets and hot pots. Please come along, you will be made most welcome.

April saw members of the Branch attend Chorley British Legion (Lancs) for the Falklands Remembrance Parade at Chorley War Memorial situated at the entrance to Astley Park The memorial has been recently re-furbished, with the Welsh Guards memorial in a prominent position – all the wreaths from the Parade were laid at this memorial.

The parade was very well attended with two mounted police officers in dress

uniform, a Territorial Band, also in dress uniform, approximately forty members of various Regimental Associations, members of the Polish Brigade Association and members of the Chorley British Legion. After the service we retired to the local TA Centre for refreshments and bar (which we were thankful for since the day as bitterly cold with a biting east wind)

The Chairman of the British Legion made himself known to us and thanked us for attending. The memorial has the names of those who lost their lives on the Galahad, and was placed in Astley Park by the late Major Keevil, at his own cost. (The Secretary General and I attended this gentleman's funeral a couple of years ago) There was originally some doubt about keeping this memorial at the

park in Chorley, but it would appear that it has now been resolved.

In June we held a mid-year lunch at the Mercure Hotel, followed by a Social in July, hot-pot in October and AGM in November.

Two members have returned to the fold, namely Robert Harper (23929604) and Steven Crow (24299391). We warmly welcome them back to the Branch.

Once again I commend our Social Secretary Barry Monteith (23877223) for organizing the social side, and for the effort he puts in – “thank you Barry, from all the Branch members” We must not forget our team of Lady members, Mrs Monteith,

Mrs Harding and Mrs Davies for providing the refreshments monthly without fail. “Thank you ladies”

I would also like to thank RHQ staff for their continued assistance during the year, also Major Keith Oultram, our President, and the Secretary General Brian Keane for their continuous help.

The members of the North of England Branch as well as Associate members wish the Battalion the very best for the coming year.

Finally, thanks to all members of this Branch for their regular support at our various functions – we, the Branch committee will continue to work on your behalf.

great to see Regimental Sergeant Major Martin Topps a North Walian, handing over the Colour, a proud moment for Aberffraw.

The A.G.M. was for a change not bad but sadly it was to be the last time I would meet up with Grant Harper, Chairman Merthyr Branch. We had a noggin together in the Crown Plaza Hotel where he was staying. I attended his funeral with the Branch Standard with Stan Evans We have a close relationship with the Merthyr Branch since we won the Darts Association Cup for the first time in our history with the help of the Merthyr Members in our team at Nesscliffe. RIP dear friend.

Garrison Sergeant Major Bill Mott, together with his brothers Major Nick Mott and ex Regimental Sergeant Major John Mott, led Leg 2 of the Walk on Wales from Chester to Bangor with our President Cpt. Chris Hopkins. The start at Chester Racecourse was well attended to the delight of the organisers. The Baton was brought up from Chepstow overnight by a merry band of cyclists to a fanfare from the Band of the Welsh Guards, with Colonel Hugh Bodington leading his incredible team of cyclists into Chester Racecourse at the end of their epic overnight cycle. A fantastic achievement from amongst others, Nigel Thomas of Blue Mountain in full butcher’s costume riding a monstrously heavy old-fashioned butcher’s bike and a newlywed couple on a tandem. Rousing speeches from the Lord Mayor of Chester Cllr Jill Houlbrook, the newsreader Huw Edwards and Olympic gymnast, Beth Tweedle. Hugh Bodington handed the baton over to Garrison Sergeant Major Bill

Mott and his Leg 2 Team. After the Drum Head ceremony the Baton was handed to Bry Wigley the son of Sgt Mal Wigley to carry along the coast to Connahs Quay. All the Wigley family lead around 150 walkers with the Welsh Guards Band setting the pace as we did a lap of the racecourse before setting off along the North Wales Coast. A real lump in the throat moment! Thanks to Dave Wigley for organising the Charity night at the Naval Club Connahs Quay.

Tim and Jan Miller from the Falkland Islands carried the baton on behalf of Gdsm Paul Green’s family of Rhyl they now live in the Falklands running the Fish & Chip shop. Thanks to Les Peake & Wendy for the Black Tie Ball at Rhuddlan Golf Club a wonderful success.

Llandudno rocked: first to the roar of over 50 Goldwing Motorbikes who provided a “guard of Honour” for the walkers along Llandudno Promenade. The Llandudno Town Band brought them in with Men of Harlech as local DJ Ian Turner wound up the crowd at the far end of the Prom. Llandudno further supported us by laying on “An Evening with Billy Mott” at the George Hotel. The families of the fallen have been at the heart of the walk and each day, following the drumhead service, the baton is presented to a family member to carry for the day. The support given to the families by the walkers, and the walking teams also the general public was quite simply humbling. Bry Wigley, son of Sgt Malcolm Wigley walked the entire Leg 2 as did Dave Evans (with blisters to show for it) and Sgt Jim Carlyle’s father staggered everybody by walking the

NORTH WALES BRANCH

(Formed 1936)

- President:* Captain A.C. Hopkins
- Chairman:* G. Binnie (24060777)
- Treasurer:* H .Mears (2740728)
- Secretary:* D. Webb (235223061)
2 Arran Drive
Rhyl
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- Telephone:* 01745 334340
- E-mail:* spyderwebb61@aol.com

2013 here already!! Another year to report on Branch activities. It all started on St. David’s Day in Hounslow although not on the scale of the previous year it was an excellent turn out yet again. I would like to thank the Regimental Sergeant Major Brian Baldwin for letting us into the mess on the Thursday night, getting the Bar up and running and also buying the first round. After the Parade on St. David’s Day we made our way back to the Sergeants Mess for the usual swift half - I ordered a Port, to the mess cheering, as I had the last out of the bottle! I had to replace it, much to the amusement of D/Sgt Jiffy Myers.

