



WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2014







WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

2014

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

Major General R H Talbot Rice

REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Colonel (Retd) T CS Bonas BA

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Major (Retd) K F Oultram



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk,
London, SW1E 6HQ

Contact Regimental Headquarters by Email:
infhq-ftgds-wg-officemgr@mod.uk

View the Regimental Website at
www.army.mod.uk/welshguards

View the Welsh Guards Association Website at
www.welshguardsassociation.com



AFFILIATIONS

5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment



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Front Cover: Lance Corporal Stuart Laing playing at the launch of the The Tower Of London Poppy Appeal - 5th August 2014.

Back Cover: Major General Bathurst pictured with his US boss, General Campbell and Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Nick Carter in Kabul.

Major General RH Talbot Rice, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

FOREWORD

For the wider Army, 2014 will be remembered as the year in which we withdrew from Helmand Province in Afghanistan after 8 years. That orderly withdrawal has been an extraordinary logistic accomplishment, and marks an important transition away from the constant cycle of operations that has dominated the British Army's psyche since 2003, and a return to a way of life that many retired Welsh Guardsmen will remember in which the Army is instead prepared for a wide range of contingency tasks around the world.

For the Battalion, the transition towards contingent tasks has created the opportunity for an impressive range of overseas training opportunities – the Falkland Islands, Belize, and Kenya. Another key transition has been the move from Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow to an impressively updated Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright – again, a return to something that that will be very familiar to a generation of retired Welsh Guardsmen, but this time in preparation for a 6 year tour, most of it in an excellent operational role.

The Commanding Officer in his notes goes into some detail on the Battalion so I will try not to steal his thunder. But I do want to congratulate the whole Battalion on a very successful year balancing difficult ceremonial and operational tensions and excelling in both areas. Moving between tunics and combats, and doing it well, is as

hard as it ever was: performing in the glare of the public eye on the Queen's Birthday parade or the State Opening of Parliament, and then quickly recalibrating to run a battlegroup in the Combined Arms Staff Trainer and an exercise in Kenya is no easy feat, and their ability to be flexible and take all this in their stride is a huge credit to the whole Battalion Headquarters team.

The Regimental Band has had a particularly challenging year following a 30% turnover of manpower due to policy decisions taken by the Corps of Army Music (CAMUS). This inevitably has had an impact on retention and morale as well as the quality of music that we are accustomed to from our State Bands. The Director of Music, Major Kevin Roberts, and his command team have done very well to contain the impact this turnover. The Major General and all the regimental lieutenant colonels are determined to ensure that our

bands retain their strong Regimental links and identity, and to see that the quality of their music is second to none in the Services. Needless to say, in addition to these changes the Band has been exceptionally busy in 2014; but they continue to be the finest possible ambassadors for the wider Regiment.

Although some Association branches have weakened in 2014, others are thriving and the Association as a whole is robust. The Secretary General and the 17 Branch Secretaries do excellent work in keeping our veterans in touch as well as to directing the Regiment to where support is needed. I am delighted they had such a good battlefield tour in September to Belgium, details of which are contained in the magazine. I remain ever appreciative for the work they do and for flying the flag for the Regiment in Wales and elsewhere.

The Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal has continued to make grants to our injured, and the Regimental Casualties Officer who started work in February is really making a difference in looking after our bereaved families and those injured or affected by previous operations. I really do commend him for what he has achieved to date, and

he explains some of this in an article in this magazine. The creation of this civilian post, entirely funded through the Appeal, represents a landmark in the Regiment's ability to look after its own, now and in the future.

The achievements and success of the Walk on Wales was mentioned in the 2013 magazine but it is important to record here that in June 2014 in the Senedd, Walk on Wales presented £150,000 each to the Regiment's Afghanistan Appeal and to Combat Stress. This is a truly substantial donation and I am extremely grateful to the many thousands of people and organisations who supported this "pilgrimage" as Capt (Retd) Jan Koops and Di Graham describe that extraordinary 2000 mile walk.

We have a busy but special year ahead in 2015, the preparations for which have already started. Our Centenary, based on the themes of celebration, remembrance, enhancing our reputation, and discreet fund raising, will be a memorable year for all. Although all the events are important, the presentation of New Colours will be the Regiment's main effort. In addition an enormous amount of effort has gone into

our Centenary Book, recording the whole 100 years of the Regiment's history. It is an excellent read and has been very professionally put together by our excellent author Trevor Royle, with support from many retired Welsh Guardsmen, in particular Capt (Retd) Nick Drummond and Maj (Retd) Mark Jenkins. I encourage all to secure their copies early!

2015 also marks the 40th Anniversary of HRH The Prince of Wales's appointment as our Colonel, another unique event in our history. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had his support in so many ways over this period, and particularly during the difficult circumstances of operations in the past few years.

2015 will therefore be an extraordinary year for the Regiment – one for us all to celebrate and to enjoy.

"Although some Association branches have weakened in 2014, others are thriving and the Association as a whole is robust. The Secretary General and the 17 Branch Secretaries do excellent work in keeping our veterans in touch as well as to directing the Regiment to where support is needed."

Lt. Col. GR Harris DSO MBE, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion

FOREWORD

The 1 WG articles that follow will no doubt remind you of your own time in the Welsh Guards or stories from friends or family who have served. The last twelve months have seen us balance our dual roles of Public Duties and maintaining our war-fighting ability just as we have done so many times before.

Not much has changed: we've been incredibly busy, achieved a huge amount both on parade and in the field and had a lot of fun and frustrations along the way. The articles will give the details and the dits so in this foreword I will give an appraisal of the state of 1 WG as we turn the corner of our 99th year, and offer a look ahead to our 100th and thereafter. It is a difficult period to soldier, but there are exciting times to come.

Our current generation of Guardsmen are serving in a British Army undergoing a huge transformation programme, a tricky synthesis of an end to campaigning in Iraq and Afghanistan and the pressures of reduced Defence spending. The flux this generates makes programming uncertain, resources fragile, structures fluid, and leaves a doctrinal vacuum which frustrates manning and equipment planning. Add to that the redundancy tranches and shifting career and pension models and the sense of disorientation at unit level deepens. HQ ARMY is fighting the good fight to make this all work, and the Army's leadership is

certainly engaged and committed to make it so. A few months ago I sat in the Churchill Hall at Sandhurst with every other commanding officer in the British Army and we were told just that by Commander Land Forces. Such gatherings don't happen that often, and are perhaps a sign of the times. It is undeniable that the sum of these parts, at the coal face at least, is increased uncertainty and shorter turn around times for tasks, along with a heightened sense of having to deliver the same output but with less resource. This state of affairs is likely to last for some time, and we all understand why.

In the meantime, our place in the Household Division and our own regimental legacy demands that 1 WG help sustain two absolute certainties regardless: the guard will change at Buckingham Palace in immaculate fashion and the Welsh Guards will always be ready for operations. We must remain like the proverbial swan: gracefully gliding above the water, but paddling like hell below!

The Battalion has delivered State

Ceremonial and Public Duties with relentless and rhythmic consistency during a particularly difficult summer of commitments. There have been a lot of community engagement projects both in England and back home in Wales that have also seen Welsh Guardsmen in tunic and bearskin, and overseas ceremonial training tasks too. It has been something to behold. The men have been simply outstanding in getting through it all with missions accomplished and reputations intact. It's humbling to see and I have been reminded of why it has been said that going on operations is the easy bit. The Regimental Sergeant Major, his Drill Sergeants, and the Company Sergeant Majors have been stalwarts.

In parallel to our efforts on parade, we have had a bursting training programme. Over the last nine months 1 WG has seen a company group deployment in the Falklands, a company exercise plus in Belize, three company battle camps in the UK, two Battle Group Headquarters exercises and finally a large battle group exercise in Kenya which is where I am now as I write. These exercises have happened in a time when the Army is delegating more and more training delivery to units. The Battalion Second in Command,

Operations Officer and the Quartermaster Department all deserve particular credit, as do the men who have thrown themselves into training with real gusto despite the time away.

Our resources to do all this have been relatively scarce. Although we are fully manned we have a surplus of c40 Guardsmen and a dearth of NCOs – our junior leaders are doing more than their share – and an enduring list of injured or downgraded which plateaus around 80 and is hard to shift down. Take away men for the 'X Platoon' (those employed for recruiting, for example, but using a battalion slot) and those on myriad training or career courses and the 'available for duty' manning picture becomes pretty bleak. Furthermore, ten years of either public duties or counter-insurgency operations has resulted in skill fade in conventional war fighting, an unbalanced structure and holes in our support weapon capabilities. Gaining a decent tick on an assessed conventional exercise takes a huge effort to re-align ourselves and prepare in time. Not surprisingly, there is an increasing thirst for 'routine' which is not forthcoming. None of this has been avoidable of course – it simply is how things are at the moment –

but it makes everything we do that little bit more challenging.

All that said, the spirit and humour of the Welsh Guards makes it all very bearable indeed. The Battalion is stretched – and I suspect this reflects the experience of most Household Division units – but I can reassure you that at the moment morale is remarkably good. We have just entered a really exciting period that has lots to offer: we are in Kenya, seeing big game and doing big training and there is again a buzz in the air. Our barracks move to Pirbright will be complete before Christmas, with our families already relocated and children in their new schools. In January 2016 we will be off the ceremonial roster and deployable again within 11 Brigade; Afghanistan will then beckon later in that year, a tour that will meet the needs of so many recruited on the back of our last two ventures there.

Between Christmas this year and joining 11 Brigade, we have a very special episode in our battalion and regimental history to enjoy. We are determined to strip down our programme and enjoy a wonderful

2015, our 100th year. On top of the ceremonial celebrations such as St David's Day in Cardiff, the presentation of new colours in Windsor, and of course our Troop, the Battalion will be conducting a project that will bring today's Guardsmen face to face with his forbearers. 'Welsh Guards 100' will see a hundred Welsh Guardsmen either run, walk, sail, cycle, canoe or pace stick (well done that man) one of a hundred marathons around the battle honour sites of the regiment, and in locations where the Welsh Guards have served on operations. Along the way they will learn about what took place there and re-unite with the communities whether socially or through sport. Inspired by Walk on Wales, a Wales leg will bring us home and we hope to be joined on marathons of any type by our families, veterans, and cadets. WG100 will allow the battalion to challenge itself while meeting its history and homestead; and reflect that whatever this decade's issues may be for the British Army, being a Welsh Guardsman remains a constant source of pride and strength.

Cymru Am Byth!

**"We must remain like the proverbial swan:
gracefully gliding above the water, but paddling
like hell below!"**

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

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

Maj Aldridge
 Capt Birrell
 Lt Webster
 2Lt Clarke
 WO2 Parry 19
 CSgt Owen
 Sgt Bick
 Sgt Qaimuri
 LSgt Rowlands 99
 LSgt Evans 36
 LSgt Skitt
 LSgt Kastein
 LSgt Harries
 LSgt Safee
 LSgt Ohene-Darko
 LCpl Brown 68
 LCpl Carr
 LCpl Henneberry
 LCpl Divers
 LCpl Jones 91
 LCpl Lodwick
 LCpl Roberts 72
 LCpl Rutledge
 LCpl Williams 94
 LCpl Pickersgill-Jones
 LCpl Coy
 Gdsm Asare-Bediako
 Gdsm Boswell
 Gdsm Cann
 Gdsm Charles
 Gdsm Collins
 Gdsm Davies 77
 Gdsm Duval
 Gdsm Dudley
 Gdsm Evans 35
 Gdsm Evans 76
 Gdsm Edwards 70
 Gdsm Frost
 Gdsm Felton
 Gdsm Forgan
 Gdsm Hall

Gdsm Hackney
 Gdsm Harris 35
 Gdsm Harris 19
 Gdsm Hopkins
 Gdsm Jackson
 Gdsm Jones 74
 Gdsm Jones 23
 Gdsm Jones 60
 Gdsm Jones 71
 Gdsm Jones 13
 Gdsm Kropaceck
 Gdsm Lambrick
 Gdsm Lapping
 Gdsm Lewis
 Gdsm Little
 Gdsm Lucas
 Gdsm Mottram
 Gdsm Morgan
 Gdsm Moriarty
 Gdsm Murphy
 Gdsm Namakadre
 Gdsm Peek
 Gdsm Purvis
 Gdsm Picton
 Gdsm Petrakis
 Gdsm Rees 41
 Gdsm Rees 93
 Gdsm Rice
 Gdsm Rowlands 75
 Gdsm Rowlands 15
 Gdsm Rogers
 Gdsm Roberts 21
 Gdsm Saunders
 Gdsm Singleton
 Gdsm Tavaga
 Gdsm Threadgold
 Gdsm Ward
 Gdsm Watson
 Gdsm Williams 70
 Gdsm Williams 32
 Gdsm Whiles



Since the Leading Company performed an immaculate demonstration as the Escort to the Colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade last year the pace of life has continued to flow at a fast pace. The year gone by has seen Jamboys deployed as far away as the Falkland Islands and Belize, as well as taking part in all the major Ceremonial Duties over the last 12 months.

At the beginning of December 2013 2 Platoon joined Number 2 Company on their two-month deployment as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC). The Falkland Islands offered an amazing opportunity to get back into 'green' soldiering and the platoon rotated through a busy cycle of being the Quick Reaction Force (QRF), battlefield tours, training at Onion Range and patrols in the surrounding Islands. Time went quickly and was very varied in the South Atlantic. On one patrol at San Carlos, LSgt Harries was kicking stones along a beach as he patrolled when all of a sudden he kicked what he found out later to be a Cluster bomb. The platoon was also able to visit all the major

battlefields and was lucky enough to be joined by ex-Jambo Ken Chappell who was on the Galahad in 1982 when she visited Fitzroy. A highlight of the deployment was winning the Number 2 Company Inter-Platoon Trophy which was sealed by tabbing back the 30km from Onion Range Camp to Mount Pleasant with full kit on in 4hrs 27 mins.

March brought with it the eagerly-awaited Major General's Inspection which of course went extremely well. The Spring also brought an almost complete command change within the Prince of Wales's Company, with Maj Ed Lauanders (Coy Comd), Lt Fred Lloyd-George (Coy 2IC), Lt Tom Hutton (PI Comd), Lt James Marsden (PI Comd) and WO2



1 Platoon in the Belizean jungle'

(CSM) Ridgeway-Buckley moving onto new posts. In came Maj James Aldridge (Coy Comd), Capt Ed Birrell (Coy 2IC) and WO2 (CSM) Parry 19 as well as two new platoon commanders, 2Lt Josh Webster and 2Lt Ed Clarke.

With 2 Platoon back from the Falkland Islands it was 1 Platoon's turn to deploy to Belize with Number 3 Company on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR at the end of March for 6 weeks. The platoon went through a package of learning jungle skills and snake familiarisation before moving onto the training area and conducting live firing ranges. The platoon adapted well to jungle life until a 5ft crocodile was found in the river in which they were washing daily! After a six-day final exercise which culminated in a company-level camp attack the platoon moved to Cay Corker for some

Adventurous Training. This included snorkelling, kayaking and the section commanders, led by LSgt Safee, singing 'I'm a Barbie Girl' on a karaoke night.

Throughout the summer months the hectic schedule of Public Duties continued, as well as street lining for the Queen's Birthday Parade. Gdsm Charles was heard commenting that he felt he had spent so much time at Buckingham Palace that he was tempted to change his home address to the Guardroom there! In July the Battalion was given the Freedom of Wrexham and the honour was given to the Company to receive the freedom and march through the city centre with the Battalion Colours.

At the time of writing, the Battalion is due to deploy to Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM for



Torrential: One member of the Queen's guard manages to stand tall despite the poor conditions outside Buckingham Palace

'LSgt Skitt busted posing for The Daily Mail during street lining for the Queen's Birthday Parade.'



The Jamboys get to grips on the ropes on the Sennybridge Assault Course'



Sgt Qaimuri does his best not to get wet in Sennybridge'

six weeks in September and October. The Company began its build-up training in July, starting with a week on the ranges in Hythe, from small arms up to Machine Guns. The Company then deployed to Sennybridge for a two-week platoon-level exercise. The exercise was split into two phases, the first week being a training phase culminating with an inter-platoon competition, and the second

week operating in a tactical scenario. The weather for the exercise was incredibly un-Breconlike and Sgt Qaimuri felt the need to indent for rain as he thought morale was getting too high! The exercise concluded with a successful company-level attack, and the Company Commander and CSM happy that the Company was ready to take on the challenges that Ex ASKARI STORM will bring.



CSM Parry 19 gets to know his new PI Comds 2Lt Webster & 2Lt Clarke



The Guns Pl halfway through a command task



Lt Marsden getting into the Christmas spirit with the Falkland penguins

NUMBER TWO COMPANY

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

Maj Salusbury
 Lt Dinwiddie
 Lt Evans
 10 WO2 Morgan
 95 CSgt Parry
 Sgt Greaves
 Sgt Johnson
 LSgt Challenger
 34 LSgt Hughes
 LSgt Knill
 88 LSgt Lewis
 LSgt Love
 LSgt Lucas
 LSgt Marsh
 LSgt Sanigar
 01 LSgt Thomas
 LCpl Austin
 90 LCpl Campbell
 65 LCpl Davies
 35 LCpl Davies
 27 LCpl Edwards
 08 LCpl Evans
 LCpl Everett-Wolston
 57 LCpl Jones
 LCpl Price
 78 LCpl Roberts
 43 LCpl Williams
 83 LCpl Williams
 LCpl Woosnam
 LCpl Williams-Day
 Gdsm Adamson
 Gdsm Ashcroft
 Gdsm Bowden-Edwards
 Gdsm Brock
 Gdsm Buretini
 Gdsm Carter
 Gdsm Clarke
 Gdsm Craze
 Gdsm Collins
 44 Gdsm Davies
 60 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Duffel
 84 Gdsm Edwards
 Gdsm Foley
 Gdsm Gent
 Gdsm Groves
 Gdsm Hindley

Gdsm Harding
 Gdsm Harris
 Gdsm Hewitt
 Gdsm Howard
 29 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Hurrell
 Gdsm Jenkins
 01 Gdsm Jones
 31 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Kigotho
 Gdsm Kissiedu
 Gdsm Kalis
 Gdsm Lundt
 06 Gdsm Mathews
 83 Gdsm Mathews
 Gdsm Miles
 Gdsm Mortlock
 29 Gdsm Morgan
 Gdsm Marhiagbe
 Gdsm Moyo
 Gdsm Mulready
 Gdsm Mwelwa
 Gdsm Nadin
 Gdsm Nagata
 Gdsm Okeke
 Gdsm Pritchard
 Gdsm Prigg
 Gdsm Prothero
 Gdsm Tayonb
 Gdsm Qaravanalu
 Gdsm Rhisiarts
 Gdsm Roe
 Gdsm Roberts
 Gdsm Roos
 Gdsm Rowlands
 Gdsm Sandison
 Gdsm Siviter
 68 Gdsm Smith
 70 Gdsm Smith
 Gdsm Sullivan
 Gdsm Theophilus
 Gdsm Tonkin
 Gdsm Webb
 07 Gdsm Williams
 16 Gdsm Williams
 85 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Wright



Marksmanship training at Hythe ranges, July 2014.

The Men of the Island of the Mighty have had another varied and eventful year. The year saw the company involved in a broad spectrum of military activities from street lining for the Queen's Birthday Parade, deploying to the Falklands, providing a large cohort for the Battalion ski trip, exercising the battalion's Freedom of Bangor, completing static ranges at Hythe and live ranges in Sennybridge, and culminating in pre-deployment training for Exercise ASKARI STORM.

It will come as no surprise that there have been several changes at the top of the company over the course of the year, Maj Julian Salusbury being replaced by Major Austen Salusbury and Company Sergeant Major Davies 90 being replaced by Morgan 10. CSgt Parry 19, who moved on to be CSM PoW's Coy, has been replaced by CSgt Parry 95 as CQMS. The company second-in-command has also changed over, Lt Ed Birrell being replaced by Lt Joe Dinwiddie. The majority of these changes took place after the company's deployment to the Falklands. It has therefore been with a refreshed Coy HQ that the company set about early on preparing for deploying to BATUK in autumn 2014.

In the margins, members of the company have been involved extensively with a variety of sports this year. LCpl Campbell 90, LCpl Williams 43 and Gdsm Okeke have all represented the company and the battalion boxing team and demonstrated the true spirit of Number Two Company in doing so. Triathlon in the Army is the fastest growing sport, and soldiers and officers from the company have competed in Army led competitions, the culmination of which was winning the LONDIST Triathlon Competition.

Like the rest of the battalion, the company has been kept particularly busy on the state ceremonial duties front. From mounting Queen's Guard, the Ceremony of the Keys at the



Number Two Company on the drill square in Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, July 2014.

Tower of London, Windsor Guard, street-lining for the State Opening of Parliament and the Queen's Birthday Parade, Number Two Company has been tested and acquitted itself well in all respects state ceremonial. The guardsmen have taken considerable pride in delivering the high standards for which the company is known.

In December 2013, the company deployed to the Falkland Islands as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (see the Company Commander's accompanying article elsewhere in the magazine). The deployment was split into different phases: QRF, ranges, adventurous training / training and a patrols week. The company hosted a talent show over the Christmas period which was won by Gdsm Williams 16 with an exceptional 'beat boxing'

performance; 16 enjoyed the short-lived celebrity status that ensued. The company visited many of the battlefields from 1982 and held a memorial service at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Fitzroy. The deployment finished with a week-long company exercise, culminating in two live company attacks. The junior non-commissioned officers showed true grit and determination throughout but a special mention is deserved by LCpl Edwards 27, who, with his section in tow, attempted to destroy almost a platoon's worth of the enemy positions himself.

Following the company's return to the UK in February 14

and to break up the regular rhythm of public duties, the company embarked on a Challenge Day in London. Fire teams were given the mission to complete as many tasks within a set time period in the city before returning back to Cavalry Barracks to produce evidence of completion. Tasks ranged from having a photo with an expensive car to scoring a goal in Stanford Bridge. A million miles away from the sorts of challenges the guardsmen and junior non-commissioned officers face on a routine basis, the day reinforced the team spirit that sometimes gets eroded during prolonged periods of state ceremonial and, if nothing else,

gave the guardsmen a well deserved break from their bearskins.

Since switching from the 'Blue Line' to focus entirely on preparation for Ex ASKARI STORM, the company has been working hard on shooting, navigation and fitness in particular. In an effort to inculcate more of a competitive marksmanship culture in No 2 Coy, the Men of the Island of Mighty deployed to Hythe ranges for a skill at arms week in early July during which the level of shooting ability developed considerably in the company. Gdsm Smith 70 is worthy of particular mention for having won the award for best shot.

"The guardsmen have taken considerable pride in the delivering the high standards for which the company is known."



4 Platoon assaulting the Russian trench system in Sennybridge Training Area, July 2014.



Members of 5 platoon rehearse building entry in Cileni Village on Ex GOLDEN EAGLE.



Number Two Company on exercise in the Falkland Islands.

In late July No 2 Company deployed to Sennybridge Training Area on Exercise GOLDEN EAGLE. The exercise was split into three phases: LFTT, low level dry training and a force on force phase. The marksmanship lessons refreshed in Hythe allowed the company to progress smoothly through the ranges, starting with CQB and building up to platoon attacks on X Range with 6(MG) PI providing FSp. The company then moved on to the dry phase of the exercise, the aim of which was to improve the adaptability of the company through operating in different environments and in different tactical actions. As such, the dry phase began with two days of FIBUA and trench clearance. Centred on Cileni Village and the training area's Russian trench system, the two days culminated in each platoon defending and then assaulting the trench system. Beyond merely giving junior non-commissioned a range of tactical problems in which to dig their teeth, the training was particularly relevant due to there being a large trench system in Kenya. The company was also fortunate at this stage to be visited by two former No 2 Coy personnel now serving with 22SAS. Their visit was particularly timely for the company's focus on FIBUA training.

Lt TAG Evans

NUMBER THREE COMPANY

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

Maj Badham	66 Gdsm Haines
Lt Smith	82 Gdsm Hannaby
2Lt Farmelo	53 Gdsm Harding
96 WO2 Griffiths	23 Gdsm Heeps
29 CSgt Lewis	77 Gdsm Hemming
89 Sgt Cunningham	24 Gdsm Hughes
31 Sgt Evans	79 Gdsm Hunt
91 LSgt Bennett	20 Gdsm James
10 LSgt Bladen	97 Gdsm Jones
07 LSgt Evans	72 Gdsm Keane
62 LSgt Langley	56 Gdsm Kelly
75 LSgt Haines	24 Gdsm Korosaya
79 LSgt Millins	15 Gdsm Lamb
44 LSgt Morgan	39 Gdsm Lewis
84 LSgt Owen	62 Gdsm Lewis
91 LCpl Allport	23 Gdsm Locke
38 LCpl Doyle	24 Gdsm Lloyd-Neal
08 LCpl Harris	41 Gdsm Miller
28 LCpl Howells	60 Gdsm Mioty
97 LCpl Kemp	10 Gdsm Mitchell
28 LCpl May	60 Gdsm Morgan
52 LCpl Millins	74 Gdsm Moseley
41 LCpl Morris	38 Gdsm Murphy
60 LCpl Riley	23 Gdsm Mortimer-rees
08 LCpl Strinati	30 Gdsm Nabukebuke
31 LCpl Van Tonder	41 Gdsm Noyes
39 Gdsm Allport	89 Gdsm Openda
51 Gdsm Bailey	91 Gdsm Parry
25 Gdsm Roberts	19 Gdsm Payne
76 Gdsm Brown	76 Gdsm Prudham
78 Gdsm Buxton	55 Gdsm Roberts
78 Gdsm Campbell	20 Gdsm Robins
47 Gdsm Ceesay	29 Gdsm Skibniewski-Woods
09 Gdsm Ceesay	17 Gdsm Turner
47 Gdsm Ceesay	94 Gdsm Walker
64 Gdsm Crannage	36 Gdsm Waqnisaravi
74 Gdsm Davies	18 Gdsm Watts
37 Gdsm Dean	59 Gdsm Whittaker
17 Gdsm Dennis	54 Gdsm Williams
77 Gdsm Divavesi	03 Gdsm Williams
55 Gdsm Foster	55 Gdsm Williams
55 Gdsm Garvey	45 Gdsm Williams
12 Gdsm Godsall	45 Pte Afidemenyo



The Royal Hospital visiting Number 3 Company, Lydd Ranges June 2014

It has been a busy year for Number 3 Company.

Like the remainder of the Battalion we have participated in extensive State Ceremonial (including the Guard of Honour for the State Opening of Parliament) but have also conducted an overseas exercise to Belize, company training in Otterburn and deployed a platoon to Brecon supporting the Platoon Commanders Battle Course.

In addition we have had individuals go to Canada to train their Army for State Ceremonial, a small band deployed to Cyprus to assist with Bristol University Officer Training Corps summer exercise and a considerable number of soldiers participated in battalion skiing, including Guardsman Foster who qualified for the Army Team in luge this year. As always the Company has experienced a fair degree of churn. Not only has the entire headquarters changed since February but we have also been grateful to see a number of soldiers transfer to us from the Royal Welsh. In order to be consistent with the Army 2020 orbat we now have two rifle platoons; commanded by Lieutenant Adam Smith and Second Lieutenant Jack Farmelo respectively and a Machine Gun

platoon under Sergeant Evans 31. This has left us with a Company of around 80 strong, the thinking being that as part of the Adaptive Force we will be bolstered by our Reserve partnered unit, 3 Royal Welsh.

The second half of 2013 saw the continuation of the busy state ceremonial period as well as the return of a small contingent of the Company from Exercise Steppe Eagle, a NATO training package in Kazakhstan which had led to the creation of Ex Silk Dragon. After this exercise and the monstrous drive back, and despite a very busy period of state ceremonial duties, the Company still found time to conduct training. In October we deployed for a week long range package in Lydd and Hythe which was followed up with



Lance Sergeant Haines assaulting the enemy, Otterburn July 2014

field firing in Brecon. As the year drew to a close and the departure of Major Llewellyn-Usher loomed, the Iron men deployed onto Exercise Grand Farewell; as the name suggests an opportunity to say goodbye properly and sneak in a welcome break from drill. The Company moved to Portsmouth and visited both the Royal Naval Museum and the D-Day Museum before returning to one of London's finest establishments, the Oktoberfest Hall, where sausage, schnitzel, beer by the litre and a traditional German Um Pah band were enjoyed by all.

In March 2014 we then participated in a demanding, Battalion generated overseas exercise in Belize (see Exercise Mayan Warrior article) however on our return from this it has been State Ceremonial that has taken up the rump of our time. Following a successful Major General's inspection in April the Company moved onto the Blue Line once again. As ever the

Guardsmen have taken this step change (excuse the drill pun) in their stride, quickly adapting to life out of the 'trees' and into the Forecourt. In early June we were fortunate to be chosen as the Guard of Honour for the State opening of Parliament, a huge privilege for those that have not done it before and one that passed off very well. There can be no doubt however that such a serial is a team event and our thanks must go to the Drill Sergeants for helping to prepare us for the day and to the Regimental Adjutant for those all important prompts on the day. Later that month saw the Company participate in the Queen's Birthday Parade whilst the Company Commander, along with his peers from No 2 Company and Prince of Wales' Company travelled to Kenya to observe and mentor 3 Rifles on Exercise Askhari Thunder. This was a very useful recce and one that brought home the

challenges and opportunities that this exercise presents. It was with this knowledge that we deployed to Otterburn in order to conduct pre-deployment training. The exercise very much focused on getting the basics done well. The first five days were spent at section and platoon level conducting offensive ops, refining our operating procedures and patrolling. This exercise saw a number of Guardsmen and Junior Non Commissioned Officers having to step up, a very worthwhile experience that will serve them well in the future. For others this was as much about learning new skills as refreshing ones already learnt in Belize. The Company Quartermaster Sergeant organized a fine smoker on the training area; as ever it was reassuring to see that there is little the G4 team can't turn their hands to, feeding nearly 100 soldiers off a homemade BBQ in the middle of the training area.

As this is written the Company

are on the cusp of departing for a well earned summer leave. Our return will see us prepare the final touches for our deployment to Kenya, an opportunity that will be a welcome break from State Ceremonial and promises to be an exciting and challenging exercise.

The Company has had to say farewell to much of the headquarters element. Major Llewellyn-Usher left in December 2013 for pastures greener, Company Sergeant Major Williams 205 to become the Drill Sergeant, Company Quartermaster Sergeant Morgan promoted to Company Sergeant Major Number 2 Company, Lance Sergeant Pheasey has moved to Guards Company in Catterick and Lance Sergeant Rowlands is now in North Wales as part of the Army recruiting effort. We wish them all well and are very grateful for all their hard work

Major T J Badham.

"In early June we were fortunate to be chosen as the Guard of Honour for the State opening of Parliament, a huge privilege for those that have not done it before and one that passed off very well."

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

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

Lt Col Harris
 Maj Parsons
 Maj Dawson
 Maj Pridmore
 Capt Baldwin
 Capt Campbell
 Capt Davies
 Capt Hughes
 Capt Wright
 WO1 Topps
 WO2 Dunn
 WO2 Griffiths
 WO2 Davies
 WO2 Williams
 WO2 Parry
 WO2 Williams
 CSgt Davies
 CSgt Davies
 CSgt Evans
 CSgt Green
 CSgt Hayes
 CSgt Hughes
 CSgt Hughes
 CSgt O'Brien
 CSgt Lias
 CSgt Young
 Sgt Davies
 Sgt Fuller
 Sgt Harris
 Sgt Hemmings
 Sgt McEvoy
 Sgt Wilks
 Sgt Parry
 Sgt Phillips
 Sgt Prosser
 LSgt Mcfall
 LSgt Barnes
 LSgt Brandon
 LSgt Buller
 LSgt Cunningham
 LSgt Davies

LSgt Davies
 LSgt Evans
 LSgt Evans
 LSgt Gwilym
 LSgt Grindley
 LSgt Horrell
 LSgt Jones
 LSgt Jones
 LSgt Morgan
 LSgt O'Brien
 LSgt Pienaar
 LSgt Stevens
 LSgt Stirling
 LSgt Tancock
 LSgt Williams
 LSgt Urch
 LCpl Adams
 LCpl Agu
 LCpl Bruford
 LCpl Glanville
 LCpl Jones
 LCpl Jones
 LCpl Nuku
 LCpl Smith
 Gdsm Adekoya
 Gdsm Arnold
 Gdsm Adjei
 Gdsm Ankhra
 Gdsm Bisp
 Gdsm Bowden-Edwards
 Gdsm Broome
 Gdsm Butterfield
 Gdsm Dalton
 Gdsm Endres
 Gdsm Evans
 Gdsm Fielding
 Gdsm George
 Gdsm Hathway
 Gdsm Howells
 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Mason

Gdsm McLaughlan
 Gdsm Meredith
 Gdsm Msibi
 Gdsm Mitchell
 Gdsm Mooney
 Gdsm Mulready
 Gdsm Pike
 Gdsm Poole
 Gdsm Pugh
 Gdsm Rosser

Gdsm Rowlands
 Gdsm Rowe
 Gdsm Theophilus
 Gdsm Toomey
 Gdsm Trow
 Gdsm Wannell
 Gdsm Watts
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm WilliamsWilliams

ATTACHED

Maj Pool
 Capt Foster
 (Rev'd) Capt Harding
 Capt Robinson
 Capt Asong
 Capt Grierson
 WO1 Stephens
 WO2 Edwards
 WO2 Keenan
 SSgt Campbell
 SSgt Douglas
 SSgt Finlay
 SSgt Leng
 Sgt Bentley
 Sgt Lewis
 Sgt Collins
 Sgt Gurang
 Sgt Goodall
 Sgt Lyall
 Sgt Wainwright
 Sgt Wallace
 Sgt Townsend
 LSgt Anderson
 LSgt Coldrick
 LSgt Logie
 Cpl Budhathoki
 Cpl Moore
 Cpl Foody

Cpl Rowland
 LCpl Che
 LCpl Johnston
 LCpl Jordan
 LCpl Kuchu
 LCpl Mclenahan
 LCpl Rai
 LCpl Townsend
 LCpl Jayes
 LCpl Colwell
 LCpl Gabriel
 LCpl Ratchford
 LCpl Huane
 LCpl Williams
 Cfn Hewitt
 Cfn Lill
 Cfn Smith
 Cfn Lipita
 Pte Hannah
 Pte Gurung
 Pte Khan
 Pte Francis
 Pte Koboah
 Pte Moreau
 Pte Nyarkoh
 Pte Perks
 Pte Williams

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Maj K Dawson

Headquarter Company is well known for its' agile, sustainable, complex routine and this year being as testing as any other. It is quite overwhelming to work in an environment of enthusiastic can do attitude with quick witted banter and high spirits whilst Bn HQ places more pressure on the pedal. As I look back at the forecast of events, it has been a remarkable achievement as the articles you will read allude to across all departments in Headquarter Company.

Whilst conducting our main role State Ceremonial and Public Duties we have flexed to provide functionality to 2 Coy as Roullement Infantry Company (RIC) in the Falklands, 3 Coy exercise in Belize and a Bn exercise in Kenya. Unsatisfied with being in scarlet or CT 1 Exercises we are primed ready for a Unit Move to Pirbright.

The start of the year mandatory Spring Drills leading up to Major General LONDIST Tunic Inspection with Sgt Wilks and his team worked tirelessly set us in good form for the forthcoming ceremonial affairs. CSM Parry 700 and DSgt Griffiths 50 moulding plasticine into Gdsm for Lady Thatcher Funeral and other state ceremonial events. Queens Birthday Parade stretched the company to its maximum with the LE community Maj Pridmore, Cpts Hughes, Baldwin and more recent arrival Campbell conducting ushering duties too!

Whilst covering the formidable duties it is remarkable the coy was able to take time to conduct any sport. A good example during this year the Bn Football Team held their own with DSgt Davies 90 manager, Sgt Wilks and LSgt Cunningham

coaching the team. To summarise they successfully won the LONDIST League Cup, 6 a Side competition qualifying them for the Army 6 a Side Competition finishing mid table.

Redundancies, Trance 4 being the final trance, Headquarter Coy felt the pinch with LSgt Brandon, Gdsm Pike and Pte Koboah RLC 'key enablers' leaving a big hole in their fields, we wish them all the best in the future. Additionally, a list far too big to mention I wish all that have left the coy over the past year a bright future too.

Whilst juggling duties, exercises and RAAT we also put Bn Headquarters through its paces with the Signals PI producing a ComBAT Systems training programme in preparation for Kenya. ComBAT a complicated IT system used to communicate across the battlefield we have gripped preparing us well for CAST. Kenya close on the arisen the coy is well prepared, the QM Department has delivered 'on the man' eqpt and provided us with protective clothing to sustain us for all conditions we will be subject too, gone are the days of purchasing from HM Supplies to make life comfortable.

"Headquarter coy has preserved its character, dealing with issues that have arisen with style and a professional stance."

To conclude this year, headquarter coy has preserved its character, dealing with issues that have arisen with style and a professional stance. We are well recognized across

LONDIST as best practise leading the way introducing new policies in G4 whilst still flexing our sense of personality.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPT

Major DW Pridmore, Quartermaster



LSgt Buller, Gdsm Pike and Mr Charles Loranno, QMs Dept, Ex Mayan Warrior 14

2014 has once again got off to a blistering start; the pace of life has been busy to say the least! From Deployments to the Falklands and Belize to the Queens Birthday Parade, plans for Kenya and our unit move to Pirbright, the department has not had any respite.

Ex Mayan Warrior in March was a huge test for the QMs Department setting up a Jungle expeditionary exercise. This exercise has not been run for several years and the infrastructure was simply not in place.

Number Three Company were the guinea pigs to see if this type of exercise could be set up again, however getting to the other side of the Atlantic, albeit in a nice bit of the Caribbean, was extremely testing.

The modern Rifle Company does not travel light and planning an expeditionary deployment from scratch was a challenge taken up by WOII (RQMS) Dunn, he put his vast experience behind the G4 planning process and came up with a very robust solution. The fact that he would have to

deploy to Price Barracks (Airport Camp for those who remember the 1989 tour!) and soak up the sun was far from his mind I'm sure!

Logistically Three Company needed to deploy with everything from Ammo and Rations, to the simplest of things like bin bags and foot powder, almost zero stock was in place and everything had to be brought from the UK by Air and sea freight, three full ISO Containers and 30000kg of air fright to be precise!

LSgt Cunningham had the daunting task of itemising, accounting for and producing the reams of paperwork that must be completed before any equipment can be moved, as usual he approached the task with a calm, methodical manner, in a vary short time

frame... he did so well he has also been selected to do the same for the deployment to Kenya!

LSgt Buller (congratulations are in order for LSgt Buller who has been successfully been selected to promote to Sergeant) and LSgt Barnes reverted back to their combined manual accounting skills to account for a complete container of ammunition, of many different natures for a multitude of weapon systems. Long hot hours counting, stacking, distributing and re-packing were the order of the day, made more complex when the ammo was to be flown from Belize back the UK.

The entire team were ably supported by Gdsm Pike and Arnold, who also managed to get out with the company for some survival training and range work, the RQMS got a little excited when he encountered a 15 ft Fer-De-Lance snake (See photo ... it was really a tiddler)!! Every one also got some well deserved R&R/Adventure training in Caye Caulker with snorkelling on the barrier reef and some light refreshment elsewhere!

The work from the Department cannot be understated it was instrumental in the successful and demanding exercise for Number Three Company group.

Work now continues with the pre-parity work for Exercise Askari Storm in Kenya, coordinating the troop movement from Germany, the North of England and Reservists from Scotland has been dealt with by the New QM (T) Capt Alan Hughes (32) and his new RQMS (T) WOII Griffiths 50, who also deployed to Belize as the chief Jungle instructor, bringing all his skills

learnt from two years in Brunei (just don't mention any postings back there to him)!

And just to keep the department on its toes we are concurrently planning the Unit move to Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright, the out going QM, Maj Karl Dawson, has project managed this from the start and the standard of the camp is great. Many of the old and bold will not recognise the place after many months of work; Sgt Davies 83 has been Barrack manger throughout and looked after both camps. Sgt Parry 64 (Fred West) has been bringing his Pioneer skills to the fore and chipping away at all manner of odd jobs. He is however much more than a handyman, his experience has been heavily relied on during the transition to MJDI, the new account and demand system, without his knowledge we would have struggled.

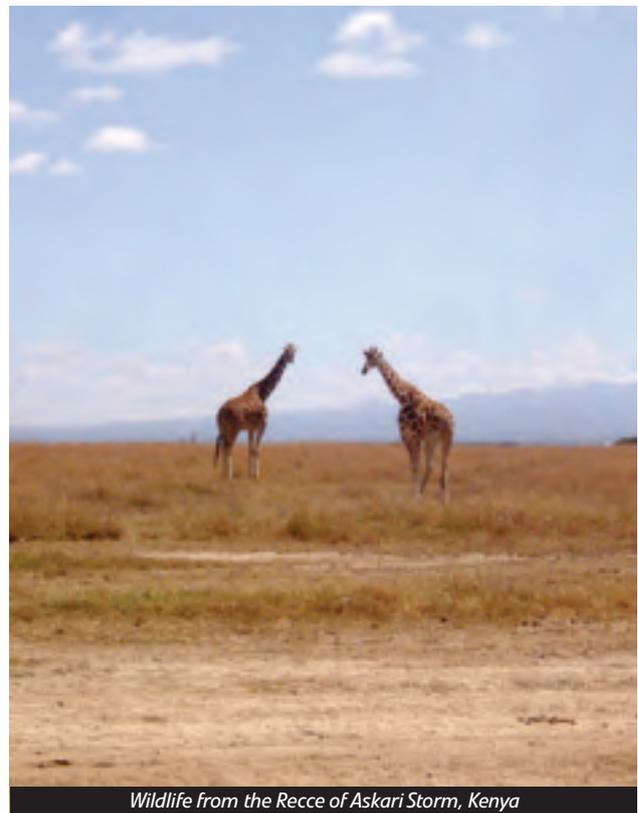
As ever, and always chipping away in the background, are the tailor shop, LSgt Wilks (more congratulations in order as he too has been selected to promote to Sergeant and also received his LS&GC) has kept our heads above water with his team, LSgt Jones 09, and Gdsm Bisp, through the Major Generals inspection, St David's Day, the Queens Birthday Parade and now getting Great Coats ready for our return to public duties when we return from Kenya.

LSgt Williams 05 (Kurgan) has had to keep pace with the demands' on him as he singlehandedly runs the clothing store, especially with the warm weather issue kit that had to be demanded.

We also welcome our first line optimisation team from the RLC, SSgt Douglas, LSgt Foody, LCpl Kuchu and Pte Khan. As



RQMS Dunn with a Fer de lance during the Pre advance range build in Manatee jungle Belize March 2014



Wildlife from the Recce of Askari Storm, Kenya



Sgt Harris stressed preparing for forthcoming exercise



Gdsm Rowe first parading in the vehicle park Cavalry Barracks



LSgt Davies working once again supervised by LSgt Evans Chief Instructor



LSgt Davies 84 working for a living

part of the new Army 2020 structure the RLC support has been integrated in to the department, brining some of their second line experience to the Battalion. We all look forward to working with the latest members of the team.

Lots of change in the department has taken place over the last year, with Capt Peter Robinson leaving the Army after 30 years to work with the Cadet Force in South Wales, he has already been greatly missed, although in his words... Boogaloo!

I returned from the ATR Pirbright, where I was second in command of a training company to take over as QM(T) until only 6 weeks later, taking over as Quartermaster, only to return to Elizabeth Barrack

later in the same year... some body really want me to stay in Pirbright! We also say farewell to Gdsm Pike who, after 12 years loyal service, has been selected for redundancy and leaves us before Christmas, we wish him every good fortune and luck in the future.

I cannot finish without some other great news for the department, both RQMS Ryan and Dunn were successfully selected to promote to WO1. WO1 (RSM) Ryan is already in post with the Honourable Artillery Company and WOII (RQMS) Dunn will succeed as the next Regimental Sergeant Major for the Battalion in spring next year, this clearly shows the calibre and standard of the two senior WOII in the Battalion.

MT PLATOON
Capt BJ Baldwin

Over the last 12 months the Motorised Transport (MT) Platoon has been as busy as ever with the normal licence acquisition and, the running of GS courses etc. Added to the work load the platoon has geared itself up with the training of the Battalion ready for Exercise Askari Storm, later in the year.

There has also been the small matter of the public duties to add to the mix with most being involved with the Queens Birthday Parade. With this in mind the Platoon has performed to an extremely high level passing ECI/LSI during the year earning high passes on both. It has also had a fuel and lubes inspection to which again given a green.

The Platoon has seen its fare share of courses this year with the MTO down gaining qualifications within the driving world. The busiest on courses has seen Gdsm Mclaughlan going from a B licence to C&E and also gaining ADR and B maintenance

course, all this within 5 months of joining the Platoon. The platoon is soon to see an uplift to fit with the new Army 2020 Orbat with 9 Guardsmen eager to gain further licences during the next twelve months.

The next 6 months will see the platoon go from Tunic to green kit ready for the Battalion exercise in Kenya, and also the Unit move in November to Pirbright. This no doubt will be a testing time to which the men are looking forward to. Further to that the new vehicle platforms we will get to take up our new role will once again throw out some challenges. Also taking into account the movement of the Regiment in

its Centenary Year will again be something of a spectacular.

Over all a very satisfying year for the Platoon for who has benefited with vast experiences no more than LSgt Davies who has not worked so hard in his last 21 years. Sgt Harris has now come down from planet Mars since the

announcement of Tranche 4, (Yes you still owe me 4 years). LSgt Horrell is still the RCMO busiest customer trying to escape the servicing bay on a daily basis (not happening), and we welcome back Gdsm Rowe who continues to please those he works with on a daily basis with his charming sense of humour.

CIS PLATOON
CSgt G Lias RSWO

The CIS Platoon has once again seen a number of changes over the last 12 months.

Capt Ravenscroft has unfortunately left the platoon early. CSgt Hayes has left the CIS world and handed over the mantle of the stores to CSgt Green. CSgt Lias has been moved on from the joys of BOWMAN planning to become the RSWO, leaving Sgt Fuller to enjoy his new role as the Bowman Systems Manager.

LSgt Urch (yet another transfer from the Royal Welsh) has come in as the new Platoon Sgt. LSgt Gwilym and LSgt Brandon will shortly be leaving to resettle.

A number of new Gdsm have come to the platoon and have enjoyed their start to the CIS world with many signals courses. The platoon conducted BRU training for the battalion at the start of the year before deploying to Brunswick

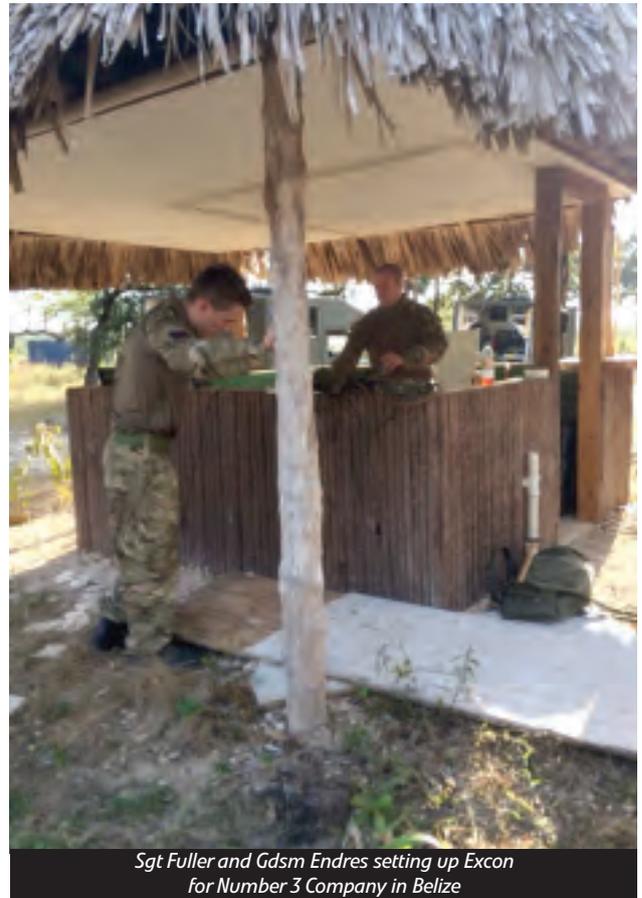
camp to conduct its next signals course (IPRO).

A number of our Gdsm have been away on RAAT tasks to Brecon, Kenya and Otterburn supporting exercises. The remainder of the Gdsm were left to deploy with the rifle companies to both the Falklands and Belize. The entire platoon has enjoyed a varied and enjoyable year so far with the Battalion deployment to Kenya just around the corner which will prove to be a valuable test of the new skills that every member has learned so far.

The platoon are very much looking forward to the move to Pirbright and our new role in the future, which will give them a chance to work on the new item of kit and vehicles that we will have.



Gdsm Trow in Belize with Number 3 Company.



Sgt Fuller and Gdsm Endres setting up Excon for Number 3 Company in Belize



Gdsm Mason trying to recruit some additional manpower in the Falklands



Collective AGC Department high spirits outside Sgts Mess Cavalry Barracks?

AGC DETACHMENT
 Capt P Robinson AGC RAO

A year with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards AGC (SPS) Det.

It has been a busy year which has seen us deploy to the Falklands, Belize, and Skiing in the French Alps with a Battle Group Exercise in Kenya on the horizon along with a Battalion move to Pirbright later in the year.

On the 08 Dec 13 Number 2 Company of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards deployed to Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands, taking with them their Company HR LCpl Clabby & Pte Porter. The company went over to provide a Roulement Infantry Company (RIC) which is part of the Army's ongoing commitment aimed to reassure the local population of a military presence in the area for their protection and peace of mind. LCpl Clabby & Pte Porters

role was to provide the company with administration support, however, they had the chance to explore the local wildlife and visit the memorial to pay their respects.

Whilst LCpl Clabby and Pte Porter were enjoying their time with the penguins WO2 Keenan lead the way with the Battalion skiing trip to France as the Battalion ski instructor. Several members of the detachment were more skilled than others

eg LSgt McLean was a natural and attempted the steepest slopes. LSgt Gardner proved to be a competent skier whereas bum shuffling was what LCpl Clabby, LCpl Watt and Pte Williams managed to achieve. All in all the skills might not have been up there but the social element more than made up for it.

SSgt Campbell and LSgt Coldrick deployed on exercise Mayan Warrior to Belize with Number 3 Company. Whilst dealing with both humid conditions and living in the jungle it proved quite challenging but rewarding. Learning how to survive and live in the jungle was an experience that will never be forgotten. Seeing a pig being slaughtered and killing

chickens where just some of the highlights.

LSgt Coldrick has stated she is now over her phobias of spiders after finding a tarantula in her Bergen. Also both soldiers got the chance of an AT package which involved scuba diving (swimming with sharks) and sampling the local nightlife after an intense exercise.

During all of the deployments we also had our SPSI to prepare for, which was a success. We had a visit from the Corp RSM who got to know the personalities in the Det over a meal in London.

As a Det we welcomed Pte Kirui and Sgt Gurung and wished farewell LSgt McLean and Cpl Gurung.

“LSgt Coldrick has stated she is now over her phobias of spiders after finding a tarantula in her Bergen.”

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT (LAD)
 W01 (ASM) A Stephens REME

2014 has been a year of change for the LAD that has begun to incorporate the new manning structure directed through the A2020 implementation order and incorporating a wealth of new posts

The first of which was the newly appointed ASM post which replaced the WO2 (AQMS) PiD, formerly filled by AQMS Webb, who has now moved onto a REME recruiting post in Arborfield. Other posts will see an EME (Capt Foster), Sgt Recovery Mechanic (Sgt Townsend), Cpl Metalsmith, Cpl Technical Supply Specialist, Cpl Driver/Rad Op (RLC) and number of other posts to include Technicians, Armourers and Vehicle Mechanics (VM) and see our structure grow to 1+28. These changes will be incorporated well into 2015 as the Battalion re-role to Light Protected Mobility.

L/Sgt Bentley and LCpl Johnston deployed to the Falkland Islands on Op FIRIC with Number 2 Company providing intimate Equipment Support and a fitter section deployed with Number 3 Company to Belize on Mayan Warrior that included SSgt Findlay, Sgt Goodall, LCpl Colwell, Cfn Hewitt and newly promoted LCpl McLenahan. It was here that the troops and their equipments were sorely tested in the heat of the jungle displaying their technical expertise and providing timely and accurate direction and guidance for the vital equipment care of weapons and vehicles. The LAD has also supported numerous range packages and exercises including a 3 week range package for all companies at Sennybridge training camp. During this range package LCpl Johnston conducted the Armourer support and was

even seen donning a set of coveralls at one stage impersonating a VM! Running at the same time were Lydd ranges and Cfn George was sole VM cover, where he was kept busy by an aged 4T Daf and Land Rover fleet.

The LAD is now heavily involved with pre-deployment preparations for ASKARI STORM, unit move to Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright and continuing to provide Equipment Support to the Battalion, the latter of which keeps the new Production Sgt, Sgt Lyall extremely busy. All of this is taking place in conjunction with our own training plan that includes 2 Class 3 VMs straight out of phase 3 training (Craftsman Lill and Smith). However busy we have been there has still been opportunities for members of the LAD to carry out AT, with Sgt Goodall supporting 27 Regt RLC in Kayaking, Cfn Smith completing a weeks sailing in the Isle of Wight, and Sgt Bentley completing a Diving course. Not forgetting of course, Sgt Goodall having more time off work for fishing competitions, if only just to catch his weekly feast!

More change for the LAD Armourers in the way that they record and complete repairs as the majority of equipments they are responsible for are now on the JAMES MIS. This has seen a huge amount of work ensuring accurate faults, inspections and maintenance history was represented prior

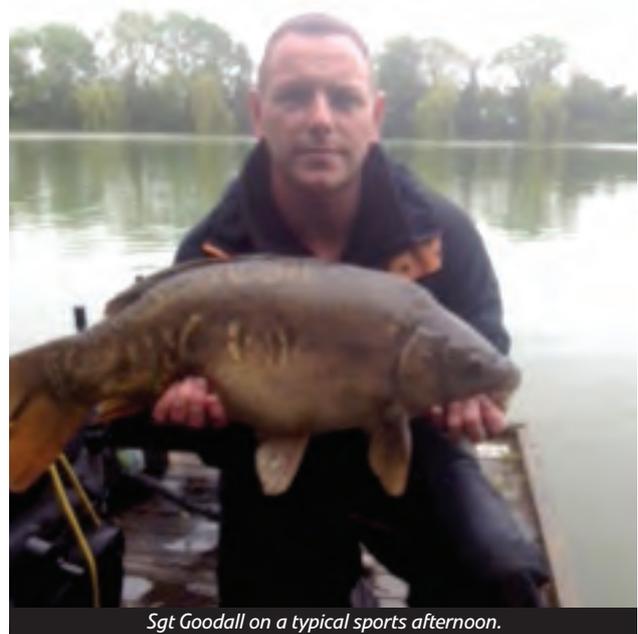


LCpl McLenahan showing Cfn Lill how a B Mech Squats!

to a successful grading on the ECI for their last inspection. Forecasting of MEI's and correct recording of repair actions remain paramount in keeping the JAMES system accurate, and the Battalion small arms and instruments available to the user.

Looking forward brings many new projects to manage and

develop, such as the growth of the LAD, establishing a new Engineering Management System (EMS), and creating closer ties with the Motoring Transport Platoon in order to improve overall process efficiency and output optimisation of fleet servicing and maintenance to help improve Equipment Care.



Sgt Goodall on a typical sports afternoon.



The Padre



Padre and CSgt 'Pavarotti' Evans warming up to sing at the 'Zulu' anniversary.

WELFARE AND CHAPLAINCY

Rev Andrew Harding CF

My first day on the job was last October so as I write this I have been with the 1WG for eight months and the time seems to have moved on very rapidly indeed. It's been a real pleasure so far and with all the future events lined up I am really looking forward to the coming year.

Being a Padre I have the privilege of taking part in some of the occasions throughout the year and some of the highlights for me include the Christmas and St. David's Day Services. In these services I get the opportunity to talk to a captured audience and I have tried to put what I hope is a useful message within the address and I have used personal experiences as illustrations. On reflection these illustrations have come across more like 'Confessions of a Vicar' with tales of drunkenness and abusive gestures to other members of the clergy. Therefore for this coming year I hope that working and living closer alongside you I can preach using wholesome and inspirational experiences from you rather than relying on digging up my dodgy past once again!

I like to get out and about as much as possible on exercises, on the ranges, adventure

training, on Guards etc and it's been great to meet so many of the Gdsm. Also this year has seen me marching on parade for inspection for the first time since Sandhurst. I enjoyed it but I'm not sure if the Drill Sergeant did!

About a dozen of us went to the Odeon Leicester Square as a Welsh Guards Choir to sing at the 50th anniversary of the release of the film 'Zulu'. We sang in front of British and South African Royalty, celebrities, journalists and TV critics and it was a frightening experience but great fun. It was also a one off experience seeing Ian Hislop trying to get onto our transport because he thought it was the fun bus to the after show reception.

I'm really looking forward to this coming year with exercises all over England and in Kenya and all the Services in our Centenary year and working and being with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

WELFARE OFFICE

Capt N Grierson (SG) UWO

As always it has been another extremely busy year for the Welfare team especially with the Unit Welfare Officers role being gapped for the last 14 months so CSgt Gaz Evans and LSgt Kev Obrien have been holding the fort and doing an extremely good job.

The main focus for the welfare team over the last 12 months has been initiating the plan for the families that are moving to Pirbright along with the

Battalion's Unit move to Elizabeth Barracks. We have been very fortunate that a lot of the families have already moved into Service Families

Accommodation (SFA) in Pirbright and are enjoying the Surrey countryside and have settled in very well to there new surroundings. The small number of families that are moving from the London area will be complete in Pirbright by the end Aug 14 ready for the new school term beginning in Sept 14. I am sure the married men will be looking forward to commuting by foot or bike to Elizabeth Barracks Instead of the drive to Hounslow.