Trooping of the Colour was as you know done by the Battalion this year and it was nice to have a Branch Member present who was on the same parade 60 years ago (1953)

22217422 Bill Rowlands from Bala, proudly showing off his Coronation Medal. He and his son enjoyed the ambience of the day and met new friends later in the Mess. It was also

whole 20+ miles from Rhos-on-Sea to Penmaenmawr at the age of 81 with his wife. The final leg to Bangor from Penmaenmawr before the handover was joined by Bangor Section Chairman Dai Morgan who organised an Evening at the Regency Hotel Bangor with every walker given a drink by the Branch (Da lawn) I would also like to mention the hospitality given to the walkers by the Landlord Gary & Tracy who donated the Buffet free for the Branch a wonderful gesture and what a majestic spread - fit for a King.

In glorious sunshine WO2 Kieth Lewis started leg 3 on the Sir Galahad lifeboat motoring proudly across the Menai Straits to Beaumaris under the watchful eye of Captain Philip Roberts RN Rtd, the Captain of the original RFA Galahad in the Falklands War. He was joined by a number of Falkland families and veterans. The baton was carried for the day by ex-Gdsm Wayne Trigg who was badly burnt when the Galahad was hit. Albert Owen MP joined the walk on 8th of September with Brigadier Standford and R.S.M. Martin Topps for a wreath laying ceremony at Penrhos for David Williams KIA 8/6/1982

Mark Horwood and his self-proclaimed "Reservoir Dogs" set off from Fourmile Bridge to complete the remaining 3 days along the beautiful west coast of Anglesey and head back onto the mainland but before stopping at the watering hole "The Bulkeley Arms" courtesy of Maldwyn Jones 92, for an evening of music and entertainment!! Next morning they heading off past Caernarfon and along the Llyn Peninsula. Many thanks to J.W Lees Brewery for sponsoring this leg.

At the helm of leg 5 was Steve Jones, V.J. and Beanz. They led from the very tip of the Llyn Peninsula, past Abersoch, Pwllheli, Cricieth, Portmeirion and on to Harlech. Nefyn and District Golf Club laid on an excellent welcome. Hafan y Mor was a great night with V.J. DOING WHAT HE DOES WELL singing "Calon Lan" - no dry eyes there! Arfon Williams sang Nessum Dorme which reduced Alison Elson to tears (Da lawn i pawb) General Reddy Watt ex Commanding Officer, Brigadier Peter Williams, Major Barney Cockcroft, Brigadier Richard Stanford and many faces from the Sergeants Mess have graced our hallowed turf alongside the Mayors and Council Leaders of many of the towns along the route. Katy Sheriden a young 13 year old singer from Rhyl (my Granddaughter's friend) raised £112 during a gig at the Crown Bard, Rhyl She also sang for us at the Wrexham fund raising day which raised £657. Lastly I would like on your behalf, thank John Warburton-Lee, Jan Kooops, Dai Graham, Punchy Morgan and our President Captain A.C. Hopkins for making this possible.

Bangor Section now meet at the Regency Hotel, Bangor on the 3rd Monday of the month 1900hrs, it is opposite the rail Station and also on the bus route to make it easy. Wrexham section has also started at the War Memorial Club, Wrexham. It is next to Tesco's, on the first Thursday of every month at 1900hrs. Come along you never know who you might meet!

The Branch A.G.M. was held at the Bod Erw, St Asaph. All officials were re-elected. We need new blood on the committee, so if anyone is

interested please contact me. We really need to get working ready for the centenary 2015.

22831031 Graham Jones (Rhyl) passed away April 20th. The Association was well represented at the funeral and we would like to thank Sheila, his wife and daughter Melanie

for the £208 half share of the collection given in his memory. R.I.P. see you at the Re-Org Graham.

That's it! Thanks to all at RHQ and Cardiff for the support to the Branch which leaves me to wish you all Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

.....

OGMORE BRANCH

(Formed 1982)

<i>President:</i>	Major T M Wakefield
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr Ray Gorringe (23585533)
<i>Treasurer/ Secretary:</i>	Mr Mike Jones (23523201) 40 Garfield Avenue Litchard Bridgend CF31 1QA
<i>Telephone:</i>	01656 – 650367
<i>E-mail:</i>	mike_jones928@msn.com

The first occasion of note this year was our AGM which took place in February 2013. Once again for the umpteenth year the Branch Officials and Committee Members were re-elected unopposed. Our President was regrettably unable to attend so our Vice President, Mr Albert Burd stepped into the breach and oversaw the proceedings. We thank Albert for officiating at the meeting.