The welfare team laid on a family's day trip to Chessington World of Adventures during the May half term which was thoroughly enjoyed by those families who attended.

I was approached by Hounslow Heath Primary school asking if we could provide some musical support for a charity event the school was organising. The event was to raise money for a young pupil that had been diagnosed with a form off cancer. As soon as this was mentioned to the Corps of Drums the boys were more than happy to give up some of there time to play and support the school. There was a great crowd of both adults and children and the Corps of Drums as always were fantastic and helped the school raise in the region of £1.500.

The next main event was a families barbecue held in Cavalry Barracks Hounslow on Sat 12th July which again was a great success and was enjoyed by all the families that attended.

For my sins I thought it would be a great idea to enter a welfare team into the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge which takes place through the Yorkshire Dales National Park with the event taking place on Sunday 14th September 14. It will be a very physically and mentally



The Corps of drums having just completed a fantastic musical event for the families and children of Hounslow Heath Primary School

challenging for the team which consists of the Welfare staff and wives and family from personnel who are currently serving in the Battalion. The distance we will be covering will be 24 miles over a 12 hour period so lots of fun to be had by all involved. We are raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) which I am sure you will all agree is a great cause.

In Oct the welfare team will be running a Wives COMBAT

WEEKEND over on the Pirbright Training Area so I am sure that will give the wife's and partners something to look forward to.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the UWO since being attached from the Scots Guards and I don't believe the language barrier has been a problem so far. The welfare team are looking forward to the end of the year when the battalion and families are settled into there new

surroundings. This will hopefully improve the family cohesion that has been slightly missing as most of the families will now be housed in and around the Pirbright area. A busy year ahead with St David's day in Cardiff, Presentation of New Colours in Windsor, the Battalion will also be Trooping the colour for her Majesty and the Centenary Year celebrations that lie ahead so all in all a good year to look forward to for the families.



Sgt Davies 83 enjoying the entertainment for the day with the Padre keeping a close eye on him to make sure the balloons came to no harm

SUPPORT COMPANY

Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth - Fear Nothing but Disgrace

Maj Spencer Smith
Capt Figgures-Wilson
Capt Emlyn-Williams
Capt Luther-Davies
WO2 (CSM) Bowen
Drum Major De Wit
CSgt (CQMS) Geen
CSgt Treharne
A/CSgt Deren
Sgt Pearce
Sgt Simons
Sgt Soko
Sgt Thomas
A/Sgt Lewis 51
LSgt Crew
LSgt Evans 13
LSgt Evans 88
LSgt Griffiths 04
LSgt Hillier
LSgt Jones 51
LSgt Potts
LSgt Rowlands 95
LSgt Powell
LSgt Shapland
LCpl Bailey
LCpl Bishop
LCpl Burnett
LCpl Biggs
LCpl Bond
LCpl Chambers
LCpl Davies 89
LCpl Dunn

LCpl Harvey
LCpl Forde
LCpl Jones 83
LCpl Kirumira
LCpl Love
LCpl Martin
LCpl Parr
LCpl Parfitt
LCpl Parry 26
LCpl Parry 15
LCpl Rees
LCpl Ryan
LCpl Reeves
LCpl Selby
LCpl Shepard-Smith
LCpl Williams 91
LCpl Worthington
LCpl Viavalevu
LCpl Van Eysen
Dmr Armstrong
Dmr Asamoah
Gdsm Bevan
Gdsm Butler
Gdsm Carter
Gdsm Crowley
Gdsm Dade
Dmr Danquah
Gdsm Davies 05
Gdsm Davies 85
Gdsm Davies 86
Gdsm Davies 87
Dmr Davies 05

Gdsm Davies 59
Dmr Davies 60
Gdsm Dymock
Gdsm Dudley
Gdsm Ebeso
Gdsm Emmanuel
Gdsm Evans 94
Gdsm Evans 37
Gdsm Gassama
Gdsm Glasby
Gdsm Harty
Gdsm Hawker
Gdsm Hibben
Dmr Hillman
Gdsm Hughes 41
Gdsm Hughes 13
Dmr Jawara
Gdsm Jobarteh
Dmr Jones 91
Dmr Jones 92
Gdsm Jones 83
Gdsm Jones 84
Gdsm Kennedy
Gdsm Kingdon
Gdsm Lewis 39
Gdsm Macedru
Gdsm Manfield
Gdsm Matthews
Dmr Maund
Gdsm Morgan 14
Gdsm Muteti
Dmr Msibi

Dmr Needs
Gdsm Niebling
Dmr Njie
Gdsm Qaranivalu
Dmr Parry 71
Dmr Parry 23
Dmr Price 51
Gdsm Rettalick
Dmr Riby
Dmr Roberts 69
Gdsm Roos
Gdsm Sanderson
Dmr Sarpak
Dmr Self
Gdsm Shields
Dmr Siwale
Gdsm Skates
Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Soko
Gdsm Stephens
Gdsm Sweetman
Gdsm Thomas 00
Dmr Thomas 75
Dmr Turner
Gdsm Walters
Gdsm Webb
Gdsm Williams 22
Dmr Williams 60
Dmr Wolfendon
Gdsm Woodman
Gdsm Woosnam

Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth - Fear Nothing but Disgrace



Onion Ranges

2014 has been a splendid year for Support Company, every month filled to the brim with 'Green Training' and Public Duties. I have had the privilege of commanding the company for over a year, and have been supported faultlessly by my Company Sergeant Major, CSM Bowen throughout.

It would be usual to congratulate individuals who have promoted or completed career courses at the end of the company update, but this year it has been central to the way we have conducted business, therefore it seems appropriate to highlight those men now.

DMaj de WIT
Promoted to CSgt

Sgt Simons
Promoted to Sgt, PSBC and Light Role Recce Commander

Sgt Pearce
Promoted to Sgt and PSBC

LSgt Rowlands 95 MFC A

LSgt Griffiths 04 MFC A

LSgt Potts
Promoted to LSgt

LSgt Evans 88
Distinction on Light Role Recce Commander

LSgt Crew
Anti-Tank Det Commander

LCpl Rees
Promoted to LSgt and Anti-Tank Det Commander

LCpl Forde
Promoted to LSgt and SCBC

LCpl Biggs
Promoted to LSgt and SCBC

LCpl Chambers SCBC

LCpl Parry 26
Promoted to LSgt and SCBC

LCpl Shepard-Smith
Promoted to LSgt and MFC B

LCpl Parr
Promoted to LCpl and MFC B

LCpl Parfitt
Promoted to LCpl and MFC B

LCpl Agu
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Bishop
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Davies 89
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Dunn
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Harvey
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Jones 83
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Parry 15
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Reeves
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Van Eysen
Promoted to LCpl

LCpl Williams 91
Promoted to LCpl and qualified as a Sniper

LCpl Jones 83
Promoted to LCpl and qualified as a Sniper

Gdsm Rettalick
Qualified as a Sniper

The effort put in by those individuals mentioned above and also those who were unsuccessful, has been outstanding. The junior commanders have very much driven the company ethos of

professional pride at all levels and this is evident in the results being achieved.

The year started with Sp Coy providing manpower to No 2 Company in the Falklands. We deployed the Mortar platoon, a section of the Reconnaissance platoon, a sniper pair and the bulk of the range team to support the RIC during their 3 month deployment. In addition Capt Emlyn-Williams deployed as the Machine Gun Platoon Commander.



WO2 (CSMiM) Radford and WO2 (CSM) Bowen



The Mortar Line on Salisbury Plain

with 'good' weather throughout, ensuring that Number 2 Company and the men from Support Company reached a final training crescendo for the three month deployment.

The Corps of Drums and Anti-Tank Platoon.

The Corp of Drums go from strength to strength. With Capt Emlyn-Williams rarely around due to a multitude of other commitments the mantle fell to DMaj de WIT. He has provided firm leadership throughout the year ensuring that the Drummers remain focused on their soldiering skills, whilst keeping the quality of the drumming to the high standards expected of the Household Division. As well as the traditional engagements throughout the summer, they provided assistance the The Worshipful Company of Drapers, Staff College at Shrivenham and back home in Wales. It was unfortunate that they only managed a 3 week cadre in July, but they were the first PI in the Bn to truly embrace our future paired Bn from the Reserve Forces. 3 R Welsh Anti-Tank Platoon joined them for a week of the Cadre and under the careful guidance of our Sect Comds they had more 'hands-on' time with the Javelin than they had during the previous 12 months. 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.

The platoon has said their farewells to Capt Emlyn-Williams multiple times in the past 3 months and yet he keeps coming back. However they will be seeing him only one more time during the



Capt Figgures-Wilson, Mortar Platoon Commander in the Falklands

His experience as an FSG Commander allowed him to develop the tactics which will be used by the three Machine Gun Platoons in Kenya.

For those of you who have been to the Falkland Islands, and in particular Onion Ranges, you will recall that the training facilities are outstanding. The Mortars gained enormous benefit from the deployment, building on their successful cadre in late 2013, and allowing the recently qualified personnel to develop in their respective roles. They conducted many of their own live firing serials, but also multiple fire missions to support the rifle platoons as they assaulted many enemy positions across the training area.

For the last 2 weeks of February the CSM and I deployed along with Bn HQ to provide range team assistance and more importantly to visit the men of Support Company. The final exercise was blessed

exercise in Kenya where he will return to command the platoon during the FTX.

Mortar Platoon.

The Mortar Platoon has had a stellar year volunteering for every RAAT going and sending more men on promotion courses, than there are spaces. Fortunately the Mortar Division at Warminster has a soft spot for 1WG and gladly took every man we sent to them, helped in no small part by the pre-cadres that we ran for all Household Division candidates.

The Cadre gave them the opportunity to progress from complete a relatively junior Mortar platoon into one that was carrying out night support to a company Advance to Contact and achieved a very impressive rolling barrage across Salisbury Plain during their final exercise. Through sheer hard work and dedication Gdsm Stevens was named top student on the Cadre and won the Fasfous Trophy.

Reconnaissance Platoon and Sniper Platoons

Capt Major departed the Recce Pl early in the year but left in place a solid group of SNCOs to keep the platoon on the straight and narrow. Between them they planned and executed an extremely testing cadre for both the snipers and recce soldiers. Capt Luther-Davies arrived fresh from his recce commanders' course in late July and immediately got to grips with his new platoon.

The cadre culminated in a testing exercise for the Recce Pl covering most of Salisbury plain and ably supported by the mortars. The Snipers, as is their wont, disappeared into the undergrowth and weren't seen for 5 days, returning to



LCpl Worthington Digging his Section OP

camp bedraggled but happy. Whilst the platoon is still 2 men shy of full strength and not everyone is a qualified sniper, every man is qualified as a Sharpshooter which ensures the Commanding Officer has a fully deployable asset for Kenya.

2014 will close with a unit move from Hounslow to Pirbright. For Support Company this means fully integrated offices, stores and accommodation; easy access to ranges and training areas and a degree of autonomy away from the rifle companies. The development the company has made in the past 12 months is truly outstanding and it has been driven by every man within the company. 2015 we have the celebrations of our Centenary and the challenges of conversion to Light Protected Mobility, but as with this year it will be underpinned by the continual drive to qualify and promote as many of our

soldiers as possible within their chosen discipline.

We bid farewell to Capt Emlyn-Williams who becomes the WG 100 project officer and Capt Figgures-Wilson who moves to

HQ Coy as the Bn Ops Offr. Capt Andrew Dunlop will be returning from the United States to take command of Support Company from February 2015.

“The Snipers, as is their wont, disappeared into the undergrowth and weren't seen for 5 days, returning to camp bedraggled but happy.”



The Sniper Platoon

BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS



Lance Corporal Stuart Laing



Director of Music Major Kevin Roberts



Lance Corporal Stuart Laing plays the Last Post

LAUNCH OF THE TOWER OF LONDON POPPY APPEAL

On the evening of Tuesday August the 5th 2014 the Band of the Welsh Guards paraded for a poignant commemorative event at the Tower of London.

As part of a celebration endorsed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, a field of ceramic poppies had been erected in the famous Tower Moat, a major artistic installation entitled Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red. It was designed by ceramic artist Paul Cummins and theatre stage designer Tom Piper. A single poppy was laid representing each of the 888,246 British and colonial fatalities of the Great War. The poppy garden will remain there until November the 11th when the poppies will be removed and sold to the general public. All funds raised will be dispersed amongst six tri service charities including The Confederation of Service Charities (COBSEO), Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes and SSAFA (formerly the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).

Michael Fallon, the Secretary of State for Defence attended the event amongst other Ministers and Heads of national institutions. General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL,

constable of the Tower, who sponsored the fundraising, was also in attendance. The launch attracted nationwide media coverage and as a result this extraordinary project has the potential to raise 15 million pounds if each poppy is sold.

Between August the 5th and November the 11th this year, 180 names of servicemen killed in the Great War will be read out at twilight before the lone bugler sounds Last Post.

The band, under the baton of the Director of Music Major Kevin Roberts provided musical support playing 'Hymn to the Fallen' and songs from the First World War, then accompanying the prestigious London Welsh Male Voice Choir to 'The Man We Never Knew' by Edward Rhys-Harry.

At twilight, the minute guns of the Honourable Artillery Company, the City of London's Army Reserve regiment, fired a 21-gun salute, and Lance Corporal Stuart Laing, the band's very own bugler, played the Last Post surrounded by a sea of red poppies.

THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS WELCOMES LE TOUR DE FRANCE TO LONDON

By Lsgt G Llewellyn

On a glorious July morning in the heart of London, the Band of the Welsh Guards had the honour of welcoming the third stage of the world’s most prestigious cycle road race, Tour de France 2014 to London for only the second time in its history.

As with the prologue of the 2012 London Olympics and the Tour de France 2007 cycle road race, the competitors rode past a host of famous London attractions including, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London, Big Ben, and the Houses of Parliament. The final stretch travelled around St James’s Park and Buckingham Palace before a spectacular finish on The Mall. The whole memorable event was beamed to big screens at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Trafalgar Square and Green Park - not forgetting the millions of people who watched the race unfold on TV. It was therefore a privilege that the Band of the Welsh Guards had the opportunity to add some traditional British pageantry to this unique occasion, wearing their scarlet tunics and bearskins, so synonymous with Buckingham Palace and the sights of London.

The Welsh Guards Band provided an up-lifting yet light-hearted musical set for the thousands of cycling fans, some of whom had camped

out the previous night to ensure that they gained the best spot to watch the action. They were not to be disappointed; the music combined with the thrill of watching cycling’s elite race pass, meant that the atmosphere gained momentum throughout the day. The Band, conducted by Major Kevin Roberts, performed a range of music from ‘James Bond’ and ‘The Great escape’, to ‘March Militaire’ and ‘La Rejouissance’.

The Band continues its support of the world’s most prestigious sporting occasions, having recently performed with pop star Leona Lewis at Wembley Stadium for the FA Cup Final 2014. As well as playing at a number of events during the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, where the Band had the opportunity to entertain the spectators, and perform in the unforgettable closing ceremony at the Olympic Stadium. Looking forward, the Band is excited by the prospect of performing during the Rugby Union World Cup in 2015.



Band of the Welsh Guards perform to the crowds awaiting the arrival of the race



Leona Lewis and The Band of the Welsh Guards at the FA Cup Final



Major General Commanding London District



Guardsman Williams beatboxing

ST DAVID'S DAY
By Musician E Henry

'Diwrnod Dewi Sant Hapus'

Our annual pilgrimage to Hounslow to celebrate St David's Day went without a hitch again this year. Although the parade was three days early, (on Wednesday 26 February) the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards were in their usual high spirits awaiting the inspection by the Major General Commanding London District.

The gymnasium, where the Church service was held before the parade, looked very different due to the addition of a huge, sweeping awning, which created an intimate atmosphere.

The parade started at midday. Each soldier was presented with a leek, which is, of course, the cap badge and regimental emblem of the Regiment. This was followed by a sumptuous meal, back in the gymnasium, consisting of various choices of both local and far flung cuisine. The Welsh delicacy offered was, of course, a tasty Cawl – the famous Welsh broth.

We then set about entertaining the troops with our dance band. We were even treated to a beat boxing display of great prowess from the talented Guardsman Williams.



Band performs music for the church service

BACKING BATUS
By LCpl Libby

Whilst working in Canada the band had the unique opportunity to provide musical support at BATUS (British Army Training Unit, Suffield). During our eight night stay we had the good fortune of putting on concerts and marching displays, something which is a rare treat to the British troops and families staying within BATUS.

Our first event was held outdoors, at the back of the Army Quarters, and was for the families to socialise and be involved with. As the band are all for audience participation, we 'employed' two ladies, whose partners are stationed in the camp, up to conduct the band. Both won Welsh Guards teddy bears! For another piece, a team of children verses a team of adults had to use

shakers and their dance moves to win the crowd over, with the obvious winners being the children, who were having a ball. The concert came to a conclusion with the band playing music from the film, 'E.T', to a backdrop of fireworks to close the night.

The band reveled in the warm welcome we received at all of the concerts we took part in. Our concert at the Esplanade



Concert for the BATUS personnel and their families



Schools Concert

was alongside a local Canadian band called 'Allegro' giving us a chance to showcase some of our own talented musicians. During 'Cossack Fire Dance' our clarinetist Musn Geldart, trombonist LSgt Mercer, flautist CSgt Libby, bassoonists Musn Devery and LCpl Libby, percussionist LSgt Williams and on cornet Musn Walkley, who also played the Harry James, "Trumpet Concerto".

The following days we attended two different schools to work with and educate their pupils about military music. The first school saw us rehearsing with the senior band and then we performed a concert for the upper years of the school. We then, with the pupils, combined for the last couple pieces, 'Fanfare and Flourishes' and 'El Cumbanchero'.

The second school, Ralston School, involved younger children and had us marching into the School hall, complete with bearskins!, much to the mixed horror and delight of the children. The band went round with an individual from each section introducing their instrument to the pupils, playing a few bars of music so they recognised the personal sound of each instrument. We then played a few pieces such as, 'Lion King', for the children to

sing along to.

On that evening the band performed a concert in a hangar in Medicine Hat, a first for many of us, to the volunteers of the air ambulance service, HALO. Pieces such as 'Les Miserables' and 'So Nice to Come Home To', which featured the trombone section, taking the spotlight within the programme that night.

The next day saw us return to Medicine Hat to play at what should have been an outdoor concert, but due to weather warnings, was relocated into the local cinema. "Goldilocks & The Three Bears", was narrated by the Director of Music, Major Kevin Roberts, and involved the band using their theatrical skills and responding to the story line at the appropriate time! This piece is always well received and really helped the audience to feel included and part of the concert. We ended the concert with a rousing rendition of 'Radetzky March' with plenty of clapping and feel good musical fun.

A Beating Retreat for military staff at Suffield Barracks allowed the band to entertain the troops, even in the fading evening light! This included several popular marches, LSgt Williams on drum kit for 'James Bond' and the finale piece



Entertaining the locals

'Toccata'. This music gave the audience a reminder of home and a show that livened their evening. In appreciation they invited the band to join them and use the facilities of the Sgt's Mess, allowing the band time to chat and be involved with the people working at BATUS.

Before we flew home for London we finished off the tour by travelling to Drumheller to provide a marching band and static concert for The Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion were thrilled with these performances and the opportunity to see the Welsh Guards Band. They enjoyed their time chatting away to the band afterwards. They were so keen to keep us there that one of the Welsh Guards teddy

bears caused a stir and had to be auctioned off, no one was ready for the \$300 that the bear would raise for the Legion! The Gentleman that won wanted the bear for his Grandson to remind him of his late Grandmother who had served.

The tour was a great success with the audiences enjoying the variety of music. All the children welcomed the chance to be involved and be amongst the band, who knows, they may be future recruits?

We brought something different for the British troops currently out in BATUS who would not normally get to see these military concerts, and certainly valued the opportunity, to do our bit for our boys and girls away from home.



Canadian Legion Event

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2015

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

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	Major General R H Talbot Rice
Regimental Adjutant	Colonel (Retd) T CS Bonas
Temporary Equerry	Captain F O Lloyd George
Assistant Regimental Adjutant	Major (Retd) F K Oultram
Director of Music	Major K F N Roberts MMus FLCM LRSM psm CAMUS

1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel G R Harris DSO MBE	Commanding Officer
Major T Parsons SG	Second in Command
Major J W Aldridge	Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Major A J Salusbury	Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Major T J Badham	Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Major A J H Dunlop	Officer Commanding Support Company
Major K Dawson	Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Major D W Pridmore	Quartermaster
Captain C H L Beare	Adjutant
Captain B Figgures-Wilson	Operations Officer
Gapped	Regimental Signals Officer
Capt M Wright	Intelligence Officer
Captain D Luther-Davies	Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Gapped	Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Captain R Emlyn-Williams	Officer Commanding Anti-Tank Platoon
Captain A Hughes	Technical Quartermaster
Captain B Baldwin	Motor Transport Officer
Captain N Grierson SG	Unit Welfare officer
Captain A Campbell	Regimental Careers Management Officer
Captain C J P Davies	Centenary Project Officer
Captain E Birrell	Second in Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Captain F J Wright	Second in Command Number Three Company
Lieutenant J Webster	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant E Clarke	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant O Alsop	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Lieutenant T A G Evans	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Lieutenant J Farmelo	Platoon Commander Number Three Company
2nd Lieutenant J Martin	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
2nd Lieutenant M McNeil-Love	Platoon Commander Battle Course
2nd Lieutenant T Campbell Schofield	Platoon Commander Battle Course
2nd Lieutenant J Gill	Platoon Commander Battle Course
2nd Lieutenant T Evans	Platoon Commander Battle Course

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Major General R H Talbot Rice	Head, Armoured Vehicles Programme, Defence Eqpt & Sp
Major General B J Bathurst OBE	Chief CJ5 HQ ISAF
Brigadier R J Æ Stanford MBE	ACOS LF Army HQ
Colonel R H W St G Bodington LVO MBE	Chief of Staff London District
Colonel G A J Macintosh OBE	Advisor Royal Jordan Army
Lieutenant Colonel G Bartle-Jones	Resettlement
Lieutenant Colonel R G B Pim	Commanding Officer The London Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel B P N Ramsay MBE	Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion ITC Catterick
Lieutenant Colonel M Cooling	Commander Episkopi Support Unit
Lieutenant Colonel G C G R Stone	Commanding Officer ATR Grantham
Lieutenant Colonel D W N Bevan	Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales
Lieutenant Colonel N Mott MBE	Staff Quartermaster ITC Catterick
Major H G C Bettinson	Chief of Staff, Equipment Directorate, Army Headquarters
Major J D Salusbury	SO2 Army Plans, Army HQ
Major CT Sargent MBE	Academy Adjutant RMAS
Major M L Lewis	SO2 Plans Adjutant General
Major T A Smith	SO2 G7 Trg, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div
Major T A H Eastman	Second in Command 1IG
Major E N Launders	Operations Directorate, MOD
Major H S Llewelyn-Usher	MOD A Block
Major S C Broughton	SO2 ROW Plans PJHQ
Major J D Livesey	SO2 Ops Directorate MOD
Major T C S Spencer Smith	ICSC(L)
Major N R K Moukarzel	SO2 Military Strategic Plans, MOD
Major A F Bowen	Desk Officer (S) PPD, Programme Development DIO
Capt CS N Fenton	Force Troops Command G3 Plans
Captain G C Charles-Jones	British Advisory Training Team Jordan
Captain J M Young	Instructor Infantry Battle School
Captain J Marsden	ADC to Major General B J Bathurst
Captain A Major	Extra Regimental Duty
Captain T Hutton	Extra Regimental Duty
Captain M Pollard	RCMO 1IG
Captain A Plewa	2IC 160 (Wales) Permanent Recovery Unit
Captain F Lloyd George	Assistant Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales
Lieutenant J O Dinwiddie	Pathfinder Platoon

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Lieutenant A W Budge	Platoon Commander
Lieutenant A J N Smith	Platoon Commander

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF AS OF 1 JANUARY 2015

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	25028703 WO2	SJ	Boika
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REGIMENTAL BAND

Band Sergeant Major	24710515 WO2	K	Bailey
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1ST BATTALION

Regimental Sergeant Major	25014288 WO1	M	Topps
Regimental Quartermasters Sergeant (Mcint)	25026698 WO2	P	Dunn
Regimental Quartermasters Sergeant (Tech)	24921250 WO2	E	Griffiths
Drill Sergeant	25040205 WO2	C	Williams
CSM The Prince of Wales's Company	25067519 WO2	M	Parry
CSM Number Two Company	25044310 WO2	D	Morgan
CSM Number Three Company	25096596 WO2	A	Griffiths
CSM Headquarter Company	25038700 WO2	M	Parry
CSM Support Company	25007191 WO2	SG	Bowen
CSM in Musketry	25036627 WO2	G	Williams
Drum Major	24887289 CSgt	S	de-Witt
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer	25048992 CSgt	G	Lias

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Garrison Sergeant Major London District	24520588 WO1	WDG	Mott OBE MVO
RSM Honourable Artillery Company	25015807 WO1	LM	Ryan
RSM London's	24842827 WO1	JJ	Jones
RSM Taylor SO3 Military Ceremonial Advisor Jordon	25050230 WO1	CA	Taylor
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	25061898 WO2	M	Ridgeway-Buckley
Drill Sergeant ATC Pirbright	25066690 WO2	A	Davies

LONG SERVICE LIST

ACIO Wrexham	24623898 WO2	RJ	Brace
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HONOURS AND AWARDS

GOC's COMMENDATION (LONDON DISTRICT)

Major H. Llewellyn Usher

Colour Sergeant Evans 62

Lance Sergeant Buller

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

WO2 (CSM) Griffiths 92

Staff Sergeant Campbell AGC

Staff Sergeant Leng RAAPTC

Sergeant Wilks

Lance Sergeant Davies 44



CADET FORCES (ACF)

Dyfed and Glamorgan ACF

Reservist Centre, Heol West Plas, Litchard, Bridgend, CF31 1PA

Tel: 01656 657593

Maj Steven John

G COY

Aberaeron

Aberystwyth

Cardigan

Lampeter

Newcastle Emlyn

Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF

Kinmel Park Camp, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 5TY

Tel: 01745 583794

Maj Bernie Pagent

Bradley Platoon

Gwent and Powys Band ACF

HQ Training Camp, Cwrt-y-Gollen, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1TH

Tel: Mil 94354 3233

Tel: 01873 813233

Maj Derek Munro

Royal County of Berkshire ACF

Anson Block, Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 1HW

Tel: 01189 575126

Maj DM Laden

5 PI Maidenhead

COMBINED CADET FORCES (CCF)

Treorchy School CCF

Treorchy School, Pencelli, Treorchy, CF42 2YE

Tel: 01443 773128

Maj Nick Woodhouse (SSI)

The Oratory School CCF

The Oratory School, Woodcote, Near Reading, South Oxfordshire RD8 0PJ

Tel: 01491 683591

Maj Nevil Topham (SSI)

BATTALION TRAINING



Lt Dinwiddie provides a battle picture to the company during a battlefield tour of Tumbledown.

FALKLAND ISLANDS ROULEMENT INFANTRY COMPANY

Major AJ Salusbury

Following a busy summer during which the battalion trooped its colour, No 2 Coy deployed in mid-December 2013 to the Falkland Islands. More accurately, No 2 Coy deployed as a 'Company Group' with an additional platoon from the Jam Boys (2 Platoon) on strength, as well as a support weapons complement in the form of a section of mortars and recce.

Taking over from The Queen's Company 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards as the Roulement Infantry Company, the company would be in the South Atlantic for 2 months providing the main land element of British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI). Based out of Mount Pleasant, the company provided an element

of reassurance to the local population through presence patrols and made maximum use of the unique training opportunities available to infantry companies based in the South Atlantic. However, if all the company had only achieved patrols of the islands and live firing at Onion Ranges (a large, almost mountainous,



The Memorial at Fitzroy.



Elements of the company with the commanding officer atop Mount Tumbledown

expanse in the middle of East Falkland which offers unique freedom to conduct live fire tactical training), the experience for most would have been somewhat bland.

Tremendous opportunities also abounded for adventurous training, battlefield tours, wildlife spotting and, for those that way inclined, fishing.

It was the second time that a company from the battalion had deployed to the islands since 1982. It was therefore an important and stirring deployment as the regiment's links with the islands remain so remarkably strong. We were reminded of this at almost every turn, particularly on the many visits we made to Fitzroy where the company could not have received a warmer reception. We were also

extremely fortunate to be on the islands when several former Welsh guardsmen were visiting, including Lt Col Tony Davies OBE who had returned to Stanley to renew his wedding vows. We also had the pleasure of hosting Ken and Steve Chappell at Onion Ranges. Ken had served in the Prince of Wales's Company during Operation CORPORATE and Steve had joined the battalion after the campaign. It was Ken's first visit back to the islands and it was an honour for the company to meet the brothers. The company also took part in several memorial services, most notably at the memorial at Fitzroy.

The company arrived at an awkward time of year. Completing short term deployments to the islands is peculiar to the infantry. The other force elements

(particularly the RAF) complete much longer deployments and so when Christmas and New Year come they enjoy some well deserved down time. Confronted with endless 'Closed for Christmas' signs, the company initially made the most out of opportunities for battlefield tours of Tumbledown, Goose Green and Mount Longdon early on.