The Secretary attended the Branch Secretaries Meeting in Maindy Barracks on 12th February. As ever he found it an informative with much discussion between the various Branch Secretaries. Our thanks to Brian Keane as ever for the Buffet afterwards.

March 1st saw a large contingent of our members on their way to Hounslow to celebrate St. David's Day with the 1st Battalion. This was a great day out with plenty of "meeting and greeting" of old friends from the past. The organization was as good as



The New Monument at Cefn Cribwr



The New Monument at Cefn Cribwr



The Old Training Battalion/Guards Depot in D Lines

ever and the food and entertainment laid on was first class.

On the 20th March our sporting fraternity took to the M4 to see the Army Rugby Cup Final in Aldershot to watch the Battalion XV play 3 Yorks (Duke of Wellingtons) and after a tough battle, win the coveted Army Cup. Any victory against the Duke of Boots is always memorable. Well done the lads! We also attended the Millenium Stadium on 19th April to support them against the 2nd Royal Welsh Regiment for the Sir Tasker Watkins VC Cup, regrettably they were not successful this time: you can't win them all eh?

We held our Dinner Dance on Saturday 13th April in the Masonic Hall in Bridgend and once again there was a healthy attendance sitting down to Dinner, with the Guests of Honour being the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough. We must thank the Ladies Section for their help in setting up the Hall prior to the event and also the Manager and Chef for doing us proud. We then enjoyed the rest of the evening dancing to the music of our musician Dave Escott.

On Saturday 4th May on a cold blustery morning in Cefn Cribwr, near Bridgend, our

Branch members attended an unveiling ceremony of a new Memorial for the local men who had lost their lives fighting for their country, including one Welsh Guardsman 2736992 L/Cpl Henry Glyndwr Thomas of the 3rd Battalion who died on 8th May 1943 at the battle for Hamman Lief, North Africa. He is buried in the Enfidaville War Cemetery approximately 100 kilometres south of Tunis. Despite the inclement weather there was a large turnout of school children, civic dignitaries, including the First Minister, the Archbishop of Wales and local Mayor and Veterans.

Following the religious service the "Last Post" and "Reveille" was sounded by a bugler from the Royal Welsh Regiment. Our Branch Standard was on parade carried by the Chairman and the Secretary carried the Parachute Regimental Standard.

On 15th May a number of members went over to Pontypridd to attend the Welsh Guards receiving the "Freedom of the Borough of Rhondda, Cynon, Taf" parade. Great to see the boys representing the Battalion on home soil again!

The Secretary of the East

Glamorgan Branch invited us to attend the Commemoration Service at Imber Court on Sunday 23rd June, regrettably only the Secretary and his wife and a friend could attend but it was a memorable day and I think the East Glam Branch should be applauded for attending year after year even though numbers are inevitably dwindling due to the passing years.

We were once again represented at Bridgend on Armed Forces Day on 29th June when our Branch Standard was on parade. As usual the Corps of Drums and a detachment of marching troops from The Welsh Transport Regiment, RLC (TA) lead the Parade followed by The First Minister, our two MPs, CO WTR, Veterans and various Detachments of Cadets. Our Chairman Ray Gorringe (23585533) was once again the Parade Marshall. The Parade ended at the Recreation Centre where a fine buffet and entertainment was laid on. A good day was had by all.

We were sad to hear that the Darts and Shooting Competition had to be postponed, the Secretary in particular was looking forward to defending the Gerry Greenstock Cup. Always by coincidence it seems, when

you have a full turnout we are not required. It will be interesting to see if we can get the same numbers when it is re-arranged.

Our Branch Annual Remembrance Service will take place in Nolton Church, Bridgend, on Sunday 20th October 2013 when we will once again pay homage to the fallen Welsh Guardsmen from the Borough.

On Saturday 26th all being well we shall be travelling to Stratford on Avon for the Christmas Fair, a number of members have indicated they would like to go so hopefully a good day will be had by all.

Sadly we have lost two members so far this year:

23908633 WO1 (RSM) Bill Evans who died on 2nd February 2013 and 2734152 Gdsm Ossie Evans who died on 16th September 2013, aged 93 years.

Branch members turned out at their Cremations and were thanked by the families for their attendance. We also turned out in Pontypridd for the Cremation of 22217103 Mr Glan Hughes who although a member of East Glamorgan Branch, when he was in good health attended many of our Branch functions. We have also

showed our support to other neighbouring Branches including Swansea. Inevitably we have members and their spouses who are not in good health and we wish them all the best.

We shall end the year with a Social night instead of an official meeting for what promises to be a good night. Food as ordered by members will be served and followed by an entertainer for the rest of the evening.

Branch Meetings are still held in the Caefatri Public House, Bridgend on the 2nd Monday

of the month and if you are in the area please do call in.

Our AGM will be on Monday 10th February 2014 so if you are able to attend, please do come along.

The Chairman, Secretary and Committee would like to thank all the members for their support throughout the year and especially the Ladies Section at all our meeting and functions.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and send our thanks and Best Wishes to all at RHQ and the Cardiff HQ.