These set the tone for the rest of the deployment and made the company keenly aware of the remarkable stoicism of our forebears in 1982. The festive season also proved to be an ideal time to engage with the population of the islands, and the company enjoyed the opportunity to do so particularly in Stanley. Although the weather was often bitterly cold compared with the average UK winter, we had arrived in summer

(although many still required considerable persuading that this was the case) so the more robust elements of the company tried their hands at kayaking and mountain biking. The fishing fraternity, led enthusiastically by the second-in-command Lt Birrell, habitually disappeared off for suspiciously long periods. Needless to say, the ranks of the fishing fraternity swelled as the deployment wore on.

Once the company had successfully ridden the wave of Christmas and New Year celebrations Falklands style, we were into the thick of exploiting the rare opportunities for live fire tactical training. The standing commitment of reassuring of the local population through patrols endured throughout the deployment. However, with a beady eye on the company's eventual deployment to Kenya in autumn 2014, when not on patrols we gained most from

“Although the weather was often bitterly cold compared with the average UK winter, we had arrived in summer.”

superb platoon and company level training at Onion Ranges. Platoon commanders were therefore given the opportunity to plan ranges from scratch with the forward leaning support of an extremely experienced range safety officer in the form of Maj Marvin Clarke, himself a former member of the Falklands Islands Defence Force. The platoon commanders admirably rose to the challenge and the company's collective ability to manoeuvre on the battlespace developed superbly, whilst the weekly tab back from Onion Ranges gradually underpinned the robustness that would be needed during the company's final exercise, Exercise CAPE BAYONET.

Exercise CAPE BAYONET was a final opportunity to test ourselves as a company in the skills that had been developed during the preceding 6 weeks. It was a conventional exercise which practised the company in the attack and in defence and lasted 6 days. Beyond the threat of having a thinking enemy found from elements of the Mortar Platoon, the extremely difficult ground and changeable weather posed their own challenges.

We were lucky to benefit from the enthusiastic support of BFSAI's Typhoon flight. Not only did the flight considerably enhance the realism of the exercise by flying mock strafing and bombing runs (carefully coordinated with battlefield simulations – pyrotechnics – on the ground), HQ BFSAI even provided their SO2 Air to role-play as a downed airman for a recce patrol serial. A high point in Army / RAF relations if ever there was one, the exercise was a fitting yet gruelling



LCpl Campbell 90 contemplates his next move during Ex CAPE BAYONET. Note the guardsman in the background: MTP proved to be a very effective camouflage in the South Atlantic

culmination of what had been a busy and varied few weeks.

The Men of the Island of the Mighty returned in mid February to the UK. With the other companies having borne the brunt of the battalion's allocation of public duties during our deployment, our return was keenly anticipated and we found ourselves back on the forecourt all too quickly following the Major General's inspection. The hard work put into the deployment by all ranks in the company had made it an exceptional success. Beyond being a fantastic opportunity simply to deploy abroad as a company, the peculiar challenges of the environment, which became particularly apparent during Exercise CAPE BAYONET, helped young guardsmen understand just how far they could be pushed. Those same guardsmen gained exponentially in confidence when they successfully

stepped up to the mark and a disproportionate number of them now find themselves as lance corporals in the company. The Company is indebted to the people of the

Falkland Islands for the warm welcome we received and grateful to the elements of Battalion Headquarters who deployed in support of Ex CAPE BAYONET.

“The hard work put into the deployment by all ranks in the company had made it an exceptional success.”



Fire support during attacks on Ex CAPE BAYONET.

Exercise ASKARI STORM
Major J W Aldridge



The Prince of Wales's Company command team enjoying the Kenyan weather.

Undoubtedly the most significant event for the Battalion in 2014 was its deployment on Exercise ASKARI STORM (Ex AS), in Kenya. Ex AS is programmed to run six times per year, and is the pre-eminent exercise in any light infantry battalion's three-year training cycle and for the Battalion awarded its Collective Training Level 3 Competency.

Successful battalions are awarded Collective Training Competence Level 3 (CTC3), which assesses sub-units' competence within a combined arms battle group context. In plain(er) English, this means that the rifle companies are deemed capable of operating together, under command of the battalion HQ, working with integral battalion assets such as support weapons, and integrating other capabilities such as artillery and engineers.

Before the Battalion even deployed to Kenya there were two significant challenges. The first of these was to actually form the Battle Group, which meant nearly doubling in size in terms of manpower. Readers familiar with the Army 2020 structure of a light infantry battalion will know that rifle companies now consist of two rifle platoons and a machine gun platoon; the third rifle platoon required to make up the warfighting establishment



One of the camps in OD. The attached arms were impressed by how straight the lines of ponchos were...!

has to come from elsewhere, and for this exercise we were lucky to have a platoon each from 2 RIFLES (POW's Coy), 3 PARA (2 Coy) and the Public Duties Incremental Companies (3 Coy). We were also reinforced by Army Reservists from 3 R WELSH, and supported by elements from numerous other units, including L Bty 1 RHA, 105 Regt RA, 21 Engr Regt, and 3 CSLR.

The second major challenge was reaching the required start state in terms of training standard. Having been heavily committed to ceremonial duties in the first half of the year, the 'green' soldiering skills were a little rusty, so all the companies found themselves squeezing ranges and low-level exercises into the programme between the Birthday Parade and summer leave. Over the same period BG HQ was undergoing training, culminating in an assessment by Combined Arms Staff Training (CAST). This meant that the build-up to deployment continued to be exceptionally busy, but of course with everyone putting in the effort required the Battalion was able to take summer leave having met the start standards required for Ex AS.

So, in early September the Battalion, reinforced by manpower from about 20 different units, deployed over the course of a week to Nanyuki, about three hours north of Nairobi, in the foothills of Mount Kenya. One of the many reasons the Army has chosen to train its infantry in Kenya is because of the challenging nature of the environment. As Commander BATUK (British Army Training Unit Kenya) commented, there is enough to test a BG before they even throw in the enemy!

And the deployment certainly had its fair share of challenges, from delayed flights to broken equipment, the most significant of which meant that the cryptographic 'fill' to enable the Bowman radios couldn't be generated until two weeks into the exercise.

At this stage it's worth explaining the outline of the exercise, which consists of three principal phases: ASKARI WARRIOR, ASKARI CENTURION and ASKARI SPARTAN. The first phase, WARRIOR, is the opportunity to get used to the environment, and hone everyone's skills prior to being tested, as it is run by the BG, with very little input from BATUK. It also provides an opportunity to conduct plenty of live firing. CENTURION is a week-long phase consisting of three 48-hour rotations, through Offensive, Defensive and Enabling actions. It is run by BATUK, and the three rifle company groups are tested individually. SPARTAN is the culmination of all the training, with the whole BG deploying for a week-long test exercise.

Throughout the CENTURION and SPARTAN phases the enemy was provided from 1 IG. The intelligence briefings we received declared that the enemy force was led by the notorious Major Dudu, whose key weaknesses were cheap rum and oriental women...

As part of the exercise simulation, all 'players' in the exercise were fitted with the Deployable Tactical Engagement System (DTES). The primary function of DTES is to simulate effective fire; all weapons are fitted with a laser, and all players wear sensors, so that accurate (or indeed unfortunate) shots will cause simulated casualties, whether to the enemy, civilians or own troops.

For the WARRIOR phase the three rifle company groups deployed two hours north-west of Nanyuki to OI Doinyo Lemboro (ODL). Makeshift camps were established, with luxuries including field kitchens and field showers, which offered the ability to get into some kind of routine for the week or so they were occupied.

The main aim of WARRIOR was to complete a live firing progression to get everyone up to platoon-level attacks. One or two junior officers from each company had deployed with the advance party, and they worked hard to set up some imaginative and challenging ranges, from individual CQB and grenade ranges up to a winding platoon attack range. Just like on D Range in Sennybridge, the DS solution was to make best use of the river running down the range. Unlike D Range in Sennybridge though, this river was over 6ft deep in places, and several keen individuals got completely submerged! During this time Sp Coy elements were also hard at work. The anti-tank sections were grouped with the rifle companies in ODL, with the remainder training independently in Archer's Post. The snipers spent the first week conducting section and platoon ranges with the recce platoon before moving of to conduct some very impressive sniper ranges, angled shooting, long range shooting out to 1600m and some sweat-inducing contact drills. The Mortar PI initially conducted some excellent section level CQB ranges alongside the recce platoon, before focusing on the business of Mortaring.

The CENTURION phase was conducted in Archer's Post Training Area (APTA). APTA is about four hours north-east of

Nanyuki, and differs from the other areas significantly. It is 1000m lower (800m above sea level), and consequently about 10°C hotter. It is also much drier, and relatively barren, and it is generally very flat, but with striking rocky high features dotted around the area.

Throughout CENTURION the Sp Coy elements were grouped with the rifle companies, adding considerably to their capabilities. The Recce and Snipers as ever were inseparable, with elements of each grouped into the rifle companies. The MFC teams disappeared to their respective companies and integrated with the Royal Artillery Fire Support Teams, also with the rifle company groups.

The offensive part of CENTURION was a company-level Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX), including live mortar and artillery support. The principal challenge other than tackling the figure 11 targets themselves was the heat, exacerbated by wearing body armour, and all companies took a share of heat casualties during this phase. However, live firing at this level, with combined arms support, is a rare opportunity, and proved a great experience for all companies.

The Enabling part was a mixture of challenges, based primarily on the protection of a logistic convoy along a 25km route. The companies had to be imaginative and flexible with their ORBATs and vehicle loading plans, and tests along the way included fighting off harassing attacks, obstacle



A fire support group from 3 Coy during the CALFEX, with typical APTA terrain in the background

crossing, engagement with civilians and a deliberate attack. It culminated with a cordon and strike operation to arrest a particular individual, and, in a neat demonstration of how each company progressed throughout the phase, the first time he escaped, the second time he was killed, and the third time he was successfully arrested!

The aim of the Defensive part was to hold God's Bridge, a natural drift forming the only crossing point along a river, which the enemy would obviously be keen to capture! It offered an opportunity to exercise a skill that many had not practised since training. Although the trenches were pre-dug, there was plenty of work to be undertaken with the building up of defences and laying of obstacles. The Fire Support Teams were critical in this phase, allowing us to bring significant indirect fire support down on the enemy. Many lessons were learned here, perhaps the most important being just how crafty the enemy would always be. In return, we would also have to

be crafty, and each company had the opportunity to be creative with the laydown and employment of their forces. Most of the time though, perhaps inevitably, it would come down to individuals using their initiative to save the day, such as Sgt Cunningham (3 Coy) stating "I'm going rogue" to lead what his company commanded describes as a magnificent rearguard charge to secure the bridgehead! Some used their initiative in other ways – one Jamboy hid in his trench for 40 mins before reappearing, by which time his platoon had withdrawn and the enemy had moved off!

Each rotation concluded with an After-Action Review (AAR), led by impartial observers who followed each company. The AARs provided an open forum, in which good and bad points could be highlighted and discussed. One of the great aids to this was DTES, which, as well as providing information on who killed who, tracks every individual through GPS, so that the layout of all the players can be seen at any moment; this can prove rather

"Unlike D Range in Sennybridge though, this river was over 6ft deep in places, and several keen individuals got completely submerged!"



The view from the first enemy hill, looking back down the valley towards Buruagai, with the Dragon's Back ridge on the right of the picture

enlightening! Overall the CENTURION phase saw all three rifle company groups improve demonstrably, learning important lessons from their experiences, which is the whole reason for being there.

For the final phase – SPARTAN – we moved back down to Nanyuki, onto an area called Ole Naishu. This is a game reserve, with lush vegetation and a plethora of wildlife. The terrain is dominated by a mountainous ridgeline (the Dragon's Back) running north-south, effectively splitting the area into two halves. The phase

started with BG orders in Laikipia Airbase, followed by deployment of the BG to Ole Naishu which was an operation in its own right. The outline for the phase was an initial clearance of the enemy, before going into a defensive position to defeat the enemy reinforcement, which would be followed by a deliberate attack to defeat the enemy remnants.

Up until the time the BG deployed on SPARTAN we had been exceptionally fortunate with the weather, having had barely a drop of rain. But now we were on the verge of the

Kenyan wet season, and on a couple of occasions the heavens opened. When it did rain, it was incredibly heavy, and almost without warning. The other climatic change from APTA was in the temperature – having become acclimatised to the searing heat up north, it was noticeably cooler in the day, and positively chilly at night.

The wildlife certainly added to the experience. Lt Adam Smith reports that in their defensive position it was not the enemy that instilled fear into the hearts of the Gdsm... during the first night in the trenches while on stag LSgt Langley was awoken by Gdsm Lamb, "Sgt Langley, it's circling us what should I do?". In his sleepy haze he pressed Gdsm Lamb for further details, and as Gdsm Lamb whispered what he was seeing, LSgt Langley could hear the footsteps on the edge of the trench. It was a hyena obviously attracted by the smell of rotting that it evidently thought was dead dinner and turned out to be Welsh Guardsmen. Langley instructed

Lamb to throw stuff at it to scare it off but all that was at hand was AAA batteries and although thrown with force did not deter the circling animal. After a long staring match and a pack of batteries the Hyena eventually slunk into the night towards the PI Comd's trench. LSgt Langley and Gdsm Lamb, relieved that it had left, didn't deem it necessary to warn the PI Comd of the impending danger, apparently feeling that a PI Comd was an acceptable sacrifice for their safety. There were several similar stories in other companies, and Gdsm Whiles (POW's Coy) even reported that he was being stalked by a tiger...! The elephants proved just as menacing, especially for the reconnaissance platoon. The Recce PI Comd's first report back had nothing to do with the enemy, but was a running (no pun intended...) commentary on his escape from a herd of charging elephants!

The initial clearance of the enemy was conducted with 3 Coy taking one side of the Dragon's Back and 2 Coy the other, with POW's Coy as reserve. The Recce PI was pushed out early and managed to identify the enemy positions. Unsurprisingly there was a feeling that the Micks might be up to their old tricks, so the platoon initially kept their distance, but quickly realised that the Irish Guards were sticking to the 'rules', so quickly advanced into the defensive positions and set a watertight seal to the north of the positions. The first day ended with two enemy positions destroyed, and conditions set for a hasty strike into the village of Buruagai the next morning. Following the successful destruction of the enemy around the village, the BG then



The wildlife adding even more spice to the exercise

transitioned into a defensive posture, with POW's Coy and 3 Coy forward, and 2 Coy in reserve, but with the tricky task of having to deal with the local population in Buruagai. This included some impromptu public order incidents to keep the men of the island of the mighty on their toes!

The SPARTAN defensive phase required even more work than that on CENTURION, as this time the trenches had to be dug from scratch. Luckily there was some mechanical assistance available, which helped enormously, but it was still a tough 36 hours to get all the positions prepared to Stage 3, well camouflaged, with obstacles and dummy positions also constructed. All the hard work paid off as the BG defeated ever-stronger waves of attack from the enemy over the following two days, which included the use of chemical agents.

BG HQ had been concurrently planning the next move, and conditions were now set for the final deliberate attack. The BG moved 12km north through the night, which included a deliberate obstacle crossing involving the deployment of two bridges. The enemy company had spread its three platoons out, each one on a hill which could be seen from the other two. The attack was launched an hour before dawn, with POW's Coy taking the first objective in the dark, 2 Coy taking the second as day broke, and 3 Coy wrapping up the final position. The casualty toll

was high, as it had been throughout the exercise, with 2Lt Jack Farmelo (3 Coy) likening his charge up the final hill to something he would have expected in the First World War! However, as he put it, the mission was accomplished, and the war was won.

The return from the exercise area back to Laikipia Airbase obviously involved a huge amount of administrative and logistic effort, but following the end of the SPARTAN phase most members of the BG not involved in the stores and equipment world were able to undertake some adventurous training. The activities on offer included sub-aqua diving on the coast near Mombasa, kayaking with Savage Wilderness, mountain biking with Rift Valley and climbing up Mount Kenya. There was also time for some R&R - the platoon from 3 PARA even held a birthday party for one of their NCOs complete with a Parachute Regiment cake, Musical Chairs, Pass the Parcel and a DJ; an unparalleled feat of organization by the platoon sergeant.

Overall Exercise ASKARI STORM was a fantastic experience for the battalion. We demonstrated the ability to quickly switch from a ceremonial focus to an operational focus, integrated a vast array of reinforcements and attachments, deployed into a testing environment, and achieved CTC 3, having learned a huge amount on the way.

“The wildlife certainly added to the experience. Lt Adam Smith reports that in their defensive position it was not the enemy that instilled fear into the hearts of the Gdsm.”

CANADA VALIDATION TEAM

D/Sgt Williams 205

With little information aside from “The Canadians are coming to London to conduct Queen’s Guard” - we deployed to Canada on the 16th June. The team included CSgt Hughes 87, LSgt Owen 84 and myself. The weeks leading up to this point were as you may imagine: manic. Manning was certainly tight in June: the Queen’s Birthday Parade saw the Battalion street lining and seemingly all miscellaneous tasks fell our way.

In good old Welsh Guards fashion we delivered! On asking the Garrison Sergeant Major for advice when dealing with the Canadians his reply was nice but worrying, “You go and enjoy yourself. You’ll be alright!!”

So we departed with Air Canada to Quebec to validate the Royal 22 Regiment (Von doos). We arrived first in Montreal airport before our connecting flight to Quebec. As we walked to the plane I saw the look of dread on CSgt Hughes with the remark of “Oh no its grass cutter airlines!” The aeroplane looked more like a crop spreader than a commercial flight. But I am glad to say that we arrived safely at our final destination in Quebec a little bit tired but relieved we were still alive!

We had a welcome party from the Von doos at the airport who took us down to the Citadel. The Quebec Citadel is their version of the Tower of London but with less history.

In the morning we set off on a 50 min journey out of Quebec to the Camp of the Von doos. It was a huge camp accommodating the French speaking brigade of the Canadian Army. We were met by the Coy Comd and the CSM who asked us if we had a programme for them. I noticed the relief in their faces when I said we had come to work

around them. I was immediately struck that they looked smart - different but still smart - and in need of some Welsh Guards magic.

The routine for the next 7 days was hectic: the day commenced at 0515hrs with early transport to camp, PT commenced at 0700hrs, then a Muster Parade at 0900hrs before Drill throughout the remainder of the day. The facilities on camp were outstanding: an Olympic size pool, an indoor athletics track and an impressive gym.

Training went well. It was nice to see the eagerness they had. The Canadians were forever asking questions and picking our three brains. They didn’t have a drummer so one of the privates from the Company was tasked with being “the case man” - as they called it. One day during training he stepped off with great confidence then realised after about 20 paces that he was “tick tocking” with everyone laughing. But it all got worse when this individual could not break out of it and carried on with the remainder of the company watching. The Canadians call it ‘Bear walking’, it was a remainder that infantry men no matter what nationality have the same humour.

On Thursday night we got invited to the Warrant Officers

and Sergeants Mess as they dined out their old Commanding Officer. The three of us were in awe: the Mess was impressively built into the wall of the Citadel. Additionally, the roof terrace overlooked the St Lawrence River. At that moment, looking around, I was definitely glad that I had listened to Frank from the old Army adverts back in the day - LSgt Owen was happy we didn't have to pay for the beer! Dinner was called and we sat down to enjoy food from heaven.

As the RSM and the Commanding Officers' speeches were obviously in French I found myself observing the body language and eyes of all the mess members. I didn't have a clue what they were saying but understood the context of both speeches. It was a humbling experience that the team will never forget. At the end of this speech the Commanding Officer broke into English to thank us for our contribution and expertise in helping them prepare for Queen's Guard. We all received a Regimental Coin that celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the Regiment. Another similarity to the Welsh Guards with our 100th anniversary next year.

After Saturday's drill session I explained to the Company Commander and CSM once again that I was more than happy with the standard and that I see them performing well in the Buckingham Palace forecourt as the Queen's Guard. So that was the end of

the drill session and we had a couple of days to explore Quebec.

I told CSgt Hughes and LSgt Owen that we should do something 'touristy' that we would remember. So we were persuaded by LSgt Owen - as he continues to have fond memories of Cowboys and Indians from childhood - to visit an Indian village for a guided tour. So, after paying a large sum of money, we attended the village show. Once we arrived it all went wrong! First of all, we waited over 15 minutes at reception with a severe communication problem - and it wasn't that no one spoke Welsh!! Then a lady came with broken English to escort us around the village but was unable to actually tell us anything. Finally, the Chief came out in a tracksuit and a couple of feathers on his head and the three of us looked at each other and thought 'Oh No, what have we done'.

To summarise it was good to see another Infantry Regiment from another nation do its daily work. It reminded me that no matter what language we speak we have a lot in common - camaraderie for one. I wished them all the best and with friendship bonds started looking forward to seeing them on the forecourt. On our flight back I was confident that the GSM would be happy when the Vondoo's got on the heal on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. But inevitably there would be a couple of points...

"The Chief came out in a tracksuit and a couple of feathers on his head and the three of us looked at each other and thought 'Oh No, what have we done.'"

EXERCISE MAYAN WARRIOR - A COMPANY COMMANDER'S VIEW

Major TJ Badham

In the Spring of 2014 Number 3 Company participated as exercising troops on Exercise Mayan Warrior. This was to be an expeditionary, battalion run training exercise in Belize designed to not only test the Company but also prove that units still have the ability to plan and conduct their own organic training.

It was with gusto therefore that a large proportion of the battalion deployed; eager to prove that we could plan and execute the whole package with little assistance. This was no small undertaking: since 2011 Belize has been placed in suspended animation with only a small (but very helpful) staff manning essential services. The result of this was that the battalion second in command and his team had to recce all the areas, plan and provide the majority of the logistics and execute the training once Number 3 Company arrived largely on their own.

From a Company Commander's perspective then this training came at an interesting time. It followed a protracted and demanding period of State Ceremonial and a complete changeover of Company staff in the month preceding. Although to some this may appear ostensibly a disadvantage in fact it meant we had a team extremely keen to get back into green soldiering. To the Guardsmen it offered an exciting break from London and the opportunity for many to travel to a country few had been to before. In addition the Company had one platoon from the Prince of Wales's Company attached to us under Lieutenant Josh Webster and redoubtable Sergeant Quamari.

In order to get to Belize the company was split between various civilian and military flights. The lucky ones went via Miami with British Airways, the less lucky via Nova Scotia with the RAF. Those that smelled the West Coast breeze got a taste of South Beach and within a week we were consolidated in Price Barracks (formerly Airport Camp) just outside Belize City.

With little ado we undertook a short period of acclimatization before deploying to Manatee Training Area and a harbour area prepared, and effectively carved out of the secondary jungle by Captain Alex Major and, by that point, a rather indigenous looking WO2 Griffiths 50; part Welsh, part Mayan, after living in the jungle for nearly three weeks! What the training team had achieved by this point was impressive. Manatee is a mixture of thick secondary jungle and open savannah. It had been chosen for this training largely due to the real time MEDEVAC constraints. With no permanent Army Air Corps Flight based in Belize our training had to be conducted a manageable distance from Belize City. Manatee is an excellent training area, of that there is no doubt. But by staying there we sadly did not have the opportunity to train in the dense primary jungle that is perhaps more ordinarily associated with Belize. This will



Live firing contact drills in the jungle: Belize 2014

perhaps be an opportunity that will be afforded to later units training there now that it looks likely to open up again as a regular training area. Notwithstanding this the first part of our package was to be conducted in the secondary jungle and in order to achieve this a very large area within the trees had had to be cleared. This was all done by hand by the Locally Employed Civilians (LECs), a cheerful and hardy bunch of local farmers and WO2 Griffiths 50.

The training that we undertook was a progressive package designed to take us from London District back into the 'green fold'. The Guardsmen learnt how to survive in the local area, spending an itchy and uncomfortable night in homemade shelters and foraging for food. This was

followed by a round robin of patrolling, navigation and reconnaissance tasks. As an expeditionary exercise we deployed with little ISTAR. A premium was therefore placed on recce patrols, close target recces and observation posts. This back to basics approach forced us to concentrate on finding information and processing this into actionable intelligence. We were ably helped by two patrols from the Recce Platoon who were an invaluable asset. This period was a challenge for a number of reasons. The terrain was inhospitable and the daytime temperatures would often reach 30 degrees plus. Heat, as

always, was a significant factor. We rapidly learnt to scale down our equipment. 'Fight Light' very much became our mantra with soldiers carrying only what they absolutely required: ammunition, water, communications and very little else. This of course tested our logistics team with Company Quartermaster Sergeant Lewis and his team working hard to ensure that we were resupplied quickly but always within a realistic operational context.

After 17 straight days in the jungle the Company rebalanced at F echelon prior to deploying for the final

exercise. These first 17 days were invaluable. Not only did the personal skills of the guardsmen improve daily but also our tolerance for the uncomfortable and understanding of the terrain grew immeasurably. Guardsmen were comfortable sleeping on the ground when called upon to do so (which was frequently), they understood when to move and at what speed, and most importantly they knew each others' strengths. State Ceremonial has many positive effects on our soldiers but it is an often disjointed activity with the company spread between different locations.

"The Guardsmen learnt how to survive in the local area, spending an itchy and uncomfortable night in homemade shelters and foraging for food."

The cohesive effect of living, eating and working within a very constrained environment should not be underestimated.

The final phase of the exercise consisted of a seven-day test phase conducted largely in the savannah of the training area. The Company conducted an Advance to Contact on day one, pushing the OPFOR to the north east of the training area. This was our first real shake out as a group and the Iron Men did well. After three weeks acclimatisation we experienced very few issues with the heat. As always there were areas that challenged us. Communications in this environment were intermittent and the Regimental Signals Detachment Commander Lance Sergeant Millins was a busy man. Company Sergeant Major Griffiths and the Company Quartermaster Sergeant were equally frenetic; ensuring that we had what we needed when we needed it and synchronising this with the overall plan. The next five days saw the establishment of a platoon defensive area. It was a rare opportunity to be able to dig in and a useful reminder of what this entailed. Concurrently the remainder focused on finding the enemy. The final attack was then conducted on a formidable enemy location. This led to a challenging mid morning

attack where the Iron Men shined.

Post the exercise the Company then cycled through a 24 hour adventure pursuits activity day at Caye Caulker, an amazing Caribbean island just west of Belize City. This was a well-deserved break for both the exercising troops but also the training team. Major Julian Salusbury, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Dunn and their teams deserve significant praise for both the exercise and facilitating this adventure pursuits package at the end of the exercise.

Ex Mayan Warrior was from a Company Commander's perspective an outstanding serial. This was a Welsh Guards run CT 2 exercise in an interesting and varied environment. It had its challenges: not only the environment but also mounting an exercise like this on the back on a busy public duties schedule is no mean feat. However we, and the battalion, proved that this can still be done and done well. It will set us up well for Kenya in the Autumn but I believe more importantly gave the Iron Men a reminder of why they joined the infantry and what a diverse life we lead in the Footguards, switching from the forecourt to the jungle in a matter of days in some cases.

“It had its challenges: not only the environment but also mounting an exercise like this on the back on a busy public duties schedule is no mean feat.”

EX MAYAN WARRIOR FROM A PLATOON SERGEANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Sergeant Evans 31

The Close Country Tropical Environment (CCTE) is a daunting prospect to anyone who has never operated there before. The conditions you will encounter in the CCTE are adverse and can be moral sapping: it is hot, wet and very humid.

The jungle feels as if it is in a state of permanent semi-twilight, even at midday gloomy and dark in its creeks and narrow valleys. Operating there is a permanently uncomfortable experience, whether through rain and sweat, or because of the stifling windless heat, dirty clothes, heavy loads and ever-tired limbs.

As an infantry soldier these are extremely difficult surroundings to operate in. Individuals are expected to carry loads in excess of 100lbs. The weight of the loads is principally owing to challenging resupply issues within the jungle. There are sound tactical reasons for reducing the number of resupplies. Foremost it allows you to blend in to your environment but also the close proximity of your surroundings make it incredibly difficult for the G4 chain to move to you without creating obvious ground-sign; a key indicator of your location in this environment. The fallout of this is that one must carry whatever kit is required for the amount of time you are deployed on the ground.

Exercise Mayan Warrior offered a mixed environment of both secondary jungle and also open savannah. This added a complexity to the exercise as guardsman and commanders had to think and act in two very different environments using vastly different tactics. The savannah gave the Company Quartermaster Sergeant more

freedom of movement, which enabled us to practise using the G4 chain to forward or back load kit depending on the next operation. This allowed the amount of weight carried by individuals to be managed and this gave our stores team the opportunity to implement and practise the fight light concept.

One of the biggest considerations that commanders on the ground had to manage was the consumption of water. On the ground every man would carry between five and seven litres but this was with limited resupply opportunities. With supply being so difficult it is the job of the patrol commander to pre-plan every tactical halt, going firm in the vicinity of a suitable water source. As we moved more onto the savannah it became easier to utilise the Company Quartermaster Sergeant and his team for fresh water, rather than using streams and purification tablets. Water consumption is an important part of maintaining the combat effectiveness of a soldier as too little could cause heat casualties through dehydration and was, in part, the biggest test for all commanders throughout Exercise Mayan Warrior.

Another consideration was the deterioration of the men's bodies in this environment. Due to being in Belize during the dry season there was very little rain. You might consider it strange that troops would actively want

it to rain, however what comes with the rain is the ability to get rid of any built up salt round the crevasses of your body whilst remaining tactical. This means you don't need to get into a stream to give your self a good scrub down. In the CCTE rain can limit the number of casualties going down with sores rubs and chaffing. Rain also offers relief, even if momentarily, from the sticky heat that one encounters in the jungle.

The flora and fauna is one of the biggest concerns of anybody entering a tropical environment. Many of the guardsmen have never left Britain before and to then be flown half way around the world to operate in the same surroundings as some of the most venomous snakes in the world was a huge personal challenge for some. You could see a marked change in people during their time in the jungle. What at first would have terrified them, snakes and spiders especially, eventually became almost mundane and routine sights. There were those that at the start of the exercise suffered badly from the fear of the fauna, the worst case I came across was a guardsman refusing to take a knee because he couldn't see what was under the foliage. However, as the exercise progressed this fear disappeared. This was probably

helped by the realisation that actually not everything in the jungle wants to bite or kill you!

Another important lesson this environment taught was the importance of maintaining morale. Commanders had to be alert throughout to how their team was dealing with the strain of the CCTE. In the jungle there are times where your men have periods of down time and this is where people will disappear into their shell and can slide into depression.

Moreover communication within the jungle is done through hand signals, only muttering words in to the ear of your comrade under your breath if you must. This is where the junior commanders need to encourage administration collectively in fire team groups (when not tactical) as at times the jungle can be a very lonely and isolated place to be.

From the most junior guardsman all the way up to the senior commander on the ground, Exercise Mayan Warrior was a success. Every man learnt new skills and was tested to their limits. All those who completed the exercise will now tell you that they are a better infanteer after it because the jungle takes you right back to basics of soldiering and builds on the foundations that you already have in very hard and demanding surroundings.

EXERCISE COCKNEY-WELSH EDGE

Lieutenant AJN Smith

Once again, 2014 saw members of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards descend upon the ski slopes of the French Alps. So on Friday 21st February 2014, under the command of a rather apprehensive Lt Smith, the first 30 members of the Battalion departed Cavalry Barracks for Val Thorens, France.

In total, almost 60 members of the Battalion participated in the trip, with abilities ranging from absolute beginner to

"highly" competent...and of course Padre Harding level. As those first 30 men and women breeched the door of the



Group 2 soak up the sunshine in the French Alps

accommodation, fighting their way out onto the snow, it was clear that we were going to be blessed with good weather... at least for the beginning. Although there was a distinct lack of powder snow for the first few days, there was an abundance of the regular white stuff which offered fantastic learning conditions, consistent and forgiving for those new to the sport,

The three instructors: WO2 Maddox (3 Mercian), WO2 Keenan (RAWO) and the legend that is LSgt Skitt, all did a first-rate job, along with some assistance from CSgt Geen, in getting all those that attended Ex Cockney-Welsh Edge to the required standard to gain Ski Foundation Level 1 (SF1). Even Padre Harding, who was finding the experience of sliding around at a high altitude on his feet rather unnerving, gained credit for his beer ordering abilities.

For two weeks the French Alps were alive with the sound of Welshman showing both the locals and the other tourists how skiing should, or at least can, be done. The group managed to combine hard work and early mornings with a hectic and most enjoyable evening programme.

Each year the Battalion looks to send a ski trip away at a relatively insignificant cost compared to what our civilian counterparts would pay and thanks are due to the continued support from Regimental Headquarters and the Trustees. Those that assisted Lt Smith in the running of Ex Cockney-Welsh Edge must also be thanked; particularly the instructors who did a fantastic job developing the new skiers and CSgt Geen who ran the G4 side of the expedition.

The Battalion can be proud of the success in getting all those involved to SF1. The result is that at next year's trip we will be able to run both SF1 and SF2 training. This will enable us to identify those that have the potential to become instructors or to create a team to send to the infantry skiing competition.

This year's trip was undoubtedly a huge success: not only did the participants gain a quantifiable skiing proficiency but also they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bring on next year, in a new location...Austria.

BATTALION SPORTS

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS RUGBY SEASON 2013-14

Capt Baldwin, Rugby Officer

As the current Army Champions the Regiment once again set its sights on going as far as possible within the tournament. We had many obstacles to overcome during the season, with two of the five companies deploying on overseas exercise.

This however did not deter the spirit within the camp with most first choice players being available at different times throughout the group stages. The draw did not favour our advances with only one home fixture to target. The same old enemies were there for the taking and some hard fought matches played.

We travelled firstly to the Royal Welsh and with some bad refereeing decisions were narrowly defeated. Next we travelled to Scotland to face 1 Scots who had set us up well (not!) with no hot water or heating and limited transport for us to train. This fixture will no doubt fuel the fire for the next campaign on the return match. We now had a mountain to climb to get some results to advance to the quarter final. With this steely determination, we travelled to Northern Ireland to play 1 Riffles who were undefeated to date. This could have been the final with the level of commitment of both sides, with some fantastic rugby

being played. The result went our way and set us up for our final game against 7 RHA. This game was not played due to the weather and 7 RHA not being able to field a team. This was enough for us to advance to the quarter final, where upon were pitched against 17 Port and Maritime.

The quarter final did not sit well with our FOE with the deployment of Number Two Company to the Falklands Islands, and with them 8 key first choice players to which left us with the bare minimum for the game. The game was a blur as far as we were concerned as 17 P&M gave us a rugby lesson and the score reflected that. We did however take lots of positives from that defeat that will no doubt aid in capturing the title next year.

The season however was still a huge success with a number of squad members representing the Army at different levels. Firstly the 1st team (LSgt's Dwyer, George and Hiscock) to which LSgt Dwyer was selected

to captain the side, and what a fantastic result for them. We also had two with the development side (Gdsm Bilton and Smith) to which great expectations are thought of for both. There was also some good news for our youngsters, with four representing the U23's (Lt Tom Evans Gdsm Evans, Groves and Smith) and Smith went on to play for the U23 Combined services at Twickenham. We also had

around 10 members that were present for all Infantry Corps meetings to which at least 6 played each time.

All in all a good season, the main event for us now is to win the title in our Centenary year... no mean feat but with a good squad and some better fixtures (all home game in Pirbright) I can see a record 14th win for the men in green and white.

BATTALION POLO – WIDENING OUR HORIZONS

Capt C J P Davies

Following last year's equivalent of 'dipping our toes' into the world of polo, there was huge enthusiasm for continuing this year where we had left off the previous July. Having got the ball rolling in 2013 the aim this year was to consolidate and to start setting our sights on a victory or two.

A relatively busy Battalion programme of events conspired against an early start to the season with several of our players either deployed to Belize or sent to the ITC at Catterick. This was then followed by a relentless period

of public duties. With the exception of a few visits to Tidworth in May we did not get going in earnest until about mid-June. As part of the intent to introduce new blood to the sport each year the Commanding Officer and



The team after victory against the Royal Dragoon Guards at the Captains' and Subalterns': (from left to right) Capt Chris Fenton, Capt Chris Davies, Lt James Marsden, 2Lt Josh Webster.

"The season however was still a huge success with a number of squad members representing the Army at different levels."

Guardsmen Thomas 35 (currently a groom at RMAS) both attended the 3 day novice course at Tidworth Polo Club.

The main event of the season was the Captains' and Subalterns', the largest weekend tournament in the UK, held at Tidworth Polo Club on 19 and 20 July. While teams such as the Royal Navy and the Household Cavalry fought it out in the top division for the overall spoils our position in Division 4 indicated our inexperience as newcomers to the sport. On day one we came up against RMAS B. A close first two chukkas were undone by a poor third chukka which gave us too much to do in the fourth. We did however secure a victory the following day when we took on the Royal Dragoon Guards, a team fresh from a two week polo camp in Spain. Having identified where we had gone wrong the previous day we were particularly keen to make sure that we did not make the same mistakes against the RDG.

Rather than leave it at that for the season the plan this year was to also play in the Adjutant General's Cup on 31 Aug. Due to its timing in the middle of the summer holidays we were only able to field three Welsh Guards players. This did

however give us the opportunity to ask a good player from the King's Royal Hussars to join us and therefore for us to benefit from playing with a more experienced player. Despite the inclement Bank Holiday Monday weather we managed to put together a win against the Royal Logistic Corps. This put us in the Division II final against the HAC which, after a hard-fought two chukkas, we lost 4-3.

Despite losing a few close matches there was a noticeable step up this year in our ability to compete, indicated by victory in two of the four matches that we played. With our exercise in Kenya taking place over the remainder of the season the focus now turns to next year. In addition to a repeat appearance at the Captains' and Subalterns' and AGC tournaments in 2015 there are also plans afoot to hold a match against 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, possibly on the occasion of the Major General's Cup at Guards Polo. We also intend to send a further two individuals on a novice course at Tidworth Polo Club as well as putting in some practise over the winter period by playing arena polo.

WELSH GUARDS BOXING

The sport of boxing has many similar qualities required of a guardsman. Discipline, strength, fitness, controlled aggression to name but a few.

The Boxing team was selected after the inter company finals night by LCpl Ryan and I to make sure that we had the right start product to enter a team into the London District Championships against 2 PWRR. The fighters then started a 4 week training

programme working on fitness, skill and strength. All the team gave up weekends and free time to ensure that they were prepared for the upcoming bouts.

2 PWRR were a seasoned boxing squad with the majority of the team coming to



Gdsm Williams
WELTERWEIGHT



Gdsm Cann
HEAVYWEIGHT



Gdsm Campbell
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT



Gdsm Hibben
MIDDLEWEIGHT



Gdsm Moriarty
LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT



Gdsm James
LIGHTWEIGHT

the end of they're cards. All the boxers on the night showed hearts of lions to step through the ropes and put themselves against some very good boxers of the PWRR, they ended up winning the competition but the experience we gained from it was something that we took

forward into our next phase.

Our next major muscle move as a team was to be against 26 Engineer regiment down at Swinton Barracks in Andover. For this we had more time to prepare and train and the men were struck off all other duties to enable them to also solely

focus on upcoming fights. The team forward mounted to Maindy barracks and made use of local Gyms in South Wales from Cardiff to Llanelli. One gym in particular was extremely helpful. Premier ABC in Swansea gave us a free run of their facilities even giving us the keys when they were unable to open. Being here also let the men spar against an opponent in the same weight category rather than against each other.

We arrived at Swinton barracks fit, fully prepared and ready to take the fight to 26 ENGRS. However, Gdsm James of Number 3 Company was sick of the taste of lettuce leaves as this was his source of food for 2 days before the fight as he was struggling to make the weight! We completed the weigh in and moved directly to a greasy spoon café so the boxers could eat their own body weight in sausage and bacon - especially Gdsm James!

The venue for the evening was superb with our hosts pulling out all the stops, there was a slight Las Vegas feel to it rather than the full military protocol being in place. The Engineers were at a two win advantage

from the start as we could not fill the two lightest weight categories (there are not many 8 stone Guardsman around not even in 3 Company!) There were wins from Gdsm Moriarty POWs Company, Gdsm James 3 Company, LCpl Campbell 2 Company, Gdsm Cann POWs Company. LCpl Parry of Support Company was unable to attend the training camp as he was on SCBC he finished the course on the Friday and fought on the Wednesday - again testament to the teams commitment. On the night we won four of the seven bouts fought but because of the two weight categories we couldn't fill they were walk overs giving them the points straight away. Although we did lose we counted it as a win !!

The future for Team 1WG looks bright, there is training camp in Malta planned for November and the Army championships in early December. Looking further ahead there is a Black Tie evening charity event planned for November next year at the Marriot Hotel Swansea - fighting against the boxers of the local area.

player to get a hole in two over the two days and pocketed the £90 sweep for his effort. He was the only one smiling on the long drive back to Hounslow.

Since the club has been started we have managed to secure a deal with Chobham GC in Surrey and getting a concessionary fee of £20 per round, this course - which we now call 'home' - is an outstanding course and ideally located ready for our move to Pirbright. We would also like to thank Adrian Wratting of Chobham Golf Club for his support.

The Welsh Guards Association Golf Society - run by Martyn Griffiths - have invited us to

come down and play in their competitions. Due to the summer commitments placed on us within London we have not been able to fully support all events. LSgt Evans 88 and LCpl Howells 28 have been the only two entered into the Armed Forces Golf Day in Cardiff. It would have been nice to have supported more of the Association events.

After Kenya and once our move is completed the Golf Club will be in full flow at Chobham GC and entering as many Army events as possible. With the club being new and being fully backed by the Battalion, we have a bright future and hopefully will win some trophies.

WELSH GUARDS FISHING

SEA FISHING WO2 (RQMS) P.J. Dunn

There has been a huge uptake in Welsh Guardsmen from across the coastal areas of the Principality showing interest in sea fishing – now a recognised Battalion Sport.

Capt Birrell, the Fishing Officer, and RQMS Dunn, his able assistant, and a team of 12 other ranks have conducted our first fishing event fishing at Barry Napp Beach. LCpl Williams-Day was successful in taking first prize with a 8lb conger eel, a good fish for a shore mark. Sgt "Bomber" Hemmings - leading from the front - showed how not to do it by drawing a blank on the first day! After a very successful day and night under the stars we drew breath and headed to Penarth.

The second day we took a boat up the Bristol Channel rolling

the dice for a much bigger catch. Everyone with the exception of Capt Birrell were catching conger eels with the odd flippant comment directed towards Capt Birrell who was casting two rods and blanked the entire day! To conclude the day, Gdsm Harding eventually took the best catch a fish of 25lbs taking the second days' prize.

Anyone interested can contact WO2 (RQMS) Dunn for information on future events, or please apply to join the Welsh Guards Sea fishing Facebook Page.

WELSH GUARDS GOLF

WO1 RSM M Topps

The Welsh Guards Golf club is now up and fully running with WO1 RSM Topps taking the helm. We have 28 people signed up, with a number of them being novices. We have purchased a practice net and hope that the novices will soon be let loose on the course once they can swing a club.

Since April this year we have entered a number of competitions, the first saw us taking third place in the Army South East region championships held at Pine Ridge GC. Shortly after, a team

of three, Sgt Maj, LSgt Jones 11 and LSgt Evans 88 entered into the Infantry Championships held up at Catterick GC. Unfortunately we did not get amongst the prizes, however LSgt Evans 88 was the only



Gdsm Dade of Sp Coy with a Bull Huss



LCpl Davies "Spud" 65 of No 2 Coy with a Smoothound



**1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS
CARP FISHING TEAM**

CSgt (CQMS) D Lewis No 3 Coy

The Battalion Carp Fishing Team has enjoyed getting its feet wet for its first season. They have represented the Battalion on a number of occasions competing against other members of the Armed Forces at the Army Carpers qualifying events.

Those that are available use their Wednesday Sports Afternoon to get their lines wet on the banks of Thorney Weir and The Mets, with most of the team having been successful and increasing the weight of their personal best catches.

The team has recently run an event at Cefn Mably Fishery in Cardiff which five anglers attended. The event was organised as a friendly competition and a chance for

all concerned to get together and learn from each other. All of the anglers who attended managed to catch a number of fish and had a very enjoyable time.

We are happy to help anyone in the Battalion who shows an interest in carp fishing, from an experienced angler to the total novice. As LSgt Morgan 44 found out when on his first ever session managed to catch a Mirror Carp over 20lb.





COURSE FISHING
Sgt Goodall (REME) LAD 1WG

The Army angling federation is split into 7 groups with different catchment areas. The Welsh Guards are located in South East of England and they fall into group 1.

Each year there are 10 qualifying matches and you are required to fish a minimum of 5. Once you have competed in 5 matches or more you then qualify for the Army angling championships. The championships are over a 7 day period and this year it's being held at Decoy Lakes near Peterborough. During the 7 days there will be over 100

anglers competing in the championships.

Thought-out the year there are many other completions taking place including the Land Command individual and pairs competition, this is a Tri service event over 2 days, where Sgt Goodall sadly only come 11th in his section but hope to improve this year.



The Runners Up of the London District Cup

STICKS AND SHINPADS

Lt J W B Webster

This year has seen a strong revival of the Welsh Guards Hockey team, and what a revival it has been. With the appointment of Capt Paul Robinson as the officer in charge of hockey there has been a big push to gain interest in the battalion.

Paul is very well connected in the hockey world and has been able to provide the team with new kit including sticks and smart new shirts. Not only this but he put a hockey mind to a somewhat dishevelled team as he also plays for the Army men's team and is the coach for the Army women's hockey team so has a wealth of knowledge to give.

The team has been extremely mixed due to the Battalion's other commitments. However for the London District the Welsh Guards came joint first with the 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, having beaten both the King's Troop and the London District Headquarter

team. Being runners up in this cup allowed us to qualify for the Army Cup in which we reached the quarter finals having succumbed to the Royal Signals.

There appears to be bright future for the battalion hockey team as there is funding for an overseas tour of Gibraltar in place which will be a great opportunity for pre-season training. There appears to be a promising future for the members of the team with both Lt Evans and Major Spencer-Smith being asked to represent the Infantry and myself getting the opportunity to play for the Infantry in the inter-Corps cup.



Lt Evans showing how a pre match warm up should be done

BATTALION EVENTS



The Mayor, Councillor Alan Adwards accompanied by the Regimental Lt. Col. inspect The Prince of Wales's Company

FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF WREXHAM, 18TH JULY 2014

by Colonel TCS Bonas

The Regiment have long been associated with Wrexham and in 2010, marched through the town on an Afghanistan Home Coming Parade following the 2009 tour. And each year in June Welsh Guards veterans of the Falklands War gather in June to hold a service and march to the Regimental Falklands Memorial in order to lay a Regimental Wreath. But for some reason, the Regiment have not received the Freedom.

The Regiment have long been associated with Wrexham and in 2010, marched through the town on an Afghanistan Home Coming Parade following the 2009 tour. And each year in June Welsh Guards veterans of the Falklands War gather in

June to hold a service and march to the Regimental Falklands Memorial in order to lay a Regimental Wreath. But for some reason, the Regiment have not received the Freedom.

This was fixed on 18th July 2014 when Council members

in an extraordinary meeting held that morning, unanimously voted to offer the Freedom of the Borough to the Regiment and this privilege was duly exercised and celebrated on the same day. At midday, The Prince of Wales's Company including others from the Battalion, as well as the Regimental Band, marched on parade commanded by OC 3 Company Major Tim Badham. Seniors on parade were Captain Ed Birrell, 2Lt Ed Clarke, WO1 (Bandmaster) Bywater, D/Sgt Davis 90, CSM Parry and D/Major Dewit. The Company and the Band were inspected by the Mayor, Councillor Alan Edwards, the Council's Chief Executive, the Vice Lord

"We could not have asked for a better reception and the men really appreciated the length the Council had gone to, to make it such a memorable day."

Lieutenant and the High Sheriff. The inspecting party were accompanied by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General R H Talbot Rice.

Following prayers, speeches and presentations, the Regimental Colour was uncased, a General Salute given and the Company then marched off from the front of the Guildhall, which itself was a perfect setting for the parade. Many locals were present to watch and many turned out to see the Band and Company march through Wrexham. Also on parade were members of the North Wales Band led by their President, Captain Chris Hopkins.

The Mayor and the Council had gone to great lengths to ensure the warmest of welcomes and following the parade, a very generous and lavish buffet lunch was laid on for the Company and attended by the Mayor and Council members as well as other dignitaries. The cold water, wine and beer provided went down very well with all particularly as temperature began to creep up to 30°C.

In conclusion, I believe an excellent day was had by all and an already firm and warm friendship now formally cemented. We could not have asked for a better reception and the men really appreciated the length the Council had gone to, to make it such a memorable day.



THREE SUBALTERNs IN ITALY
By 2Lt JR Farmelo

It seems to me that the summer is most certainly coming to an end. This is the second downpour this week bringing to a close a long summer of what has been a blur of tunics, stamping around the forecourt, twirling swords and long lunches followed by expensive dinners in the St. James' Palace Mess.

I'm sifting through the archives in Regimental HQ in Wellington Barracks, it's my leave and I should be wringing out the last dregs of summer in Cannes or at least Cornwall, but I'm glad

to be here researching. I've somehow got myself on a long weekend to Northern Italy, specifically a little area called Monte Battaglia about thirty miles south of Bologna to

represent the regiment at a commemoration. The service is held in order to remember the fierce fighting that took place there as the Allies pushed up the spine of Italy sweeping up the retreating and disintegrating but determined German forces in the autumn of 1944.

Monte Battaglia itself has a long history of conflict; its terrain lends itself strategic importance. It purportedly derives its very name from battle; this 'Battaglia', the Italian word for Battle, refers to a great battle that was fought between the Goths and Byzantines in the sixth century.

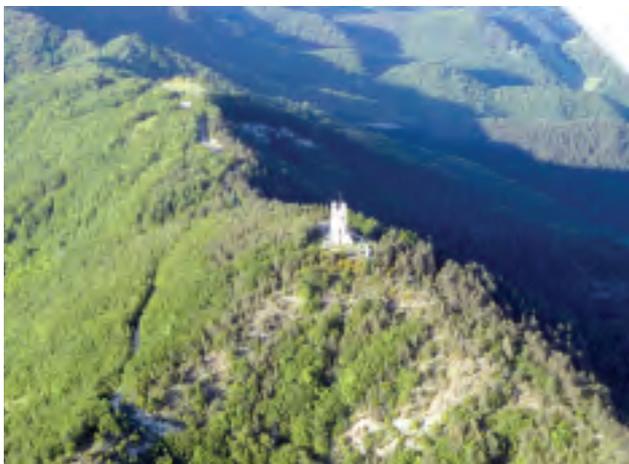
However, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Battle for Monte Battaglia. Fighting erupted when on 24th September 1944 a partisan

battalion of the 36th Garibaldi Brigade numbering about 250 and supported by American artillery from Acuto and Monte del tip to the south, advanced north puncturing a hole in the porous and fragile German 'Gothic Line', running from Senio in the south to Santerno in the north, occupying Monte Battaglia by the morning of the 27th.

The partisans were joined by American soldiers who they led up the rocky crags through the mist and heavy rain, to prove that they were, at that time, in control of the top of the mountain. These soldiers (from three battalions of the 350th regiment of the 88th infantry division of the United States also known as the 'Blue Devils') consolidated the allied position, holding on for five days of bitter and constant counter attacks from the 290th Regiment of German Grenadiers, with elements of the 44th [44th Reichsgrenadier Division] and 715th division [Lacobone, 2012].

The 350th Regiment sustained and inflicted such heavy losses (235 KIA, 277 MIA, 908 injured inflicting over 2000 German casualties) that they renamed the mountain 'Battle Mountain' [National Association of Italian Partisans (ANPI), 2014, p.2]. Captain Roeder's of G Coy, 2nd Bn the Blue Devils was recognized with the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor for his courageous leadership which galvanized the spirit of his men in the battle [Lacobone, 2012].

To the men of the 350th Regiment of the 88th Division Blue Devils, Monte Battaglia means the place of the most ferocious of all the battles they fought in Italy... rain, mud, fog and constant bombardment... means seven days and seven



Aerial view of the Rocca di Monte Battaglia. The ancient fortification was badly damaged during the sustained shelling between the 24th September and 10th October.



Soldiers from the 1st Guards Brigade moving through appalling weather towards Monte Battaglia as depicted on the cover of Bruttons 'An Ensign in Italy'

nights of struggle that were fused together to form one, single, continuous battle. [Speech given on the first anniversary of the fighting, 1945 Cited in [Lacobone, 2012]]

As well as the essential military assistance the allied troops

offered the partisans, who in turn gave the advancing allied soldiers detailed local knowledge and guidance, the symbolism of Italians fighting was essential. Essential in showing both the allies and Italians that the posturing,



Saturday Evening in the Appennino Ligure

strutting Mussolini and his simultaneously megalomaniacal and incompetent strand of pseudo-Caesar fascism did not, by any stretch of the imagination enjoy universal support from the population, who were now exacting their own furious revenge.

On the 2nd October the US forces were relieved by the 1st Guards Brigade. The Grenadiers fittingly located themselves in and around the imposing 'Rocca di Monte Battaglia'. The castle summit of 2,345-foot-high Monte Battaglia dated back to the twelfth century. The Coldstream Guards were situated on the south east slopes whilst the 3rd battalion Welsh Guards seem to have drawn the proverbial short straw and were spread out 'along the windswept and rain-soaked ridge with standing patrols between their positions' [Brutton, 1992: 102]. The 3rd Battalion, formed in early 1941 very near to where the 1st Battalion is currently based at Beavers Camp Hounslow, were originally a holding battalion designed to supply the 1st and 2nd Bn. They had, however, sailed for North Africa on the 5th February 1943, landing in Algiers on the 16th. By the time they reached Battaglia they had endured 21 months of fighting, sustaining very heavy losses at Fondouk in Libya before fighting all the way up the spine of Italy seeing heavy action at Monte Cerasola and Monte Piccolo.

On the 11th October the tension of the constant bombardment and probing attack was broken when the Germans launched a pre-dawn attack in order to regain their foothold on the ridge; the attack consisted of two waves

and was particularly bloody [Sunday Graphic, 1944]. Owing primarily to a determined defence but helped by poor weather, enemy confusion, a heavy counter bombardment the Germans were soundly beaten. They then relocated their defensive line along the 'Vein of Gypsum' roughly eight miles to the north of Monte Battaglia. The British had sustained far fewer casualties in the preceding days owing to General John Nelson emphasis on well dug in and prepared defensive positions.

Our trip out to Monte Battaglia was far quicker and decidedly more conformable (despite the best efforts of the Ryanair Ground crew). For this journey I was to be accompanied by Lt H. Bucknall representing the Coldstream Guards and H. Waterhouse of the Grenadiers, finer travelling companions could not be asked for! The three of us set off from Wellington Barracks, having had no sleep, at 0145 Friday morning, an odd time to leave for a 0700 flight one may think but Lt Bucknall insisted on the time and he was driving so that was that. The upshot of this was an entertaining four hour wait at London Stansted as herds of people spilled into the airport in, often terribly witty, stag and hen t-shirts stumbling their way to Malia.

Unfortunately the plane was two hours late. However, this did little to dampen our spirits which were raised yet further as we began our descent over fields of terracotta roofs. We had decided to spend our first night in Bologna in the Hotel Pedrini; a quaint guesthouse on the Strada Maggiore just up from the Due Torri. Structures which seem so woefully unstable that its amazing people are still allowed up

them. As we were to discover the Italians are gloriously unconcerned for trifling matters like road signs, rights of ways or health and safety. After taking in the sights of the city we relaxed eating bruschetta, bresaola and caprese salad, along with a very good Lagrein at Bar Calice just off the Piazza Maggiore, where local dancers were putting on a display in the warm evening.

It was an early start the next morning driving down to Casola Valsenio, roughly 60km to the south of Bologna. Casola Valsenio is a beautiful little town nestled in the deep valleys of the 'Appennino Ligure' mountain range. We dropped our kit at the guesthouse a rather grand but rough stone building owned by a very nice Italian sculptor. After dropping our kit, and of course applying a layer of polish to our shoes and Sam Browns for the next days' service, we headed into town. Outside the town hall the three of us met the local historian and subject matter expert, Sig Romano Rossi and his brilliant friend and entrepreneur Mr Danny Fort who, dressed in a white linen suit, panama, white shoes and a black shirt looked as if he had just walked out of Bugsy Malone. With them was the legendary Mr. Spider from the Welsh Guards Association and his son Michael, along to film for a BBC documentary which will hopefully be produced next year (to coincide with the Welsh Guard centenary). We all got to know each other over a three hour, four course lunch (this seemed to be pretty standard) and then drove up



The Battle Field Tour

the precarious mountain roads towards Mount Battaglia trying hard to keep up with Romano's badly dented Fiat Panda, which veered from one side of the track to the other in a terrifying rollercoaster – in order to avoid, sheep, horse and carts and the odd oncoming tractor. He seemed to enjoy himself very much.

Somehow we made it to the top, once there Romano gave us an informative and thorough tour of the several positions held by the Brigade of Guards, describing how the battle ebbed and flowed between the 27th September and the 11th October 1944. This was followed by a guided tour of a local museum and a long, slow, but thoroughly enjoyable dinner. The next morning, looking very smartly dressed in our Number 2 Patten dress we formed up outside the Town Hall to be met by

representatives from several NATO armies, along with veterans and partisan associations (all of course were dazzled by the reflecting sun from our belts, shoes and buttons). I think that we particularly impressed the American contingent despite

their particularly smart painted shoes. We were slightly less smug two hours later when the sun had melted all of our polish, Lt. Bucknall shoelace had snapped and a dog had stepped on my shoe. After several services in the village we relocated to the top of the

"I think that we particularly impressed the American contingent despite their particularly smart painted shoes."