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SWANSEA & WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1927)

President: Major Charles Carty MBE TD
Chairman: Bryn Pennock (23877288)
Treasurer/Secretary: Peter Williams (23877300)
 12 St Peters St
 Cockett
 Swansea SA5 5BX
Telephone: 01792 416010
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Another year older but we are all young at heart and when I see young Welsh Guardsman whether it be in active service in Afghanistan or on Royal Duties I still feel as if I am still with them as we never forget, and we are all part of the Family. It is only the body that ages never the mind or the heart and even now feel two inches taller as if I was still in the Guards.

I know I speak for all serving and Ex Welsh Guardsman when I say we are happy in the knowledge that the Regiment is now home from active service safe and well. Wives and Families have no more sleepless nights and worries but our hearts go out to those whose loved ones have paid the ultimate sacrifice - they will never be forgotten.

Also to those boys who have

been injured and now need all our help to get them back on the road to recovery, we wish you all the very best for the future.

Next year is the 70th Anniversary of Hechtel and we are looking forward to celebrate with those wonderful people who suffered so much in World War two.

As a Branch we must pay



Members of Prince of Wales, Greece 1962

tribute to the Walk on Wales and the fantastic team who organised it and took part: Captain Jan Koops, Chris Beynon, Tony Davies OBE, Captain Chris Hopkins, Howell Graham, Fiona Koops, Rob Nichols, Dave Price, Andrew Morgan, and Major Glyn White Rtd MBE. We cannot tell you how much we admire your tenacity, courage and devotion to such a wonderful cause. Also all the volunteers, walkers and everyone else taking part have our total admiration.

The Branch is still going strong but we need new members. Our Chairman Bryn Pennock and President Major Charles Carty Rtd MBE are doing their utmost to recruit new members.

Our Branch lunches have continued this year and have been a great success and long may they carry on.

Our oldest Member Bill Cleary who is 90 this year is now in a Nursing Home. He is cheerful and still enjoys a cigarette and a Pint.

I must thank Roy Bennett for his continuous help and support to the Branch and his dedication to the Swansea Branch, also to all Branch officers and Members, thank you again for your continued support.

I would also like to thank my wife Pauline and Daughter Nicky for their constant help and support - where would I be without them in my role as Secretary!

To all Welsh Guardsman Old and New, and all your families, we wish you good health and happiness, from all the members at the Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch - and to Spider, have a drink on me!



300 Williams, Canada 1964



MT Bathtime, Canada 1964



Roy Bennett and his Wife Olive, September 2013



300 Williams, Hubert Ellis, Bill Cleary, RSM Peter Robinson Swansea Cenotaph 2009



300 Williams, Bill Cleary and 100 year old Welsh Guardsman 2009



Roy Bennett and his Wife Olive, September 1953

WELSH GUARDS REUNITED

(Formed 2006)

- Webmaster:* Allan Rogers (24220048) - England
- President:* Major (Retd) David Woods - France
- Chairman:* Major (Retd) Martin Browne BEM - Spain
- Treasurer:* Mike Cummins (24472964) - Wales
- Secretary:* Paul Morgan - England

141 Hacton Lane
Upminster
Essex RM14 2NL

Telephone: 01708 531511

Technical Support: Mike Cummins (24472964) - Wales

The Welsh Guards Reunited (WGR) website has managed to continue much as it ended last year, attracting new members (we now have 3, 241 members compared to 3,070 at the same time last year). Admittedly many of these members simply come looking for details of relatives or just for a look at the galleries and what is on offer and don't return often, but we have a nucleus of really proactive members who contribute regularly and without whom WGR would not exist – so to this band of merry members a great big thank you, your continued support really is much appreciated and valued.

We continue to try and attract younger members through other means and our WGR Facebook page now has over 450 members. The age old WG tradition of newly discharged Guardsmen needing just that little bit more of a nudge to join in with anything remotely to do with the Welsh Guards Association is, unfortunately still alive and kicking but we will continue to do our best to get them back in the fold.

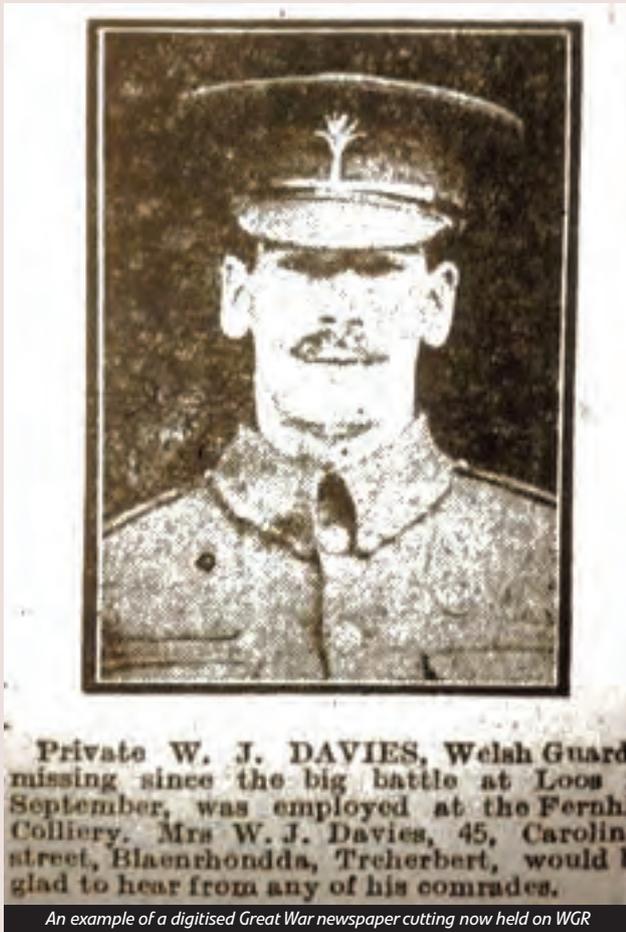
Join us and keep up to date at:

WGR website:
www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk

WGR Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/groups/welshguardsreunited

WGR Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pages/welshguardsreunited/109019635828553

WGR Twitter - Follow us at:
[@WelshGuardsWGR](https://twitter.com/WelshGuardsWGR)



Each year in these notes we mention our extensive photo gallery. We now have over 11,000 images covering all eras of service in the Welsh Guards and are really proud to be holding these photographs safe and secure for future generations to see. Anyone reading this article and not a member of WGR really should be encouraged to join the site if only to peruse the gallery and share their own photo's with other like minded people. A recent new member of WGR (Daniel Richards) had researched and digitized newspaper articles pertaining to Welsh Guardsmen killed or injured in the Great War, these are now located in their own photo album within our galleries and contains over 250 images - a fascinating and historically significant resource we are proud to hold.

This year, as in every year, we have lost some remarkable Welsh Guardsmen and friends, too many to mention here (they are all hopefully remembered in the Memoriam Page) and when it is physically and logistically possible the Welsh Guards Reunited Standard will be paraded as a mark of respect (normally by the one and only Dennis "Knocker" Knowles). One person who sadly passed away this year and who will not be mentioned in the Memoriam page is one of our Branch Associate Members, regular contributors and good virtual online friend to many, Brian "Boy" Brenchley (pictured), a Grenadier who served from 1946 to 1971 and who at the age of 82 was adding so much to WGR. He had his own web page recording his career, if you get a minute, take a look, it's full of wonderful photos and memories;

www.geocities.com/richyouknow/brianbrenchleypics.html

Things were shaping up nicely for tremendous representation from the WGR Branch at this years Dart and Shoot competition to be held at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff on 12 October, so it was with great disappointment that we were informed of the event having to be cancelled. We can only assume that our team sheets had been leaked to the wider Association, who had, quite rightly, become intimidated by the sheer quality and experience being mustered! Names such as Paul Rosser, Neil Rice, Larry John, Chris Duggan, Knocker Knowles to name just a few. Names to strike fear into any opposition - is it any wonder the competition was cancelled!

Thanks once again to Allan Rogers (24220048) our superb Webmaster for running yet another excellent on-line AGM. Although still a relatively young concept, the on-line AGM process is becoming the norm for our members and although we never seem to get the numbers participating that we would wish, we suspect this is simply a reflection of what happens in all other Branches of the Association, were a small nucleus of individuals participate in nearly everything, whilst the larger majority of branch members dip in and out as and when they wish. This is of course quite acceptable, even though a little disappointing, we as a Branch are there to provide our members with a service, if they simply want to log on to view photographs or wish to take a full part in topic discussions, that is up to them - the main thing is that they know where to come to keep in touch and ask a question.



2 Coy Aden 1965/66, L-R: 95 Williams, Eddie Walsh, 05 Williams, 65 Williams

One WG event this year, more than any other which appears to be pulling people together from all walks of life and reuniting many retired and serving Welsh Guardsmen in a common cause is the Walk on Wales Project. I am sure it will be covered comprehensively in this magazine so will say nothing other than we are proud that many WGR Branch members attended many of the stages raising much needed funds for two very worthy causes; the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal and Combat Stress.

WGR Reunion – Porthcawl Weekend 14/15 Feb 2014. Hopefully, by the time this Regimental Magazine is produced, there should be just six weeks before the eagerly awaited WGR Porthcawl reunion. This really is a most popular reunion which sees the WGR Membership take over the entire Seabank Hotel for the weekend. With two nights accommodation (including breakfast), Friday night entertainment, Saturday night entertainment and a meal and a specially negotiated price on drinks, this has to be one of the best value for money events at just £75 per head. Places are limited and it is usual for places to be snapped up early, but anyone reading this and wishing to attend should check with Flicker (Paul Morgan 71

our Secretary) who will be able to advise on whether or not there are vacancies remaining (you don't have to be a member of WGR to attend, everyone is welcome).