Commemoration Day

mountain where anthems were played and wreaths were laid. I presented a Welsh Guards plaque to the Mayor, said a few words and we received a gift in return. A number of veterans then made moving and understated speeches. After this the local politicians started talking amongst themselves - forty five minutes later they were still talking and the majority of the crowd had wandered off. I felt very sorry for the line of soldiers standing stiffly to attention around the monument.

The day was rounded off with a marathon five course meal hosted by the association of Italian Grenadiers, they were perfect hosts and we were looked after extremely well. We left for our guest house among embraces, gifts and promises to come back, which I know we would all jump at given the chance to do so. After a siesta we decided to celebrate our trip and all went out for wine and pizza. We left Italy in the very much under the impression that all who we had dealings with out there would be very happy to see us back there next year, to study and commemorate once again one of the division's most important victories of the war.

The battle for Monte Battaglia was in itself a major action in the breaking of the German Gothic line, the fact that it is relatively unknown outside of the circles of those directly related to it is a huge shame. It is also indicative of the order of magnitude of the wider conflict. In this one operation within one strategic area, in one theatre and on one continent, a steady stream of six casualties a day whilst on the defensive along with untold civilian and enemy

casualties many of whom either had to be left to decompose or were hastily buried in mass graves was seen as perfectly acceptable by the sub unit commander. The mind boggles at the pace and ferocity that the allied armies tore up the spine of Italy, the 'soft underbelly of the continent' in the face of a desperate but stubborn rearguard action by a once mighty army, now facing the same existential threat on everything that they know that they had held over Europe for so long. Just how far this is from modern comprehension and it is was this comprehension and the fact that we now find these kind of figures shocking that was one of the key achievements that these men fought and often died for. It has been an honour and a pleasure to have taken part in this small act or remembrance.

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The Regimental Adjutant and Association

ST DAVID'S DAY 2014
 Capt C J P Davies

The Battalion celebrated St David's Day this year at Cavalry Barracks on Wednesday 26 February with Major General Smyth-Osbourne taking the salute. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant were also in attendance.

As 1 March was a Saturday this year the earlier date was chosen in order to allow the Battalion to go home for the weekend. Although the turnout from spectators was smaller than in previous years, perhaps in anticipation of the Centenary St David's Day next year in Cardiff, there was still good representation from the Association and the families.

Following the arrival of the Major General the day started with a church service in the sports hall. A marquee lining had been erected inside which succeeded in giving this otherwise impersonal space a more intimate feel. The Padre's first St David's Day service was warmly received and set the day off on the right note.

The parade was held on the square straight after the service. The backdrop of a building site covered in scaffolding was not the most picturesque however LSgt O'Brian proved his great worth as the new Battalion photographer by managing to avoid including it in most of his photos! The parade format

adhered to tradition with the Major General presenting leeks to all officers and warrant officers while the Company Commanders presented leeks to each individual within their Company. Once this was done the Commanding Officer marched the Battalion off the square as the Major General took the salute.

Following the parade a move was made back to the respective Messes. In the sports hall many of the Guardsmen and Lance Corporals were taking advantage of the fact that the marquee had now turned from a place of worship into a bar dispensing free beer very generously provided by Fullers brewery.

It was an enjoyable and relaxed family day on which we were able to celebrate who we are and where we come from surrounded by Welsh Guards past and present. The day finished in traditional fashion with many key personalities to be found in the Sergeants' Mess.



The Major General hands out leeks to the Warrant Officers



Sgt Prosser, Regiments Police Sergeant, on his last St David's Day in the Battalion



The Battalion, led by the Commanding Officer, marches off the square



The Sahara

29TH EDITION OF THE MARATHON DES SABLES

By Maj T C Spencer Smith and Captain J A B Bromfield

Many of you will have heard of Ultra-Marathons and probably even the Marathon des Sables, it is after all the grandfather of this event genre. Started by Patrick Bauer in 1986, 23 intrepid souls set off across the Moroccan Sahara with the soul aim of designing a 200+km race that would push the body to its limits, but more heavily test the durability of the mind.

By 1989 the number of competitors had swelled to 170 and over the years it has grown in length and popularity, now in 2014 with a new record of 1046 competitors who started the race. Always portrayed as the 'Toughest Footrace on Earth' there has been criticism in recent years the event has not been tough enough, young pretenders from The USA and Costa Rica consistently vying for the title. This year wearing

his signature round glasses and with a glint in his eye Patrick Bauer announced that the 29th edition would be the hardest MdS ever; we were not to be disappointed.

29th Edition of The Marathon des Sables

After frantic last minute (officer) admin in the week leading up to the event we were finally ready to depart, arriving in London Gatwick to a sea of running shorts,

backpacks and sunglasses we looked somewhat out of place in our shirts and chinos. Nonetheless we checked in, buckled up and headed South to Morocco. Arriving in the searing heat we were hustled into a fleet of coaches and driven from Errachidia, several hundred kilometres into the Sahara. Passing small towns and fleeting villages we arrived at the start point just before dusk and bagged ourselves an unoccupied Bedouin tent. The other competitors arrived in dribs and drabs and as the Bedouin tents filled up we found ourselves alongside three unlikely characters; a Metropolitan Police Officer from Barry, and two very different highflying businessmen. That evening, expecting military style catering, we were pleasantly surprised to be given an exceptional plate of food, cheese and a small bottle of red wine. The French really know how to camp in style! Our first night was extremely jovial with introductions, stories and laughter but

followed by a rather uncomfortable sleep.

Saturday 5th April 2014. D-1. Once again we were treated to excellent food throughout the day, their plan to lull us into a false sense of security prevailed. This was clearly bribery as the inevitable pre-race admin took an age, leaving us to do little in the middle of the desert but re-pack for the umpteenth time in a desperate bid to reduce our pack weight.

Sunday 6th April 2014, 1046 men, women and a 16 year old child lined up on the start line facing the largest dunes in the Western Sahara. Despite being 0830 it had already hit 35 degrees and it was clear that few of the assembled mass were even remotely acclimatised to the heat. With a piffling 35km to complete on day one, there was a sense of party like anticipation running through the competitors ourselves included, little were we to know what lay in store. As the countdown finished and we all bolted off it was surreal

"With a piffling 35km to complete on day one, there was a sense of party like anticipation running through the competitors ourselves included, little were we to know what lay in store."

to think that we had finally started our adventure after so many months of planning. Our game plan was simple; run the first stage everyday (ground permitting) and tab at 6km/hr through the heat of the day, running when we could.

Having never walked or run in true sand dunes we did not know what to expect, to save you the trouble, 2 steps forward, one back combined with a surface temperature of 50+ degrees is a rough précis. The first 15km stage to CP1 became a slogging match between dunes and competitors, our limited water was finished well before the re-supply and even the hardened veterans of this event were struggling. By CP1 mutterings from these mere mortal men and women dampened the souls of everyone. No plan survives contact, it certainly didn't survive the dunes and despite our best intentions very little hard running was done on day one. The arrival at the bivouac was a blessed relief after a tough first day. As we walked around speaking to old friends and those we had met prior to the event, it became clear that Bauer was holding true to his word.

Stage 2 - The Dunes before the Jebel

Monday 7th April 2014, 939 men and women remained. We are awoken to the most incredible desert sunrise, and some truly revolting freeze dried porridge. It became abundantly clear that the local nationals who help collapse the bivouac every morning, care little about the competitors and only what 'stash' they can lay their hands on - leave anything alone momentarily and they are eying it up for size. Despite a



Stage 2 - The Dunes before the Jebel

few hiccups from our fellow campers we all head off to the start line in (relatively) high spirits for a marathon length stage. The whole field was quick to accept that Patrick Bauer liked to say a few words every morning, a mere 20 minutes worth before we could set off. His advice contained such nuggets of wisdom as 'Drink Water', 'Wear Sunscreen' followed by the obligatory rendition of 'Happy' by Mr Pharrel Williams (now our least favourite song on earth). Formalities concluded and translations complete we set off into the desert and gleefully stuck to our game plan. It is telling that despite the fact this is being written a mere 7 days after the race, and I am reading the course notes, I cannot recall a single useful fact about Day 2, other than the heat. In our un-acclimatised state it really did occupy our minds for the whole day.

Tuesday 8th April 2014, 912 men and women remain. We were in for what we thought was going to be a bit of a treat,

less distance to cover and the promise of (slightly) cooler weather. Suffice to say we got the former but not the latter and your co-author suffered quite a bit. On the plus side the evil Dr Bauer got his wish and managed to ramp up the pressure quite considerably with 2 sets of dunes and a Jebel of just of 800 vertical meters to negotiate. With time on our side we were at last beginning to get used to the incessant heat and this allowed us to take in the truly breath taking scenery, views from the Jebel summit reached 40-50 Km and encompassed everything you could imagine from the Sahara desert. Our fellow competitors were also settling into the swing of things and the event was settling into 3 distinct thirds, this illustrious duo towards the back of the top third, which given the professional quality of the top 100 was not bad going. It was a fine pairing with Capt Bromfield's competitive edge pushing forward but occasionally tamed by Maj Spencer Smith's

experience, the combination of the two during the midday heat was a strong 6km/hr pace with a gruelling run every kilometre or so.

The Sahara

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April 2014 - The Double, 894 men and women remain. 81.5km according to the route card, although as we found out this was at least 8 km shorter than the actual route - not due to poor navigation we hasten to add. The rumours from race veterans of hideous obstacles were rife, but we stuck to our guns and kept the plan in place. Accompanied by a very low flying helicopter we set off at a strong race pace for the first 10km, more than any other day it was essential to get to the front of the pack in order to negotiate the single track rope assisted climb across the ridgeline. Despite being in the top 150 at this stage we still had to queue and lost valuable time, but more importantly every minute of the day the heat increased. What followed next was



Major Spencer Smith and Captain Bromfield Complete 29th Edition of The Marathon des Sables

Morocco's own Death Valley, perfectly flat for as far as the eye could see and a gift for the pure runners. Despite seeing them disappear we kept our 6km tab up and reaped the rewards later. Come 5pm we stopped just over the halfway point. It was vital to keep eating so we tucked into yet more questionable freeze dried goop before heading off again. The next 13km took their toll on our feet due to the insufferable rocks but it meant by 8pm we

only had 25.4km to crack. Goodbye 6km/hr, and our master plan of night running was unveiled. Within minutes we were overtaking the mortal beings in front of us, 10, 20, 30, 40, we slid past them like ships in the night. To be perfectly frank we were not running at more than a quick jog, but our steady 6km/hr speed throughout the day now meant we could maintain this pace. With only 12km to go we were in our element and knew

there was plenty more in the tank. We opened right up finishing the final 10km in just over 50 minutes. It was all in all a very successful day having come in well under our target time of 15 hours and comfortably inside the top 200. All that remained for the next 30 hours was to rest, eat and watch the remaining competitors arrive.

11th April 2014 - Marathon Day, 869 men and women remain. An atmosphere akin to the last day of tour coupled with huge anticipation of the task that lay ahead set the theme for the day. For this intrepid duo the contemplation of the flattest stage strangely filled us with fear. All our fellow competitors, especially the professional runners were suddenly able to open up the taps and motor on throughout the day with some very respectable times. We pushed the whole way around the route and having physically given the race everything he had Maj Spencer Smith broke with heat exhaustion a mere

400m from the line. After a few minutes and suitably recovered, with the Welsh Flag raised we crossed the line slightly slower than we wished but in good order in 306th and 307th places respectively.

Major Spencer Smith and Captain Bromfield Complete 29th Edition of The Marathon des Sables

The organisation that goes into the event is truly staggering, the thanks lie mainly at the door of the UK LO 'Steve' who sorts anything and everything that can and does go wrong, however it would be remiss not to thank the many hundreds of volunteers both Moroccan and French that spend 10 days supporting the event. The 'medics' from Doc Trotters as we found out were not actually medics – students, housewives, and out of work actors all gleefully take up scalpels and iodine as if it is a school biology lesson. The horror stricken look on the face of a leading British surgeon being hacked up by a 21 year old French geography student will stay with us for ever.

With a smooth return to the UK and straight back to work, in a hobbling fashion, we have both experienced something that is on many a man's bucket list. Without the help and support from the Regimental Adjutant and the Regimental trustees we would never have been in the position to achieve what we have. We sign off with some advice from two very sore and aged officers, if ever the thought has crossed your mind to attempt the Marathon des Sables – do it. The 29th Edition was hot and tough but extremely 'doable', despite the heat and many obstacles that Patrick put in our way. The 30th Edition promises to be even better!



MdS Day 1 - Dunes of Erg Chebbi

**1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS
SAILING REPORT 2014**

2014 has been a good year for sailing in the Battalion. The Battalion entered two regattas this year. The first one was the Combat Arms Sailing Regatta (CASR) and the annual Household Division Regatta. The CASR was a great introduction for the younger members of the Battalion.

The primary boat was led by Captain Figgures Wilson and the second one was skippered by Gdsm Hughes 24 from 3 Company. The results were respectable and the greatest highlight was Gdsm Hughes and his crew winning the Wooden Paddle which is for the crew who have the greatest team spirit.

The Household Division regatta was another great success with the Welsh Guards crew

being found from Guardsmen and LCpl Van Eyssen. The crew performed very well and were commended on their attitude and professionalism.

All in all it has been a good year for sailing despite juggling Public Duties and a large amount of work. The future aspiration is to compete in all of the above Regattas and look to enter a boat into Cowes Week 2015.

**WELSH GUARDS TRIATHLON
Capt E R Emlyn-Williams**

A brief spell of command of the Prince of Wales's Company provided a fantastic opportunity to cajole, brow beat and threaten my new charges into forming the first Welsh Guards triathlon team.

Some might call this an abuse of power, however, with a sprint and three quarter triathlon under our collective race belt and many more looming in 2015, the ends justified the means and the Battalion can be rightly proud of this embryonic gang of determined athletes.

Results this season were mixed as one might expect from the variations in experience amongst team members. Not even the busiest swimming lane in an indoor pool can prepare a novice for the writhing, seething mass of two hundred competitors that started in the water for the Army ¾ Triathlon in South Cerney. There was a lot less water in the Cotswold Water

Park after LSgt Evans 36 clambered out having imbibed a few gallons of it! Needless to say, many lessons were learnt and steady improvement was made throughout the season. Lt Dinwiddie also has been practising his counting after crossing the finish line, beaming with elation, only to be told that he had missed the final lap and was consequently disqualified!

There were some notable successes - the Welsh Guards team dominated the London District Sprint competition at Dorney Lake, with three of the top four finishers. Lt Evans won the event by a country mile although Lt Dinwiddie (veteran male winner) was particularly smug after beating Capt



LSgts Harries, Rowlands 99, Evans 36 and LCpl Roberts 72 before the LonDist Competition

Bromfield by 16 seconds, despite being a whopping three years older than him! LCpl Roberts 72 did extremely well at the same race, finishing 16th out of a field of 48 on his first triathlon.

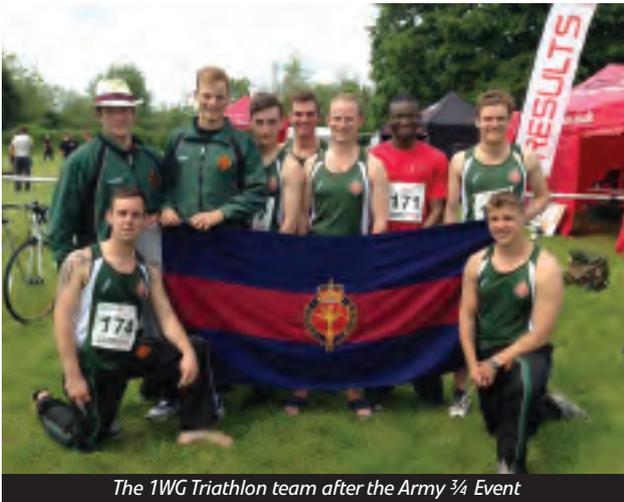
The Army ¾ Triathlon was a real step change in standard and scale. Competing against Army athletes was never going to be easy and it was clear from the outset that this would have to be chalked down to

experience. Maj Spencer Smith, who only two weeks previously had completed the Marathon de Sable, topped the leader board for 1WG, finishing a respectable 36th

Credit must go to LSgt Hughes and Gdsm Moriarty who threw themselves in at the deep in this, their first event. Gdsm Moriarty (1WG star boxer), on finishing, swore that he would rather go fifteen rounds in the ring with Mike Tyson than



Lt Evans and Lt Dinwiddie (still wearing swimming cap?) pose before the LonDist race



The 1WG Triathlon team after the Army 3/4 Event

attempt another Triathlon but seemed more chipper a few hours later with a post race pint in is hand!

All in all, a successful and enjoyable first season and plenty to look forward to next year. The Battalion is now the proud owner of six Trek road bikes along with other triathlon paraphernalia and will look to build on progress

made this year. Triathlon is the fastest growing sport in the UK and, in addition to the regular Army Triathlon meets, there are a host of civilian races which are equally challenging and enjoyable. Triathlon will form a part of the WG100 Centenary marathon expedition next year and the Welsh Guards team is set to go from strength to strength.



Former LSgt Scarf, CSgt Hughes and Sgt Scarf pre 24 Hr Enduro

hardest rounds of Hare and Hound Enduro.

CSgt Hughes - located further north has also been busy - he rode Round Two of the British Extreme Enduro Championship in Cowm Quarry Rochdale, competing against world class riders and managed to finish the race with 6 laps under his belt. He has also completed the Team REME Iron man competition, moving up a class to Clubman, gaining the holeshot and completing the 5-hour race middle of the pack. Following that, the bike was given a rest while he concentrated on work.

In June CSgt Hughes was invited to race with the 22

Special Air Service Enduro Team as one of their riders had pulled out of the Welsh Two Day Enduro. Each member of The Pilgrims - as they are known - rode 320 miles in 14 hours over the two days riding was probably the best Enduro in the UK. This has created a link between the Welsh Guards Team and The Pilgrims, talks are in place for us to attend training days in PATA and have a go at the Special Forces Mobility Training Area. We all look forward to riding in the near future with them.

CSgt Hughes and Sgt Scarf attended a Enduro Club Coach Course in July and are now the only ACU Coaches in the

WELSH GUARDS ENDURO TEAM

CSgt D T Hughes & Sgt C D Scarf

This year has been a busy but slightly dis-jointed one for TeamWG, with CSgt Hughes posted to ITC Catterick and Sgt Scarf and Gdsm Cole to South Wales recruiting.

LSgt Simons has also been busy completing PSBC and Recce Commanders. Although we have been apart we have still managed numerous training days and have still competed across the country at events flying the Welsh Guards flag high. Now kitted out in team tracksuits and polo shirts provided with thanks to battalion.

During the early months riding was always wet and mostly cold however the team got together in South Wales at least once a month for training days

guided by our local experts and guides Sgt Scarf and former LSgt Scarf. The hills of Aberdare and the valleys hold many green lane routes, which are demanding, with some extreme enduro routes located across the quarries and woodlands.

In terms of competitions, Sgt Scarf, LSgt Simons and Gdsm Cole have all been racing under our sponsor Carl Tiley Racing. CTR hold events every month usually in the Aberbeeg area and is well known throughout Wales for being some of the



Welsh Guards bike and strip on display during Armed Forces Day in Bridgend, South Wales



Welsh Two Day Enduro, Strata Florida: CSgt Hughes attempting a river crossing

Infantry and two of only 5 in the Army. Hopefully this will open many doors for us as a team as we are invited to teach and coach riders throughout the services.

While Riding and training has been good, we have also employed the bikes elsewhere. During recruiting events, the South Wales recruiting team often take Gdsm Cole's bike with them and show it to potential recruits. As the sport is popular in South Wales this new angle at recruiting is proving as good a tool here as it is in the retention of already serving soldiers. Being the only competing Enduro Team in the infantry is making us very popular throughout the services and we look forward to training and racing with other Army teams and also the RAF.

We have also been lucky enough to be able to use our

sport to conduct some charity work: during late August CSgt Hughes, Sgt Scarf and former LSgt Scarf entered the UK's longest Enduro the Dawn Till Dusk 24 Hr. They did this in memory of LSgt Dan Collins and raised over £600 for the Welsh Guards Appeal. Much positive feedback was received from the locals. We have also been offered the opportunity to train and hopefully race in next year's Red Bul Romaniacs - the worlds' toughest Enduro. This again will be for charity.

The team are always looking for riders and support crew for future events. Please contact the author if you are interested. Our mission is to become and sustain the Best Infantry Enduro Team and we can only do this with continued support from Battalion and the chain of command. We have all been extremely grateful for all their support to date.



CSgt Hughes at Cowm Quarry, British Extreme Enduro Championships



CSgt Hughes first off the line at the Dawn Till Dusk 24Hr Enduro

BATTLEFIELD TOUR

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR 6 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2014

By Colonel TCS Bonas

On Saturday 6 September just under 50 members of the Association set off on another battlefield tour, this time to Belgium. It was a very early start for the Wales based members departing Maindy Barracks at 0600 picking up the remainder from D Lines in Pirbright.

Although we saw some new faces on the tour, very welcome, there were many who had been on previous tours. Amongst these were Ray Cumbley and Arthur Bland, now both in their mid 90's, and who saw action with the 2nd Battalion from Normandy onwards. Ray was a Cromwell tank driver and operator and Arthur the same but with the Recce Platoon operating in Humber Scout Cars. We were honoured to have them along again and their memories and wit remain as sharp as ever.

Our Programme this year was to visit Hechtel to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of their liberation by a heavily based Welsh Guards Battle Group. This took place on Sunday 7 September. On Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 September we focussed on the battles of Ypres and in this phase we were joined by Captain Rhydian Vaughan to lead us through the actions. More follows.

Hechtel is always a special day

for the Association and follows more or less the same format each year which is a church service, marching to the local cemetery with the local band and 1 Company Material from 18 Logistics Battalion, the Town Council and of course many locals and the Association, in order to lay wreaths and roses on the graves of those who were murdered or lost their lives during the days it took to liberate the town.

Thirty five Hechtel civilians were shot by the Germans during the battle. After the cemetery, we marched back into the centre of the town to lay more wreaths by the Sherman tank and where speeches are given by the Mayor, Jan Dalemans and myself as President of the Association.

After the formal part of the day, we all then returned to the local primary school for lunch which is an all inclusive affair involving ourselves, the Council, local Veteran organisations, the local police,



Ray Cumbley one of our two WW2 vets Exiting bus for church service

the Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major of the local Belgian Army Logistics Company, locals and others. After a few glasses of wine the decibel levels rose considerably and lunch always concludes with a sing song led by Captain Lyndon Davies who has a particularly good and stirring

voice. This year was unique, at least for me, in that having given a blast of some of our most treasured Welsh hymns our Belgian hosts decided to respond with their own patriotic and stirring hymns and very good they were. This spurred us on even further and we replied even louder but in



Arthur Bland our other veteran

“Amongst these were Ray Cumbley and Arthur Bland, now both in their mid 90's, and who saw action with the 2nd Battalion from Normandy onwards.”



The Mayor Jan Dalemans with Col Bonas after laying wreath at the cemetery



Lunch in Hechtel

the interests of diplomacy and friendship, we judged it to be honourable draw! We perhaps held the advantage in any case as this year the Ogmore Branch was also present and it was great to see them all at Hechtel again.

After lunch we usually go to the nearby Leopoldville Cemetery where 34 Welsh Guardsmen are laid to rest. But this being the 70th Anniversary, the Council had laid on a Tattoo and for three hours we were entertained by seven different local and regional bands, all with different repertoires. All hugely enjoyable and fun. We are always hosted so well by Hechtel and the Regiment enjoy a particularly close bond with them.

Monday 8 September saw us visit the town of Ypres and Tyne Cot Cemetery. We laid a wreath at the Menin Gate to the 21 Welsh Guardsmen whose names are on the Gate. Members then had lunch and strolled at their leisure around this beautiful town in gorgeous sunshine.

Then it was off to Tyne Cot to lay another wreath; 35 Welsh Guardsmen are listed on Panel 11 in this huge cemetery which contains the name of 33,783 UK soldiers. There were poignant moments for some members of our group, particularly one who whilst aware that his grandfather was listed as KIA at Passchendaele, had never previously had the opportunity to visit and see his name. Very moving.

That night saw various forays into Du Panne, where we had moved onto to stay, and all enjoyed the excellent food available in the various restaurants of this seaside town. And David Jones, known as 61 to those battlefield tour veterans, and who sadly passed away in 2013, seemed to have re-appeared in a rum bottle entitled 61 in a local bar. We feel he would not be offended at this comment given that he liked a drop and was always the heart and soul of our tours. We commandeered the bottle and used it to raise just under £200 for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal from those on the tour.

Our final day, before travelling home on Wednesday 10

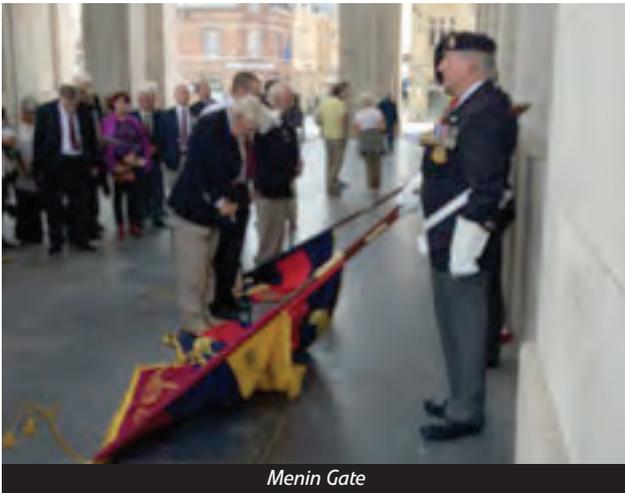
October, saw us joined by Captain Rhydian Vaughan who took us to various key points of the Ypres battles that took place between 1914 – 1918. Amongst these included Pilckem Ridge, a Regimental battle honour and where Sergeant Bye won his VC, the famous bayonet charge by the Worcesters at Gheluvelt, Hill 60 and the really excellent Passchendaele Museum at Zonnebeke – a must should you visit the area. We also stopped for lunch at the newly erected (16 Aug 14) Memorial to Welsh Regiments at Langemark depicting a Welsh Dragon on a large stone plinth. Having laid a wreath there, we enjoyed an excellent packed lunch supported by a little wine and beer! That night, we



Laying the wreath in the Town Centre



The Tattoo in Hechtel



Menin Gate



Tyne Cot Cemetery

held our Group dinner where more speeches, banter and singing was exchanged with some, at the end, with enough energy to slip into the odd bar in town.

Having not done an Association tour for the last two years, it was good to have the Association tour back again. Our thanks must go to all who came and to Captain Graham Taylor and Brian and Sandra Keane (Brian is the Association Secretary General) for all their hard work to make it run so well and smoothly. The same can be said of RQMS Steve Boika from RHQ who was a tower of strength throughout

proving to be an invaluable asset to us all. Our thanks also to Captain Vaughan for his valuable and interesting input, delivered in his unique and popular style.

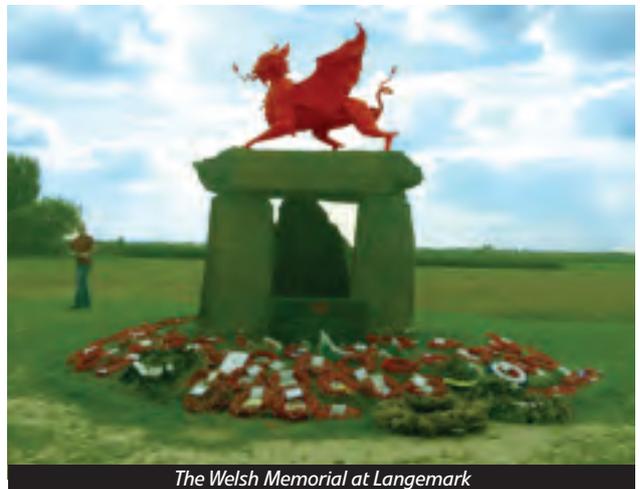
I judge the Tour to have been a great success combining so many different aspects, remembrance, re-visiting Regimental history, linking different generations of Welsh Guardsmen together (particularly good to have had Sergeant John McEvoy and Gdsm Glyndon Davies from the Battalion with us) and simply having a really relaxed and fun time. We hope to repeat the success again next year.



Artillery Cemetery



Tyne Cot Cemetery



The Welsh Memorial at Langemark



At the Cemetery at St Charles de Percy – Dmr Sheppard, Brian Keane, Sgt Jury



"One step beyond", Dmr Sheppard looks like the cat who got the cream.

TO NORMANDY AND BACK IN 48 HOURS - 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D DAY LANDINGS

By Brian Keane (Secretary General)

Thousands of people made the pilgrimage to Normandy this year to commemorate 70 years of the D Day Landings. A small party representing the Welsh Guards also made the trip – not to the beaches, but the small villages of Montchamp and St Charles de Percy where, in fierce battles after the invasion, Welsh Guards fought and died. Forty four Guardsmen are buried in the local cemetery, killed fighting the Germans between 2nd and 16th August.