It really would be remiss of us as a Branch not to thank the people that enable our Branch to function correctly and they are the people that run the website for us. Without the website we are not a Branch and without the website communication amongst our members would be impossible. The site Management Team are purely responsible for the day to day running of the site, ensuring adherence to a very simple set of guidelines which ensure the site is a happy, safe and friendly place to visit. The team consists of:

- Webmaster - Allan Rogers (24220048)
- Administrator - Martin Browne (24433673)
- Technical Support - Mike Cummins (24472964)
- Moderators - Dennis (Knocker) Knowles (24122474)
- Stephen Beard (24220058)

Our Branch notes end most fittingly with a poem written by one of our Branch Vice Presidents, regular contributor and virtual on-line friend to many, the very talented Mr Alan Parry-Booth (22326094), who served in 1WG 1950-52:



Signals in Belfast 1971, Tac HQ team in front of the vehicle affectionately known as "The Binner" (picture courtesy of Pete Czaja) L to R kneeling :- LCpl Doug Griffiths, Young, Steve "Whizzer" Reeves, Capt DP Belcher (OC Sig Pl), and Phil ?? L to R Standing :- LCpls George Carroll, George Davies, Pete Czaja, Sgt Bob Iles, Capt Dick Fletcher (QM), Capt John Moss (Adj), Reme Cpl, and RSM Reg Coe On the Binner is; Lt Coombes, Capt Oliver-Bellasis and Maj PRG Williams Bn 2IC

RE-UNITED AT LAST

*When we stepped off at Pirbright in 1952
We thought we'd kissed the Welsh Guards life goodbye and fond adieu
With jokes and hugs and handshakes we left our mates behind
And blundered into civvy street to see what we could find.*

-o-

*Throughout the years we've wondered just how the boys have fared
Whether they'd remembered and even if they cared
We tried to stay in contact but it was as we feared
With each one going different ways most had disappeared.*

-o-

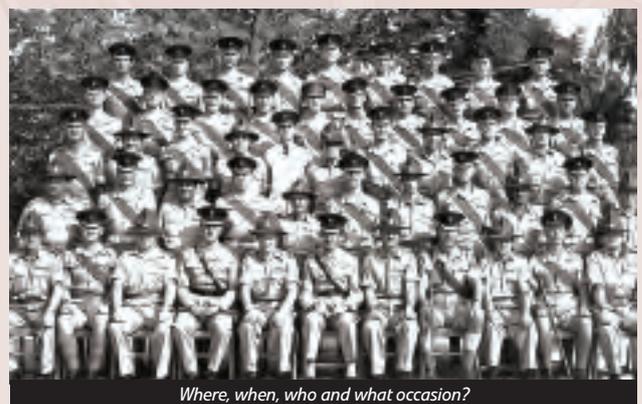
*But with the birth of W.G.R. all the wondering changed
Most of us in touch "On Site" and meetings are arranged
Friends greet friends both old and new both here and overseas
A genuine band of brothers each time we hit the keys.*

-o-

*Now on a daily basis we log in for our fix
Perhaps to share the banter or just to say "How's tricks ?"
It really is much easier than telephone or letter
To hang on to your Welsh Guards friends, they don't come any better*

-o-

A.P-B 2.10.13.



Where, when, who and what occasion?

MINUTES OF THE 83RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

Held at Wellington Barracks London at 1130 hrs Friday
14th June 2013

President: Colonel T S Bonas
Vice President: Brigadier J F Rickett CBE
Vice President: R E Lewis Esq
Treasurer: Major K Oultram
Secretary General: B Keane Esq

Present:

Colonel D C Macdonald-Milner, President East Glamorgan Branch; Captain T Macdonald-Milner, President Midlands Branch; Mr T O'Shea, Secretary Cardiff Branch; Mr K Haines, Secretary East Glamorgan Branch; Mr A Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch; Mr J Heenan, Secretary London Branch; Mr E Jones, Secretary Merthyr Tydfil Branch; Mr J Bayliss, Secretary Midlands Branch; Mr S Liversage, Secretary Monmouthshire Branch; Mr J Williams, representing Montgomery/Shropshire Branch; Mr Keith Bonehill, Secretary North of England Branch; Mr D Webb, Secretary North Wales Branch; Mr M Jones, Secretary Ogmore Branch; Mr R Davies, Secretary Pembrokeshire Branch; Mr P Williams, Secretary Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch; Mr Paul Morgan, Secretary Welsh Guards Reunited. There were 12 other Association members present.

In Attendance:

WO2 D Brown, Headquarters Welsh Guards:

Apologies for Absence;

Colonel D Bossi, C.O. Battalion: S Rhodes Esq., President Aberdare Branch; J Harding Esq., President Llanelli Branch; Colonel C Stephens, President London Branch; Captain C

Hopkins, President North Wales Branch; Major C Carty, President Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch; Mr M Williams, Secretary Aberdare Branch; Mr N Owen, Secretary Cardiganshire Branch; Capt. R J D Parry, Secretary Montgomery & Shropshire Branch; Mr A Suter, Secretary North America Branch:

Item 1 – President's Address

In his address the President touched on the following:

He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, especially the Secretaries for their efforts and the tireless work they put in to make the Association the success story that it is.

The Regiment is in good order and have been kept exceptionally busy with ceremonial duties since Afghanistan. During the coming months, tours to Kazakhstan, Belize and the Falklands are being planned with more in the pipeline.

Redundancies were due to be published, with many Guardsmen volunteering to take up the offer.

The 2013 Regimental Diary was published free this year due to sponsorship, but the President did not feel happy to use the same Company again. A vote was taken whether the Secretaries thought their

members would be prepared to pay for future diaries at cost price, and the decision was a unanimous yes.

Item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 15th June 2012 was proposed by Mr Alan Cunningham (Secretary Llanelli Branch) and seconded by Mr Ken Haines (Secretary East Glamorgan Branch). This was carried and the minutes signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Item 3 – Imber Court

The service at Imber Court takes place on Sunday 23rd June, commencing at 12 15hrs. Refreshments will be available from 11 15hrs. Colonel Stephens, President London Branch will be attending, as well as a contingency from East Glamorgan, who continually supports this event.

Item 4 – Darts & Shooting Competition

Maindy Barracks will again be the venue for this competition since it proved very successful last year, and will take place on Saturday 12th October.

The Liaison Team has agreed to 'man' the DCCT, and meals and refreshments can be ordered as per 2012. Dave Webb, Secretary North Wales Branch enquired as to the availability of accommodation for Friday / Saturday night, and the Secretary General agreed to check this out.

Item 5 – Remembrance Sunday

November 10th is the date of Remembrance Sunday. Unfortunately our Colonel, Prince Charles will not be attending London this year

since he has other commitments. The President realizes that Branch Secretaries attend their local services, and is hopeful that the Regiment will arrange a 'presence' to various Branches. Colonel Stephens will give the address in the Guards Chapel, and there will also be a blessing of a plaque dedicated to those who died in Afghanistan. The kneelers purchased by the Association are now in place in the Chapel, and are together as one block, and looks most impressive.

Item 6 – St David's Day

The President pointed out to the meeting that St David's Day falls on a Saturday next year and wanted a vote whether the celebrations should take place on the actual day. There was a unanimous show of hands in keeping to the day. Further details will follow.

Item 7 – Afghanistan Appeal

So far, the appeal has raised £1.4 million pounds, with large contributions from the Drapers Dinner, various events for Ryan Jones' testimonial year and the Iron Men to name but a few. 'Walk on Wales' are hoping to raise a further million pound with their event which runs from 25th August – 2nd November, with the money being shared between the Afghanistan Appeal and Combat Stress.

Approximately £100,000 has already been spent helping injured soldiers and bereaved families.

Alan Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch asked if a 'thank you' slip went out to all donors, and the President informed him that he personally writes a thank you letter to every single person.

Captain T Macdonald-Milner, President of the Midlands Branch, as well as a Trustee, reiterated that although the funds are called the 'Afghanistan Appeal' they can also be used for other wars and conflicts, now and in the future.

Item 8 – Newsletters, Magazine, Christmas card

Branch Newsletters and information should be sent to the office at Maindy Barracks no later than 1st July in order to give time for copying/printing. The summer newsletter should then be available for posting mid/late July.

Hopefully information for the winter months and spring will be in the Regimental magazine, which should be available by Christmas (this obviously depends on the Regiment, who has been given firm orders that articles be submitted by October 1st)

Vice President Brigadier Rickett asked whether there would be a Winter Newsletter if there were delays with the magazine, and was reassured that would be the case.

Secretary General requested more articles from the Association accompanied by lots of photographs, which would help the magazine be more 'reader – friendly' to the members. The President stated there would be a bumper souvenir edition in 2015.

The Christmas card for 2013 was available to view, and was met with favourable comments.

Item 9 – Association Budget (Stand Alone)

Branch Secretaries have already received a copy of the proposed changes to the budgets.

The President explained that nothing would dramatically change other than the Association HQ committee will now be responsible for the Association budget rather than the Trustees, with the Association funds remaining part of the Regimental 'pot of money' Obviously this would mean updating the Association rules.

Item 10 – Laptops

Alan Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch informed the meeting that there were Armed Forces grants available nationwide to town councils in order to supply Laptops to various organizations meeting a certain criteria, but individuals must apply personally. He asked if the Association could supply laptops, but was informed it was the responsibility of Branches.

Item 11 – NMA (Heroes Square)

(Branch Secretaries have already been given details of this venture)

The NMA are aiming to raise money to build a new Visitor Centre, and the Regiment has sent a donation of £3000. A paving stone has also been sponsored, depicting the Regimental crest. Benches and trees have been donated by bereaved families. Space on Paving Stones can be purchased at a cost of £600, and depict the name of a loved one.

Item 12 – Centenary 2015

A centenary committee has been formed with the Secretary General and the President of the North Wales

Branch representing the Association. A copy of the minutes of the first meeting held at Wellington Barracks on Thursday 7th May was circulated to the Secretaries. The main items discussed, but not confirmed, which affects the Association were:

1. St David's Day – This will possibly take place in Cardiff

2. Presentation of New Colours – possibly May, at Windsor Castle

3. Troop 2015 – probably Welsh Guards

4. Biennial Dinner to be called the 'Welsh Guards Centenary Dinner' and could take place in Swansea.

Dave Webb, Secretary of North Wales Branch asked if it was possible to have the Laying up of Colours at Wrexham. He and the President of the Branch were due to meet Wrexham Council on June 23rd in order to discuss Freedom status for the Welsh Guards.

The Secretary General requested that further suggestions involving 2015 be sent to him before the next meeting which is on Thursday 5th September 2013.

Item 13 – Review of the Association

The President praised the review carried out by Captain Chris Hopkins. It had been discussed at the Previous Secretaries meeting, and many suggestions are being followed up. The President confirmed that the Association 'was not broken' and the results were similar to the previous review.