The overnight ferry from Portsmouth was uneventful, but on disembarking at Caen, was met with the sight of hundreds of security vehicles, police cars and fire engines, all

of which were on special duties to safeguard the lives of VIPs expected to attend the commemorations that day. Fortunately we had freedom to drive through the area since



At the Grand Buffet – Dmr Sheppard, Mayor of St Charles de Percy, Brian Keane, Mayor of Montchamp, Sgt Jury.

our journey was to take us south. We were later informed that there were over 5000 gendarmes on duty in and around Caen that day!

Myself, wife Sandra, Sergeant Kevin Jury and Guardsman Steffan Sheppard were invited to stay overnight with the Mayor of St Charles de Percy, Jacques Desormeau, in his historic and beautiful chateau (note: I must point out at this juncture that Sergeant Jury "pulled rank" on Guardsman Sheppard, demanding he had the room with the four poster bed!)

On arrival at our destination, we managed to freshen up and change in time for the 11am service in the church opposite the chateau, where Guardsman Sheppard played Last Post to the delight of the congregation, who gave him a standing ovation (this must be a first!!!!)

It was then off for refreshments at the holiday home of David and Jeanette Mabutt. This lovely couple have been good friends of the Welsh Guards for many years, and used to run a café/ regimental museum in the area before moving to the UK a few years ago. David is a wealth of information on the Welsh

Guards, particularly their actions seen in and around the area during WW2.

The main event took place late afternoon in the cemetery of St Charles de Percy, attended by hundreds of local residents, veterans and their families, schoolchildren and local dignitaries. Sergeant Jury laid a wreath at the monument on behalf of the Regiment and Guardsman Sheppard once again played Last Post. It was an extremely hot day, but these Guardsmen posed for hundreds of photographs making it such a memorable occasion for the locals. These two young men were a credit to the Regiment, and made me feel proud to be associated with them.

The commemorations continued in the nearby village of Montchamp, at the Monument to the French Resistance. It remembers 87 local brave Frenchmen who were shot by the Nazis in Caen prison on the morning of 6th June in reprisal. Again a wreath was laid by Sergeant Jury, and for the third and final time, our intrepid bugler played Last Post. Much to his relief, I assured him his duties were finally over and he could 'stand easy'!

The day culminated in a 'grand evening buffet at the village hall in Montchamp, where fine food, good wine and excellent company ensued. I presented both Mayors each with a miniature plaque of our Regimental Colours, which were suitably inscribed for the occasion. They were totally surprised and overwhelmed, and sent their thanks to the Welsh Guards for their generous gesture.

The highlight of the evening must be when Guardsman Sheppard took to the floor, in

full tunic order, to dance with one of the guests – we all held our breath and prayed he wouldn't step on her feet with his size 11 hobnail boots, and I am relieved to report that it ended well.

All in all, I think we did an excellent job at promoting and representing our fine Regiment, and when we left for the ferry port on Saturday morning, all we left behind were good memories, and great photographs.

It was a hectic whistle stop visit but worth every moment.

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION LONDON BRANCH VISIT TO BRUSSELS ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BRUSSELS IN 1944

By Jeff Heenan

On 3rd September 1944, Brussels was liberated by the Welsh Guards, Lieut. (later Captain J.A.W. Dent) commanded the First Cromwell tank into Brussels, his crew in the tank were Gdsm Bill James, driver, L/Cpl Rees, gunner, Gdsm Robert Beresford, the hull gunner, and Gdsm Ralph Beresford (no relation). Radio Operator.



First In Brussels - Captain Dent's Cromwell Tank.
Pictured: Gdsm Ralph Beresford (left of turret, Captain Dent (right of turret) the driver Gdsm Bill James on the lower left, peering out of the hull



Captain Dent's Tank in Boulevard Anspach at 7am 3rd September 1944

They destroyed a bus load of Germans on the Avenue des Arts, on their way to the Arc de Cinquantaire, where they knocked out a German tank before halting for the night in company with Prince of Wales Company of the 1st Battalion. These men, the crew of the leading tank of No 3 Troop, No 1 Squadron, 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion Welsh Guards were the first soldiers of the Allied Armies to re-enter the Belgian capital on the 3rd September 1944.

(As documented in Welsh Guards at War, by Major L.F. Ellis, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C. Welsh Guards)

The Soldier Magazine published a 6 page article in 1974, giving full details of the events on 3rd September 1944. In the article is a photograph taken by a Belgian National,

Monsieur Marcel Vanderstracten who lived in a flat on Boulevard Anspach, who had been waiting for the liberation, the photograph clearly shows Capt. Dent's tank in the centre of the Boulevard Anspach, with a public clock in the background, clearly showing the time

On 4th September, 2014, Our Associate Members, Mrs Jaci Murphy, who is the daughter of the driver of the tank, the late Gdsm Bill James, was invited, along with her husband Frank, to join the celebrations in Brussels on the 70th Anniversary, she invited myself and Tony Winrow, an Associate Member of the London Branch to join her on the Remembrance Day in Brussels

We travelled to Brussels and took part in the celebrations on



Laying a wreath at the Colonne du Congress



Pictured: L-R, Mr Tony Winrow, Mrs Jaci Murphy and Mr Frank Murphy.

the 5th September, Mrs Jaci Murphy, alongside Jeff Heenan, had been invited to lay a wreath at the Colonne du Congress, in the presence of Mr de Brachene, Alderman of the City of Brussels, and other signatories. The procession then proceeded to the Grand Palace to attend a reception at the Hotel de Ville.

We also visited the Manneken Pis. This Monument dates back to the early 17th century. Legend has it that it was commissioned by a grateful father whose small son got lost but was found to the relief of his parent, finding him relieving himself behind a hedge. This fountain is the most celebrated, if not the most decorous monument in Brussels - a bronze statuette of a little boy from which a stream of water issues in

ingenious fashion. Since Louis XV of France gave the statue an embroidered coat and decorations, an extensive wardrobe of suits and uniforms has grown. So it was only natural that the Welsh Guards, who delivered the lad from Nazi control should present him with the uniform in miniature of a Welsh Guards sergeant-major, complete with bearskin.

Pictured below is 2738911 Fred Burton He joined the Regiment in 1941 and saw action in the Italian campaign. He joined the 2nd Battalion in Lubeck in north Germany and completed his service in July 1946 and returned to his home in Newport. He died aged 91 in October 2014. This was an excellent memorable visit to a city liberated by the Welsh Guards on 3rd September 1944.



2738911 Fred Burton who served in the 3rd Battalion is depicted with his collection of Campaign medals, badges and other regimentalia

MONTE BATTAGLIA BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2014

By David Webb

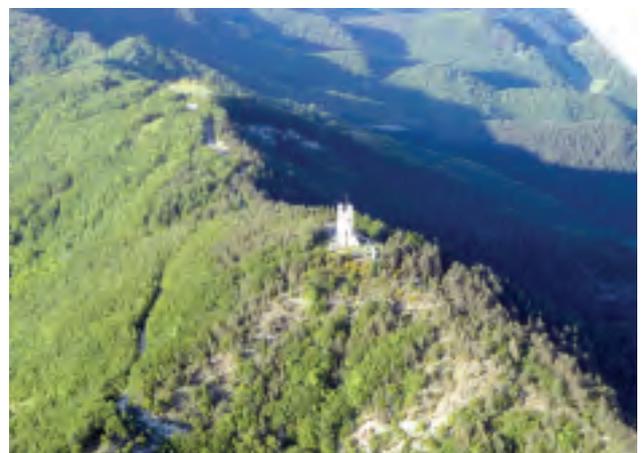
The last visit in 2001 to Casola Valsenio which is in the valley 10 kilometres from Monte Battaglia was made by Jack Hole and Brigadier Thursby-Pelham OBE to commemorate with an act of reconciliation of the old enemy the 1st Battalion of the 577 Grenadier Regiment of the German 305 Infantry Division.

Since then the 3rd Battalion have been forgotten even though 6 of our Battle Honours were won by them 3 in Italy, Monte Ormito, Monte Piccolo and Monte Battaglia. The partisans of 36th Garibaldi Brigade occupied Monte Battaglia mid September 1944. On the 27th of September the partisans led the 350th Regiment of the 88th Infantry Division, The Blue Devils, and led them to the summit of Monte Battaglia. In the afternoon the Germans attacked the hill from the north, giving rise to furious fighting in the fog, rain and mud.

On the 2nd October the US forces were relieved by the 1st Guards Brigade. The Grenadiers fittingly located themselves in and around the imposing 'Rocca di Monte

Battaglia'. The castle summit of 2,345-foot-high Monte Battaglia op, Coldstream Guards were situated on the south east slopes whilst the 3rd battalion Welsh Guards drew the short straw and were spread out along the windswept and rain-soaked ridge with standing patrols between their positions a nightmare. We can only imagine what they went through on those windswept hills.

I arrived in Imola on Friday afternoon with the Sun cracking the flags and checked into our B&B Il Gardenio Secreto, a most delightful 18th century building. Our guide to the Battlefields Romano Rossi and his interpreter Danny Fort with the Curator of the Museum in Castel del Rio Umberto! turned up at 1700



Aerial view of the Rocca di Monte Battaglia. The ancient fortification was badly damaged during the sustained shelling between the 24th September and 10th October.



W.G. Signaller 1944



Welsh Guards crossing towards Battaglia Sept 1944



Mud On Battaglia 1944



The Bridge from Castel del Monte, Rio side (Mules Back)



2nd Lt Farmelo W.G. Romano Rossi (Historian), Lt Waterfield G.G. Danny Fort (Interpreter), Lt. Bucknall C.G. & Spider in VALSENIO

lucky enough a bar was right outside the B&B where we sat down for a few hours working out a plan for Saturday then the shock came with "you will be picked up at 0745" and come to Casola Valsenio to meet the Mayor and discuss the programme for Sunday's Parade. Our guides for the weekend arrived at 0730 not bad for Italians (joke) so a quick call to 2nd Lt. Jack Farmelo that we were on our way to Casola Valsenio he was logistically 2hrs away in Bologna so

we arranged to meet later for the tour. The meeting in the Mayors Chamber at 0930 was a really great experience Danny translating with great gusto!! by 1000 all was boxed off with all names to be mentioned on Sunday and a slot for the presentation of a W.G. Plaque to the mayor so we retired to the bar next door. Lt. Harry Waterfield G.G., Lt. Humphrey Bucknall C.G. and 2nd Lt. Jack Farmelo WG turned up at 1100. We were taken for Lunch to a



"Do not care I will wear my jacket & be General Patten!!" Harry Waterfield G.G. Jack .303 lethal showed him present arms with it.

delightful Restaurant Fiorentini, Sangiovese wine flowed followed by a visit to the Museum in Castel del Rio which has a bridge which is called the mules back. W.G. crossed over it in 1944 We arrived back in Imola at 2000 after a long day to the tune of we will pick you up 0645 in the morning for the festivities OUCH!! Reveille 0600 tog up boots in the bag, Standard packed ready to go, bleary eyed breakfast Romano & Danny turn up 0630 for a

coffee with Alda our Host think they fancy her! Well she is a stunner built like Gina Lolabrigida. We make our way to Battaglia and stop in Rio Del Terme to pick a veteran Italian Bruno, 96 years of age and Danny the man from Havana 88 years of age MAGIC. We made our way to Valsenio after a liquid breakfast to be greeted by 3 very smart Officers hiding in the trees hoping the sun would not melt the polish on their boots and belts before parade time. The



Weapons instruction by Spider, Bologna in the distance



Bruno, Spider, Danny



American's did not have that problem with patent leather boots for "Come Dancing" to the amusement of the G.G. Lt. Waterfield egged on by the rest of us.

Also in the photograph above in the background on Jack Farmelo left shoulder is 97 year old Robert making his 4th visit, an original Blue Veteran from Carolina and Bruno, an Italian Veteran, on his right shoulder. Thank you Jack you did us proud, First class Job "well done".

The final presentation to Loretta Fiorentini which is now

displayed in the Restaurant for all to see in Casola Valsenio this was made by Anneka Langley the wife of Luke Langley who is serving with the Battalion at this moment. Well that is it hope you all enjoy this report, we left with many memories and new friends all wanting us to return next year. What made this special is the fact we have made the effort to remember the feats of the forgotten 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards who in their short life managed to put 6 Battle Honours on our Colours.

CYMRU AM BYTH



Guards' memorial at the Summit



Presentation made by 2Lt Farmelo to the Mayor of Casola Valsenio



"WE'LL KEEP A WELCOME" Sang by me with Sangevese Rossi to wet the warbler's picture say's it all a great day.



Monte Battaglia Parade, remembering those who fought and died under appalling conditions.



Loretta Fiorentini and Spider



VISIT TO HECHTEL SEPTEMBER 2014

By Mike Jones 01, Ogmere Branch

Once again this year we visited Hechtel to renew our friendship with the townspeople we have visited over the last ten years, and celebrate the 70th Anniversary of their Liberation in the 2nd World War.

Our host and Associate Member Bob Vranken, late Belgian Army as usual, was there to meet us with a programme for the weekend already made out. Thankfully we had been successful in obtaining a Lottery Grant which subsidised our four day trip to a massive degree. We were again fortunate in having the same coach company to take us so the booking procedure was uncomplicated and smooth.

Some time earlier during our planning stage I had been contacted by Captain Graham Taylor who arranges the

Battlefield Tour and he informed me he had also booked his party in at our Hotel on the Saturday night. We would join up with them on the Sunday morning for the Remembrance Services in the Church in Hechtel. I had also been asked by two Scotsmen, father and son, who we had met out there on our previous visit, if they could travel with our party during our stay. This was because they were in the area for the weekend visiting their father's/grandfather's grave. Their relative, Major Thornycroft serving in the 3rd Monmouthshire Regt had been killed in action at Hechtel

during the assault on the town. He is remembered on the new Slate Memorial slabs mounted on the wall alongside the Sherman Tank Memorial. We of course agreed they could come with us and looked forward to meeting them on Saturday.

We left Bridgend on Friday 5th September 2014 at 0630hrs prompt and proceeded via the well known and overused Motorways System to Calais, arriving at lunchtime. After a short wait we were on our way across the Channel to Calais. Our journey to Hechtel was uneventful and through the wonders of the SatNav we arrived at our Hotel at about 1900hrs local time, met by our host and Hotel Manager and "fed and watered" and afterwards we spent a couple of hours in the Bar winding down.

On Saturday morning after breakfast we met our host and our two guests and took off in perfect weather on our programme. Firstly we went to the Holland/Belgian Border and toured some sites on the "Fence of Death" erected in the 1st World War to stop the Belgian population escaping into Holland which was neutral. This was miles and miles of electrified wire fencing across the countryside to hold the line, and anyone seen approaching it was shot. We then moved on to visit a Monastery and Museum and then had a Lunch break in a riverside pub. After the tour we returned to our Hotel to get ready for the evening's activities.

On the Saturday evening a "1940s" style Dance had been arranged in the neighbouring town Eksel. The venue was a Circus size Marquee with a Big Band, Beer and Burger vans. We had been invited beforehand to dress up in appropriate clothing for the period which some of us did.

On Sunday morning both the Association group and ourselves met up for breakfast before making our way to the Church in the centre of Hechtel for Sunday Morning Service. Once again we were met with the utmost warmth and as is now customary the Welsh National Anthem was sung by the Choir in Welsh to conclude the Service.

Following the Service we formed up outside the church and marched behind the Belgian Veterans and families to the local Cemetery to pay

our respects to the civilians who were killed during the occupation. After wreath laying and speeches we made our way to the Tank in the town which serves as a Cenotaph to the Servicemen who had fallen in the liberation of the Town. Here a party of school children had been formed up to hand us the wreaths and to stand with us with heads bowed, a very touching performance. After the wreath laying the National Anthems were played before we were dismissed to make our way to the Recreation Centre for a Civic Reception. On the way some of our members went to see the "Tree of Peace", a Lime Tree which the Ogmore Branch had presented to the Town six years ago. Thankfully it was still flourishing.

At the Reception the Hechtel Town Mayor and Col Bonas made speeches and exchanged gifts, whilst the Bridgend Town Mayor who was also there for the signing of a "Certificate of Friendship" also gave a speech prior to the Signing Ceremony which was to take place that afternoon. The Bridgend Mayor and his party had travelled out independently for the signing ceremony which had been initiated by the Secretary Mike Jones and late Chairman Ray Gorringe on our last visit three years ago to encourage cultural exchanges between our two towns.

The highlight of the day followed the Civic Reception when we moved to the Town Square for a "Tattoo" arranged for the townspeople and ourselves. It was during the



From L to R, Mr Pollard, Mrs O Bennett and Mr R Bennett at the 1940's Dance

Interval that the two Mayors in front of the watching crowd signed and exchanged the documents cementing the Friendship Link. We can now expect to see cultural exchanges between the two towns involving school visits, choir concerts and other activities.

When we left the Town Square at the end of the festivities we made our way to the "Secret" Cemetery and paid our respects to the Resistance and others who had been executed and buried there. We then moved on to the British Military Cemetery at Leopoldsburch. Here we laid a Poppy Wreath and placed small wooden crosses at the

tombstones of members of the Household Division buried there. Mrs Hazel Evans, one of our ladies and her husband paid their private respects to her father buried there.

To finish the day we returned to our Hotel for a final evening meal and then with our hosts moved into the Bar before retiring for the long trip home. The Chairman donated a gift to Bob Vranken to give to the Town Mayor and the Secretary made some final presentations to Bob and Dorus the Hotel Manager, at the end of a tiring yet fascinating day.

After breakfast on Monday morning we said our farewells to our hosts and the Association group and made

our way home via the Calais – Dover Ferry. We arrived home safe and sound in the early evening with everyone pleased with what had been a thoroughly absorbing weekend. We cannot thank our host Bob Vranken enough for organising another memorable programme for the weekend. Our thanks also goes to Dorus the Hotel Manager for the hospitality and facilities laid on at the Hotel, and the Town Mayor, Councillors and townspeople of Hechtel. Our Branch has continued our visits to Hechtel and never once has there been any disappointments on any of the visits, long may it continue!

"On the way some of our members went to see the "Tree of Peace," a Lime Tree which the Ogmore Branch had presented to the Town six years ago. Thankfully it was still flourishing."

OTHER ARTICLES

WELSH GUARDS RUGBY REUNION CLUB REPORT

Chris Beynon, Honorary Secretary

After such an eventful two years of beaverish activity, the culmination of our efforts to raise funds for the regimental Afghanistan Appeal was realized on our rugby reunion dinner, held at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli on Friday 8th November 2013 - just 4 days after the completion of "Walk on Wales".

There was so much good news to impart through our regimental magazine I could hardly wait to conclude my report and post it off to Major Keith Oultram. He received a buff envelope with report and photographs on 11th November. A telephone call from the major informed me that all correspondence etc. for our magazine was to have been concluded and on his desk by the mid October 2013! Hence my tad late missive is now to be included in the 2014 edition. This one!

The 'walk' realised in excess of £400,000. (half to our Afghanistan Appeal and half to Combat Stress;) £50,000.00 of which came directly from Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club, in addition to the previous £100,000.00 we had raised exclusively for our Afghanistan Appeal since January 2010. All of this money came from our Club Vice Presidents, sponsors and advertising in our dinner book. How fortunate we are to have such generous "Friends of the

Regiment." To them all, a sincere thank you from your Committee. And so to the night of the dinner.

Lance Sergeant Steve George had lifted the Army Rugby Challenge Cup for season 2012-13 - our thirteenth time of winning it - as well as representing the Army - along with Lance Sergeant Hiscock and Guardsman Nambuki Buki. They were rewarded with luxurious sports bags crammed with goodies. All three were presented (Lsgt Hiscock by proxy) by Mr Barry Williams, Ospreys, Wales and British Lions hooker.

Our oldest player on parade was Aneurin Williams, a baby really at just 83 years of age. Nye had made the trip from Kent with his wife Edna and friends and he too received a goody bag from Barry.

Nye had played full back for the Battalion in the late 1940s and early 1950s and had been an Army Cup medal winner when the Battalion defeated Royal Army Medical Corp Depot and

"Our oldest player on parade was Aneurin Williams, a baby really at just 83 years of age."



Brigadier PRG Williams, John Harding Esq., Mr Alan Cunningham and Andrew Brown. The Llanelli Branch of the Association Raised £2600.00 for the "Walk on Wales".



Presentation by Barry Williams to Lsgt Steve George, captain of the Battalion 1st XV. Lsgt George has also won his Army colours.



Presentation by Barry Williams to Gdsm Nambuki Buki who has also played in the Army V Navy 2013, the first Fijian from the Welsh Guards to do so.

Training Battalion 9-3 in season 1951-52.

Guest speaker Mr Phil Steele was on par with his counterpart Rick O'Shea of Scrum V notoriety - rude, rip-roaring and re-bookable.

This year, 2014, after a debrief meeting, in January, it is a case of 'standing easy' for twelve months or so - at least for some, until we begin to prepare for our 2015 dinner. In the interim, I am putting together a humorous calendar and Christmas card which I hope will be well received by Welsh Guardsmen old and new, relatives and Friends of the Regiment. The Committee have agreed that now that the Afghanistan Appeal has been

wound down, it, along with other worthwhile causes - injured, PTSD, families in need etc., all come under the umbrella of: WELSH GUARDS BENEVOLENT FUND Charity No. 1152746. That is why we will continue to support this regimental charity and hope that others do the same.

The countdown for our centenary dinner begins. It is to be held at the 4 star Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli on Friday 6th November 2015. Look forward to a truly exceptional night.

I hope to see as many Welsh Guardsmen as possible.

NB: Christmas cards and calendars meet with the unconditional approval of RHQ.

THE WELSH GUARDS COLLECTION

S T Evans, Curator

ESTABLISHED 1995

President: Brigadier J.F.Rickett. CBE

Chairman: Col. T.Bonas

Treasurer: Mr J.O.Willams

Secretary: WO11 RQMS S.Boika

Curator: Mr S.T.Evans. Cartref ni, 44 Crossfield Avenue, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1EG. Tel 01606 593953
E mail stanevans67@hotmail.com

I'm sure readers will be aware of the ongoing work being done by the Welsh Guards Collections Committee to obtain accreditation status and therefore be recognised throughout the Museum world as a bonafide regimental museum. Well I'm glad to inform you that we are nearing the very last furlong home.

On February the 18th with the backing of the Regiments Trustees, AMOT (Army Museums Ogilby Trust) through its Chairman Brigadier Colin Siburn has accepted us as the Welsh Guards official Regimental Museum under the (Working toward accreditation) status. We have one more hurdle to get over, one last piece of the jigsaw to put in place and we are there. I have to mention our "Stand in" MDO (Museums Development Officer) Charles Singleton for the tireless work he did preparing us for this revived

effort in getting us this far. Because Charles put in so much work in his own time to assist us in this quest I on behalf of the Committee presented Charles with a stunning pair of Welsh Guards cuff links which I believe took him by complete surprise. Many thanks Chas,

As soon as our 2013 season was over it was time to plan next season's new display of the Mathew Lucas 1st WW Collection. By November I had made two trips to Leamington Spa to collect the majority of



Mr Aneurin Williams, Mr Barry Williams and Mr Ron Cook. Aneurin was the oldest player on parade.



This is better than the gym.

this fabulous collection and at that point had nowhere to put it other than our stores. The building set aside for this collection was provided free of charge by the Directors of Park Hall Martyn Hughes and Richard Powell, it was an old empty Victorian "horse tack" room of some 25' x 15' with a leaking roof, one light bulb and peeling walls. The first priority was to make the place secure. Graham Binnie working with his blacksmith neighbour produced all the ironwork to the windows and doors. The materials and labour was sponsored by the Arts Council through our MDO once again Charles Singleton. Captain Chris Hopkins filled two ton of sand into sandbags to shroud the entrance along with some steel coiled smooth wire it gave it that "wartime effect". I built all the wooden cabinets to house the display and between them Brian John and Graham converted an old patio door into a bright and accessible area to tend to the display. Spyder Webb at the top of a huge ladder gave the walls a lick of white paint to smarten them up and Blenheim Palace Curator Karen Wiseman thanking us for a display we had loaned to them earlier, gave us all the wood and fixings to create our trench along with its own "Khaki In his earlier life Lt Col Rupert Thermalize had been a guide at Blenheim Palace and his Mother to this day is still part of the Palace staff.

Captain Chris contacted Will Kevans the now famous Artiste, Poet and Musician to see if he could help us out with a mural over the trench depicting "No man's land", Will had served in the Welsh Guards during the Falklands campaign. The brief I gave him was as you would expect,

charred trees and bomb craters filled with mud and gore and the odd disabled tank. What we got was an absolute masterpiece. Not how I could have imagined, it was 10' x 3' done in a kind of comic book characters fashion with scores of men from both sides doing whatever they had to do to survive. The visitors we have had including all the schools visitors are amazed how it tells the storey through a medium children can relate to. We will always be in your debt Will. The picture shows Will and Alan Loose who last saw each other in the Falklands 1982. Will is holding his "due to be released book" entitled "My life in pieces", depicting the build up to the Falklands the war itself and the return to Brize Norton on 29th July after the wars conclusion. A must read.

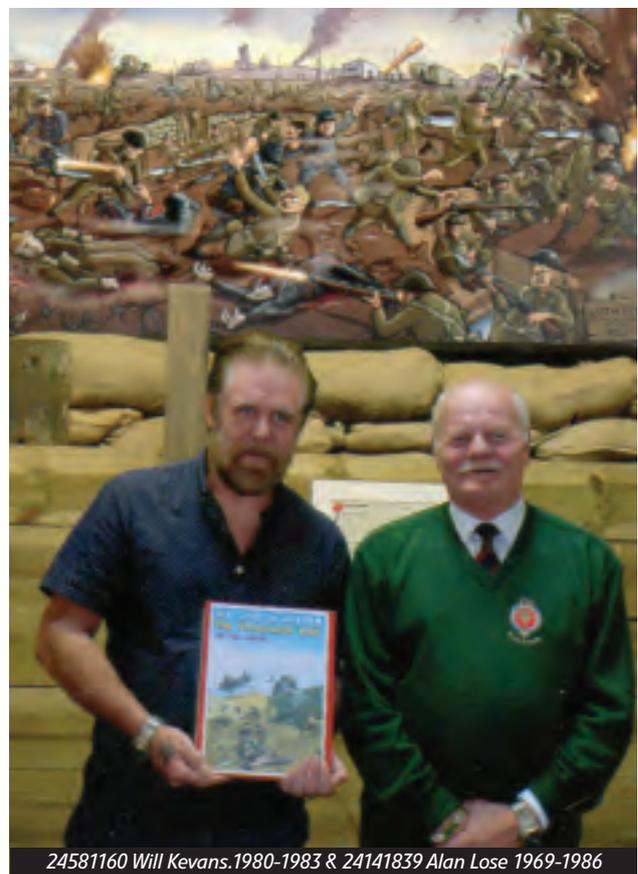
With all the toughened glass in situ, again sponsored by Park Hal it was time to fill it with the Collection. At the time of writing this I have been down to Leamington Spa again to pick up the remainder of the collection and I have to say it has turned out to be a quite stunning display.

In June Mrs Wendy Shackell brought in her late Fathers military Medal. 2736303 Cpl Cecil Lawrie had won his MM whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion as a stretcher bearer during the Hechtel campaign. The picture below shows Wendy handing over the MM to me on behalf of the Regiment. Cpl Lawrie's exploits can be read in Welsh Guards at war page 225.

It has not been all good news this season, one of the original team of 2001 Norman Edwards who served with the 3rd Battalion through North Africa, Italy and finally Austria sadly passed away in the nursing



You missed a bit Spyder!



24581160 Will Kevans.1980-1983 & 24141839 Alan Lose 1969-1986



Mrs Shackleton handing over her Fathers MM.

home where he lived for the past few years. It was nice to see a good turn out at his funeral from his family, friends and comrades. Norman was 90 years of age and I supposed will be best remembered as "One of lifes Gentlemen" and the Montgomery and Shropshire branch Standard bearer which he carried with pride for many many years.

Norman is just one of many helpers we have lost at the Museum over the years and as we all get older the task of finding volunteers to help serve the visiting public is an ongoing problem. We have lost the "Front of counter" services of Graham Binnie through ill health, John Williams has taken over the Secretary and Treasures job at the Montgomery and Shropshire branch which is a huge undertaking. However he still looks after our sales and

treasury. Brian John helps with everything he is able and particular our photograph archive. So we have had to scour the land for volunteers, local services have helped and this year we hope to include our newest volunteer Mark Andrews who has many years experience with the Cadet force and then the TA. I hope Mark will enjoy the chance to work with us and I'm sure he will make a first class assistant after his training.

If you are at a stage in your life where you have some spare time on your hands, please just call in and see if being a volunteer and becoming one of the team might be just what you are looking for. We can certainly do with a lot of help this coming year. We hope to be able to put on displays of life in the Welsh Guards around the Country during our Centennial year. Things on the

agenda areA twelve month display in the Guards Museum London. By kind permission of Curator Andrew Wallis and his assistant Garry Gibbs.

A similar display in the Museum of the Welsh Soldier in Cardiff Castle again at the request of Curator Rachel Silverson and her Assistant Curator Major Mark Evans.

Of course there is St Davids Day The Millennium Building Cardiff Bay, The Troop, New Colours the list is endless. So bear us in mind because we can use all the help we can get either temporarily or permanently. So please give it some thought. Thank you.