Item 14 – Points raised at Secretaries Meeting

Mike Jones, Secretary Ogmore Branch stated his members were upset by the comments made by the Commanding Officer regarding communications via the internet. The President confirmed that the Commanding Officer meant no offence and has apologised for his remarks.

Captain T Macdonald-Milner requested an Officer from the Regiment to support the functions of the Midlands Branch, and this was agreed.

The President was saddened that Association Battlefield Tours had come to an end, but announced that a small party was going to Hechtel in September. There will be a Regimental Battlefield Tour in 2015 which should take in many important sites in Europe.

He wished to remember the recent passing of Fred Bowden and Armand Poupaert who were stalwarts of these tours.

Item 15 – Date of next Annual General Meeting

The Secretary General thanked those present for an excellent constructive meeting, and confirmed that the date of the next Annual General Meeting is Friday June 13th 2014

The Secretary General and all members present also wish to thank the Garrison Sergeant Major for his very kind permission for the use of his Mess for our meetings. We are extremely grateful for his continued support to the Association.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2014

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

26 **ASSOCIATION ST DAVID'S DAY HOUNSLOW**

MARCH

APRIL

12 Ogmore Branch Dinner / Dance, Masonic Hall, Bridgend
Midlands Branch Lunch – TBA

MAY

11 **ASSOCIATION RACE DAY, LUDLOW**
31 Trooping The Colour – Major General's Review

JUNE

7 Trooping The Colour – Colonel's Review
13 **ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
14 **THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE**
22 Imber Court Commemorations
29 Montgomery/ Shropshire Branch Lunch,
Wroxeter Hotel, Nr Atcham

JULY

AUGUST

29 North Wales Branch AGM, Bod Erw, St Asaph

SEPTEMBER

6-10 **ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR**
28 North Wales Branch Annual Lunch, Bod Erw, St Asaph
ASSOCIATION DARTS AND SHOOTING COMPETITION – TBA

OCTOBER

25 Monmouthshire Branch Reunion Dinner,
The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny

NOVEMBER

9 Remembrance Day

DECEMBER

6 London Branch Lunchtime Christmas Party
(date to be confirmed)

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths of the following

22217103 Gdsm G Hughes

Died: January 2013, Aged: 86
Served: 1944 – 1951

23908633 WO1 WE Evans

Died: 11th February 2013, Aged: 69
Served: 1964 – 1982

22326097 Gdsm I Thomas

Died: 12th February 2013, Aged: 81
Served: 1950 – 1952

2739615 Sgt T Gunter

Died: 13th February 2013, Aged: 86
Served: 1944 – 1946

2741466 Gdsm H Williams

Died: 29th January 2013, Aged: 86
Served: 1946 – 1948

22831693 Gdsm KA Arkell

Died: December 2012, Aged: 73
Served: 1956 – 1958

22831462 Gdsm R Leyshon

Died: February 2013, Aged: 72
Served: 1950 – 1953

22217704 Gdsm G Thomas

Died: February 2013, Aged: 80
Served: 1946 – 1950

24141810 Gdsm G Woolridge

Died: February 2013, Aged: 58
Served: 1969 – 1975

22217807 Gdsm L Price

Died: 8th March 2013, Aged: 77
Served: 1953 – 1959

23866352 Gdsm I W Parr

Died: 27th March 2013, Aged: 70
Served: 1961 – 1967

2734165 WO2 AH Prole

Died: March 2013, Aged: 97
Served: 1936 – 1945

Gdsm W G Williams

Died: March 2013, Aged: 86
Served: 1940 – 1950

23877283 Gdsm WJP Evans

Died: April 2013, Aged: 69
Served: 1961 – 1964

2739150 Sgt H J Hansen

Died: 19th April 2012, Aged: 87
Served: 1943 – 1947

23438089 Lsgt T Grover

Died: 10th April 2013, Aged: 76
Served: 1955 – 1959

25086186 Gdsm P Beddoes

Died: 9th May 2013, Aged: 31
Served: 1998 – 2001

2737179 Gdsm EG Keyword

Died: 27th April 2013, Aged: 92
Served: 1941 – 1946

456052 Maj B Phelps CVO MBE

Died: 18th June 2013, Aged: 94
Served: 1958 – 1970

22324792 Lcpl M Bailey

Died: 21st July 2013, Aged: 82
Served: 1950 – 1952

2735977 Sgt F Bowden

Died: June 2013, Aged: 93
Served: 1940 – 1946

2734772 Gdsm G Harper

Died: 20th September 2013, Aged: 92
Served: 1940 – 1945

2740760 L/sgt F Holland

Died: 15th September 2013, Aged: 87
Served: 1945 – 1948

23523232 Gdsm GD Hughes

Died: 18th May 2013, Aged: 71
Served: 1959 – 1962

22831569 Csgt HA Edwards BEM

Died: 15th September 2013, Aged: 75
Served: 1957 – 1979



LT COL BARNWELL'S CHAMPAGNE SEND OFF

ON HIS FINAL DAY AS THE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ON
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2013



*L to R, WO1 Bywater, Col Bodington, Brig Stanford, Lt Col Bossi, Lt Col Barnwell,
Brig Talbot Rice, Brig Bathurst, Col Bonas*





WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2013