CYMRU AM BYTH.



2736303 Sgt Cecil Lawrie. MM

THE THIRD BATTALION No Colours... and No Mess Silver

Roy Lewis

In 2014 two important anniversaries, the hundredth of the outbreak of the First World War and the 70th of the Normandy landings were commemorated in print, television and services of remembrance.

1944 was the last full year of the Second World War but fighting involving the Western Allies was not confined to North West Europe. The 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards faced a defiant enemy, harsh terrain and bad weather in Italy where some of the hardest battles of the war in the west were fought.

In June 1944 the 1st and 2nd Battalions returned to France as part of the Guards Armoured Division, while the 3rd Battalion in Italy was already heavily engaged in an infantry war, armour playing little part where one hard working mule was prized more than a dozen tanks.

The 3rd Battalion was unique with a character all its own, it served abroad in the war longer than the 1st and 2nd Battalions beginning in Tunisia in 1943 and ending in Austria in 1945. It was formed in the war and disbanded after it ended in Europe. Former Drill Sergeant 08 Davies summed it up, "We had no Colours and no mess silver."

4034108 William Butler Davies was born in Maesteg in 1922 and in Italy became Junior Drill Sergeant at the age of 22 years and 10 months. He served from June 1939 to July 1946 and died in Newton, Porthcawl in 2001 aged 79, a proud 3rd Battalion man to the end and in an article for the Regimental Magazine wrote "We were a big Battalion in every way and I shall never feel anything but

pride that I served in it."

One of the survivors of the 3rd Battalion is Gilbert George Priddy (2736881) who was born in the Rhondda Valley in June 1916. He joined the Welsh Guards in June 1940, went to the 3rd in February 1943 and was released in March 1946 as a Lance Sergeant. He sailed with the Battalion to North Africa and was wounded in his left knee in July 1943. Gilbert served 223 days overseas and now lives in Bristol.

Bill Powell (2739251) was born in February 1925 in Pontnewynydd near Pontypool. He entered the Guards Depot in February 1944 and joined the 3rd Battalion in Italy in September. When the 3rd disbanded he transferred to the 2nd in October 1945 and served in Germany for two years before finishing his service as a physical training instructor in the Depot. He and Gilbert Priddy meet often at Monmouthshire Branch functions and share memories of their days in the Third.

The Battalion served abroad for two and half years and the last shots fired by the Battalion was in the advance to the Adige River on Friday 27th April 1945. Sixteen hundred men served in it, 400 throughout its existence and 600 were casualties. The graves of Welsh Guardsmen are found in many

military cemeteries in Italy, seventy of them are buried in the Cassino area. Of the eleven Battle Honours borne on our Colours five of them were awarded to the 3rd and eight of the sixteen which are not borne.

The Not Forgotten Association is a registered charity formed in 1920 "to provide comfort, cheer and entertainment for the wounded ex-servicemen still in hospital as a result of the Great War." It continues its caring for all who served in the Armed Forces during and since the major conflicts as well as arranging social events and tours. In May 2014 the Association took a party to Italy that included three Welsh Guardsmen, Bill Powell and two who served in the Falklands, Rob Nicholls (2499905) and Steve Liversage BEM (24141822), Chairman and Secretary respectively of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) Wales.

A battlefield tour is of particular interest to Steve who is Secretary/Treasurer of the Monmouthshire Branch of the Welsh Guards Association. He spends a great deal of time researching the history of the Regiment and his anticipation of visiting places where the 3rd Battalion had fought was heightened when he knew that Bill and Rob were also going on the tour. So it was that three Welsh Guardsmen who had seen active service under totally different conditions and circumstances set off together on a tour they will never forget.

The party met up and stayed in the Union Jack Club and on the first night went to the Tower of

London for a gala dinner in the White Tower which was in aid of the Not Forgotten Association that resulted in £50,000 being raised. The following morning the party took an early flight from Heathrow to Rome with their tour guide Ingeleby Jefferson whose father Lieutenant Colonel J Jefferson had commanded the 1st Battalion from July 1940 to September 1941.

The 70th Anniversary Remembrance Tour began on Saturday 17 May 2014 and ended on Friday the 23rd. It was based at the seaside resort of Gaeta and consisted of representatives of nineteen Service Associations. Daily visits were made to battlefields and Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries.

On the second day after an early start the tour party arrived at Cassino where a service of remembrance to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Italian Campaign and the battles of Cassino was held in the presence of Prince Harry, the British Ambassador and other dignitaries from many countries. The party also visited the Monastery and its surrounds where the 3rd Battalion fought in what is known as the fourth battle of Cassino.

There are thirty-five Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in Italy and Sicily and in one of them in Cassino there is a Memorial to commemorate more than 4000 Allied soldiers who died in the fighting all over Italy and who have no known graves.

"We were a big Battalion in every way and I shall never feel anything but pride that I served in it."

After the official proceedings there Steve Liversage and Rob Nicholls met Prince Harry and with Bill Powell and his brother Brain who served in the Royal Artillery laid leeks on the graves of Welsh Guardsmen. For Bill Powell it was a sad occasion because he knew many of those buried there. On that May day standing in the immaculately kept cemetery in Cassino where so many Welsh Guardsmen lie, Steve Liversage and Rob Nicholls had their memories too, of friends who lost their lives in the Falkland

Islands in June 1982.

Thanks to the Not Forgotten Association and its Head of Events, Rosie Thompson, the tour was a success and greatly appreciated by the ex-Servicemen and women who were given the opportunity to visit the battlefields of Italy and pay tribute to those who fought and fell there. For the Welsh Guardsmen it was a reminder of the noble part played by men of the 3rd Battalion in a campaign that should never be forgotten.

A 50 TONNE WELSH GUARDSMAN

Captain Beryn Lewis

The story started a long long time ago in the Gwili Valley just north of Carmarthen.

It was Christmas 1993, the days were chilly and nights long. The (dai-lemma) was how to entertain the younger generation. Looking for a warm environment out of the rain, the answer came from a "Santa Special" steam trip up the Gwili Railway. When we arrived everybody was drawn to the hissing engine waiting to

pull us up the line to a Christmas world in a distant land. "Daddy, why is Thomas black?" I was desperately thinking of an answer, that could be repeated in class the next day, but I was saved by a name on her side, "Welsh Guardsman, Thomas's friend"! Children happy, we chuffed up the line to see Santa Claus.



It was many years later (2011), after Thomas and his friends had been relegated to the attic, that a surprise anniversary party took me back to the Gwili Railway. It was a joyous bacchanal occasion, surrounded by friends and family, but there was something missing from the perfect event. With not just a little apprehension, I asked "What has happened to the little black engine called Welsh Guardsman"? A sombre-faced official pointed to a sad looking, rusty forlorn engine, neglected in a siding. She had lost her name (which is familiar

to most Welsh Guardsmen!). This was now Loco 71516.

Loco 71516 was built in 1944, not in the lush green pastures of Wales but many miles away in Newcastle by Robert Stevenson. She weighs 49 tonnes and carries 1,200 gallons of water in her saddle. One and a half tonnes of coal in her bunker made sure she could pull 1,000 tonnes of freight. With a top speed of 50mph, she could keep pace with any vehicle on a minor road, but the real dilemma was the three and a half hour wait to move a yard after one had lit the fire in her belly!!

This was not a getaway vehicle!! She was built for the war effort and to replace the engines in France as the Germans retreated! Few locomotives were destroyed in France so (71516) never saw active service abroad. In the very cold winter of 1947, she started her new life with the Coal Board. Her line was between Llanelli Docks and Cynheidre, some 15 miles away, which passed through Felinfoel. In those days, only colliers had a ration of coal and this made the difference of providing heat to one's family or not.

Felinfoel, renowned for its brewery, had few colliers living



in the village and so things were very tough. The solution to the problem was simple! The driver of 71516 was coerced with ale to overfill the coal wagons at the colliery. When passing Felinfoel, the brakes were viciously applied and a week's ration of coal deposited itself on the track, to be collected by all the brewery employees later! It was written in the stars that by keeping the village warm, a proud old lady would be saved from the scrap heap of life!!

The Austerity class of loco was a War Department engine and when in the 1980s she was acquired by the Gwili Railway, it seemed fitting to name her after such a famous Welsh regiment. She carried her name plate with pride so that all who have served and those who have fallen would always be remembered.

She was affectionately known as "Scrap Heap Challenge" amongst those who had come to know her but I felt that she had to be restored to her former glory. Luckily the Llangollen Railway Heritage Centre came to the rescue and after much negotiation, 71516 was transported to North Wales. Six months was the timescale put on the re-build but, as I have subsequently learnt, timings in the world of railways are seldom accurate! Just over 2 years later 71516 was well enough to return home to Carmarthenshire. All major parts had been replaced (and most of the minor ones as well, for good measure!!). Renovating a steam locomotive is not for the faint hearted!

With her new boiler, fire box, pistons, drive train and gleaming new name plates, she was put on a special low loader and dispatched to



Carmarthen. Arriving only 24 hours late due to lorry failure, she was fired up and made her inaugural trip up the Gwili Railway.

On the 9th June 2014, the Welsh Guardsman had her re-dedication service. The Regimental Adjutant, supported by members of the Corps of Drums, very

graciously made the long trip to Carmarthen to join the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff and the local mayors for this occasion. Col. Tom Bonas did the honours and named her. After a blessing from the local padre, everyone boarded the train for a journey through the picturesque Gwili valley, following the meandering

river. The sun shone and the beer flowed. A great start to a new life.

The story of the 'Welsh Guardsman' will live on as she now has a trust to look after her. Never again to be left alone in a sad siding. She is back, gleaming in her new colours and wearing her name with pride. Cymru am byth.



* A LETTER FROM THE TRENCHES

On the 3rd December 1915 Private Daniel Vaughan 962 of the 1st Battalion who had enlisted in Treorchy wrote the following letter to his wife. The Battalion were resting near the town of Laventie where it was reported there were a few shops still open and it was "not shelled very often." He was wounded once but survived the war.

"Dear Wife,

We are back in the reserve trenches again until tomorrow when we go in the first line. We are doing just the same as before, two days in the first line and two in reserve. I received your most welcome letter soon after we got there and was very glad to get it as I hadn't heard a word from anyone only the letter you sent me on the 29th.

Dear girl you say you heard that the war would be over by Christmas, I wish I could think so but what I have seen it will be over by Christmas a twelve-month from now. I hope and pray you are right as I have had more than enough.

I forgot to thank Lottie for the sardines, tell her that they were fine, me and my mate enjoyed them, a luxury out here. We haven't sampled the coffee yet but I expect it will be lovely. You don't want to send any cocoa or coffee as my pal has plenty sent so we are alright in that line.

The biggest part of us are beginning to know the value of home, I only wish I was there now but don't worry dear girl because as you know I am still very lucky. I expect you understand what I mean. It has been very wet here these last few days, how is the weather with you?

There is one thing I keep forgetting and that is about the patent lighter. You asked if it would be any good, it is the very thing that is wanted here. Perhaps when we are writing a letter we would have to get up about a dozen times and we forget what we wanted to write. Just every letter that I have written I have had to get up and do something.

Tell Lottie I will send a card as soon as we get our next pay, I don't know when that will be but expect it will be in a fortnight. I am clean spent out now, I had a couple of good meals while we were resting. I can guess why Fred Weekes has turned teetotal as I have only had one glass of beer since I have been out here.

The only thing we spend our money on is bread and butter or sometimes an egg, we get one then we have to pay 3d for another. We don't have much to spend on out here. I have been here a month now, a month this morning when we landed at Le Havre but it seems like twelve months.

Dear girl I think I have told you all this time so will draw to a close hoping this will find you all in the best of health. Sorry to hear about father, I hope by the time this reaches you he will be alright again. Remember me to all, with best wishes and greatest love from your true and loving husband, Dan."

The letter was given to the Secretary of the Monmouthshire Branch Steve Liversage by Daniel Vaughan's nephew.



Blind Veterans UK provides vital support to ex-Service personnel



Mick Scanlan

Having to adjust to life with sight loss at any age can be devastating. Without specialist support, many people are left feeling isolated and without confidence.

Blind Veterans UK is the national organisation for blind and vision impaired ex-Service men and women, providing free services and support to help them overcome the challenges of blindness and live full and independent lives.

Regardless of how they lost their sight or when they served, Blind Veterans UK will

provide veterans with free, lifelong support. The charity helps with whatever someone needs – that could be anything from specialist equipment to help them make a cup of tea at home, to training at one of Blind Veterans UK’s service centres, to help with mobility to get out to the shops.

Former Guardsman Mick

Scanlan began to lose his sight due to diabetic maculopathy in 2000. Despite losing his sight years later, Mick’s history in service meant he was eligible for support from Blind Veterans UK.

Mick says: "Initially losing my sight was frightening but now I am used to the fact that I am blind. Through Blind Veterans UK I have become a lot more confident about my ability to do things despite my vision impairment."

Once he got in touch with the charity, Mick began to receive training and equipment to help him live more independently at home as well as beginning to learn new skills.

Mick says: "After being assessed by the charity and given an induction into what it can offer me, I have been given excellent equipment specialised for people who are blind and vision impaired. I’ve now got an NVQ IT

qualification through Blind Veterans UK and using this, I hope to find employment once again.

"I have also been able to make great friends at the charity. The thing is when you lose your sight you feel as though you are in no man's land, and what I have found most helpful is learning from other veterans about how they have coped with their sight loss day to day."

Blind Veterans UK’s No One Alone campaign is reaching out to the estimated 68,000 plus vision impaired ex-Service personnel who could be benefiting from the charity’s services but they either do not know about the charity or they do not know that they are eligible for its services.

If you are, or know of, a veteran with vision impairment, call freephone **0800 389 7979** or visit www.noonealone.org.uk



X10 team, Task Force 3 ready for the Zombie apocalypse

WORKING IN THE SWAMPS OF LOUISIANA

Captain AJH Dunlop

With less than 3 weeks of my Herrick 16 tour I found myself in Bastion getting ready to head home early in order to start my new posting. I had put in my first PPP a few weeks prior and found out that my wife and I were heading to the swamps of Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The information I initially received about the job was that it was like OPTAG for the US Army and I would be an Observer, Coach and Trainer (OCT) for the units coming through prior to deploying.

After a fairly hectic couple of weeks of admin that comes with an overseas posting and saying hello and goodbye to the family, I arrived in Washington DC for my initial brief. My main take away from all the briefs in the British Embassy was to keep my licence and registration in

the sun visor above my head and not the glove box! This would avoid the police thinking I was reaching down to the glove box for a concealed firearm and then drawing their pistol on me!

My initial few days at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) was spent 'in processing'. This involved getting all my identification squared away, getting my Humvee driving license, registering at the hospital and learning about the roles and responsibilities of an OCT.

I was informed I would be joining Task Force 3 (Reconnaissance Squadron) as a team leader with 16 OCT's under my command, advising, mentoring and assessing Company/Troop Leaders and their personnel on their final pre- deployment exercise before going on operations.

My predecessor introduced me to my team during our handover/takeover in a bar/strip club called Pegasus in the small town of Leesville. Leesville is the closest town to Fort Polk and is no more than a few fast food restaurants, a Wal-Mart, hundreds of church houses and a few 'Deep South' country bars that all seem to double up as strip clubs. Luckily the bar wasn't too distracting and I managed to have a semi-formal work chat with my First Sergeant (1SG) (Company Sergeant Major equivalent).

1SG Hilton informed me that I

would observe and coach company/troop commanders throughout an exercise rotation. I would be expected to have a wide knowledge of US Army doctrine in order to best coach and train the company, but also highlight the differences and similarities between the US Army's and UK doctrine. Utilising the computer imagery picked up from the GPS on the multiple integrated laser engagement system (MILES); the still photography and video footage, I would have to produce several after action reviews (AAR) throughout an exercise rotation.

JRTC prides itself in giving the rotational training unit (RTU) the most realistic training they will ever experience at a Collective training centre (CTC). Even with sequestration the US Army through FORCOM pumps over \$17 million into each Brigade level exercise rotation. There are no Heli-Bedfords or notional support, everything is catered for!

Building the exercise begins several months in advance of the execution. Once a rotation slot has been allocated and the budget somewhat approved the Operations Group at JRTC send their planners to meet with the Brigade and Divisional commander for that rotation. This is known as the Initial Planning Conference (IPC). All parties involved will discuss the mission the Brigade will be executing down range, giving the planners enough detail (i.e. Bde Training objectives etc) to build an intense and realistic training exercise.

After the several reporting requirements to FORCOM, the Commander of Operations Group (COG) and the Commanding General (CG) of Fort Polk have been approved

" This would avoid the police thinking I was reaching down to the glove box for a concealed firearm and then drawing their pistol on me!"

JRTC is ready to receive the next RTU.

Prior to arriving at JRTC the Brigade staff will receive their orders from JRTC (acting as Division) and then go through a similar process as CAST or CATT in order to deliver the Brigade Commanders orders to each Battalion/Squadron Commanding Officer.

The Battalion/Squadron staff then begins the Leader Training program (LTP) at JRTC to go through the Battalion level Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), the US Army's version of the 7 Questions. Whilst going through this process they are observed and coached by their OCT's and the LTP internal coaches led by a retired one star General with a team of retired Colonels and Command Sergeant Majors.

Predominately there are two main types of rotation. The majority until recently had been the Mission Rehearsal Exercises (MRE) which are heavily focused on RC (E) or (N) in Afghanistan.

During this type of rotation units will send personnel who would become Security Force Assistance Teams (SFA-ATs) to the SFA-AT Academy run by 162nd Infantry Brigade stationed at Fort Polk. Here the SFATs develop their skills as a 12-17 man team advising and assisting host nation security forces (HNSF).

Until recently the remainder of the brigade would function as the area of operations support command (AOSC) supporting the SFA-AT and ANSF through partnered patrols and/or Information Collection (IC) previously ISR or ISTAR. The focus of SFA-ATs is now at the Corps level, operating under a one Star General leading a train, assist and advise command (TAAC).



US and ANSF forces in Marjani village, JRTC prior to a key leader engagement

The exercise starts with platoon and company level situational training exercise (STX) lanes and Live Fire exercise (LFX) lanes. The lanes vary from Combat support (for HNSF Ops), to conducting a raid or defending a joint operating base.

Whilst the Sub-units are conducting these lanes, the Brigade the Battalion Staffs are executing a command post exercise (CPX) that will help shape the scenario (S2 and targeting) during the force on force (FoF) phase of the rotation.

FoF is the free play phase of the rotation, with only a handful of scripted events. The rest of the phase is controlled and adjudicated through both forces wearing the MILES kit.

The second type of rotation is the Decisive Action Training Exercise (DATE). This type of rotation supports missions such as the Global Reaction Force

(GRF). A GRF brigade is usually on 96-24 hours notice to move for a period of 9 months. They must prepare for Airborne or Air assault operations into a sovereign nation that is under threat from an unrecognized government or state.

DATE rotations focus heavily on conventional warfare and are the most enjoyable exercise to observe and coach on. Due to the admin that the RTU will have to conduct for Airborne/Air assault operations into the box, there is a RSOI package put together as well as LFX lanes and a CPX. STX lanes are not conducted during DATE rotations as FoF is extended in order to meet the training objectives.

DATE rotations are broken into phases; the Airborne/Air assault operation to seize the airfield; expanding the lodgment; conducting reconnaissance and security patrols; the defence

and finally offensive operations.

A DATE rotation is conducted at a high tempo, to seize the initiative and catch the enemy by surprise. The RTU really works hard especially the reconnaissance squadron who has to push off the airfield immediately into their sectors to conduct several types of reconnaissance patrols to help build the common operating picture for the brigade. Although a very tiring exercise for all involved it is very enjoyable and interesting.

One of the reasons I find it interesting is because as OCT's we see how much our experience on Op Telic (Iraqi Freedom) and Op Herrick (Enduring Freedom) have shaped our command styles! The COIN environment has left those few commanders with actual conventional warfare experience rusty in this type of fight and the rest of us

“Although a very tiring exercise for all involved it is very enjoyable and interesting.”



Geronimo soldier firing on US forces

forgetting our conventional exercise experience and/or neglecting to refer to our doctrinal publications. More often than not we OCT's observe commanders placing unnecessary constraints on their subordinates during these exercises. They are so risk adverse and revert back to the Op Telic and Herrick rules of engagement, seeming to follow Karzai's 12 rather than what the DATE scenario depicts.

Assisting the realism of the

exercises is 1-509th Parachute regiment (AKA 'Geronimo') who are permanently stationed at Fort Polk to play enemy and HNSF. The 509th chain of command controls all their personnel and their actions in the box, no input from the OCTs (less the scripted events). Just like any real time opposing force they conduct mission planning and operations in order to undermine and disrupt the RTU operations.

In addition to the 509th there

are several hundred-role players to play interpreters, key officials and the local population. A few hundred of these role players are contracted expats from Afghanistan who now live predominately in the state of California. The rest of the role players are from the local area and are affectionately known as 'Cajun' role players.

We don't have a great deal of time outside of rotation, so time is spent getting our kit in order for the next exercise and

completing any mandatory training requirements (US Army version of MATTS etc). However these work days are short so that we can make up for lost time with the families. After work hours are often spent in the garden grilling meat and drinking a few well earned beers with the neighbours!

In addition to my work and free time I was afforded the opportunity to get my Silver Wings at the US Army Airborne School, as JRTC is an Airborne tied posting for my US Army counterparts. I have also started up the Fort Polk Rugby Football Club, which at the moment is very much a 7s franchise. The squad is growing and we are expecting to add a few 15 a side fixtures to our several 7s tournaments during our 2013/2014 season.

Overall JRTC is a great CTC, it has the infrastructure and budget to produce one of the best exercises an RTU will ever experience. The only constraint is adhering to the RTU training objectives and the imagination of the JRTC planners in charge of the exercise. Fortunately or unfortunately, I haven't quit decided yet! I will be put to the test, as I am now one of JRTC's G3/5/7 Division planners currently putting together 1/101st BDE (Bastogne) exercise rotation.

I am thoroughly enjoying this posting and have learned a huge amount about current operations, planning, organising and mentoring commanders (Majors and below) on large scale pre deployment training. By the time I get back to the UK not only will I have a higher understanding of COIN operations but I will also have a really good understanding of Airborne and Air assault operations at Unit and Brigade Level.



JRTC & Fort Polk rugby team and family after winning the plate at a 7s tournament in Houston.



Welsh Guards memorial, Fitzroy (Tim Miller kneeling)

SITREP FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS 32 YEARS ON

James Farquharson

In early March this year a small group of Welsh Guards veterans made the return trip to the Falkland Islands. The trip was arranged by the indefatigable Charlie Carty, to whom we are all immensely grateful, and included Julian Peel Yates, Billy Lyth, Julian Sayers, Philip Dymoke and James Farquharson. Regimental Headquarters provided generous support. Sitreps were emailed home each evening as follows.

Arrival Monday 10th March

The RAF has outsourced much of its non-core activity. That apparently includes flying aircraft, our flight was in a civilian Airbus A300. It's a long flight but quite comfortable and we were well looked after. Mount Pleasant Airbase (MPA) is an RAF station purpose built in a high alert zone with its full share of bureaucracy and regulation. Two immigration forms, for example, seemed a little excessive for what is a British Overseas Territory.

The Liberty Lodge, where veterans stay, is terrific and an absolute credit to Tony Davies and the other veterans

responsible for its construction. Lots of space, fabulous views over Stanley harbour, comfortable rooms. Any trip that includes a group of retired officers is of course only possible with a Quartermaster and CSM to make sure that things actually get done. All logistics are effortlessly taken care of and a proper mess breakfast miraculously appears at 7.45 with mushrooms, beans and everything. All part of the Alzheimer's avoidance plan.

Tuesday 11th March - Fitzroy

A service of commemoration at the WG memorial. A magnificent stone Gaelic cross in a beautiful but desolate spot. The Red Dragon flew proudly in a strong wind as we listened to Charlie Carty, with all the gravitas of the South Wales Borderers Colour Sergeant at Rorke's Drift, read out the names of the dead overlooking the place where Sir Galahad was bombed. An emotional and cathartic moment.

We were then treated to a hugely generous buffet lunch by several islanders in the Fitzroy village hall, just to top up our modest breakfast. In the afternoon we found the position where the battalion waited to start the final assault on Sapper Hill. It has changed only because there is a new road running into Stanley, I say road, only short stretches are metalled. Dinner in a local restaurant. On an island in the

middle of the Atlantic surrounded by thousands of square miles packed with fish and famous for sheep I chose beef. Schoolboy error.

Wednesday 12th March - Island tour

A circumnavigation of the island covering Teal Inlet, San Carlos, Darwin and Goose Green. Regular Officers of yesteryear quite rightly cannot be trusted to drive a mini bus so Charlie took the wheel. From Stanley to San Carlos is a good two hours on the gravel tracks. The terrain is pretty unforgiving like Sennybridge or the higher reaches of the Yorkshire Moors.

My respect for the efforts of 3 Para and 45 Commando is greatly increased, that was a hell of a yomp. I had also forgotten the weather. The temperature is not especially cold but the wind is bitter, strong and relentless. When it carries rain on it anyone in the open is very quickly wet and very cold. And this isn't winter yet. In a field overlooking the water is the British Cemetery, another carefully constructed and beautifully maintained memorial, though of course most British casualties were buried at sea. Windswept barely does it justice. We paid our respects.

We lunched on rolls, kindly prepared by Billy sometime before dawn, overlooking the WG position where we dug in and got wet and cold in the first days after we landed, we even found some of the trenches.

From there to Goose Green via the Argentine cemetery to pay our respects to their dead, a

"My respect for the efforts of 3 Para and 45 Commando is greatly increased, that was a hell of a yomp."



Carty, Dymoke, Peel-Yates, Sayers, Lyth, Farquharson at San Carlos

bleak spot lacking the immaculate touch of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

After another long drive back on the awful road we dined at the Malvina hotel. In the restaurant a delegation from Argentina, members of their parliamentary staff and including several 1982 veterans. After dinner we talked, through an interpreter, under the lights of the camera recording a documentary of the visit. We gradually established a good soldier to soldier rapport and a mutual recognition of the futility of conflict. Their attitude to the sovereignty of the islands was however very clear and deeply held underlining the challenge our political masters face in resolving this historic dispute. We walked back in the dark. The rain started after a few minutes and got progressively heavier. I

thought I had given up night marches across the Falkland Islands in the pouring rain 30 years ago. At least I slept in a proper bed this time.

Thursday 13th March - Stanley

The morning was spent in Stanley. As Philip and I searched for our 1982 accommodation in the town there was an outburst of emergency sirens followed by helicopters and speeding vehicles. It turns out that whilst on their way to San Carlos one of the cars driven by the Argentinians had gone off the road and rolled several times killing one (not a veteran) and injuring two of the other members of their group. We were all pretty shocked as we were with them only a few hours before.

In the afternoon we toured the peninsula around the old

airfield. The beaches facing east are stunning, white sand, beautiful dunes, clear blue water, shags and cormorants. And mines. The whole area is littered with them and all the best beaches are out of bounds. It wasn't bathing weather but on a warm day it would be better than Cornwall. While some of us walked to the lighthouse to look at the Atlantic Conveyor memorial Charlie and Billy prepared a sensational curry for dinner. Surprisingly the volume of alcohol needed to accompany it was negligible; we're drinking one bottle of wine per night between us. That must be a first in this Lodge.

Friday 14th March - Bluff Cove

On 7th June 1982 at 0400, 300 Welsh Guardsmen were loaded onto two landing craft in the belly of HMS Fearless

approximately 30 miles south of the islands and headed for the settlement of Bluff Cove. It was a clear moonlit winter's night, bitterly cold. As the landing craft increased speed the waves started to slap into the bow ramp throwing spray onto the troops crammed onto the open deck protected only by army waterproofs which is, of course, an oxymoron. Six hours later as dawn broke the landing craft sneaked through a rock sided ravine into Bluff Cove and dropped their ramps on yellow beach, discharging their cold, wet and tired cargo.

We went to yellow beach today. The weather was by Falkland standards glorious, only a breeze blowing and the sun shining. It is in its way a lovely place with creeks and rocky outcrops and even a few trees to break up the landscape and give a bit of colour. As we looked down into the ravine a pair of dolphins appeared, languidly breaking the surface of the water until they spied a shoal of mullet at which point their white flanks could be seen

"As Philip and I searched for our 1982 accommodation in the town there was an outburst of emergency sirens followed by helicopters and speeding vehicles."

under the water streaking to and fro in pursuit of lunch. We worked our way back to the road through the settlement where the islanders had met us with life-saving cups of tea when we landed after that horrible night and went to find the trenches where the battalion were dug in the following day when the Skyhawks flew by on their way back from bombing Sir Galahad.

The Stuarts, a charming local couple, kindly entertained us for dinner a few minutes from the Lodge. We left before midnight and predictably walked back in rain.

Saturday 15th March - Mount Harriet.

The Falkland Islands Government has its own defence force, the FIDF. They employ a Royal Marine, C/Sgt Law, on secondment to train the volunteers who form the force. He took us all on a tour of Mount Harriet, captured by the Marines of 42 commando on the night of 11th June. As a serving marine who has met many of the men who fought in that battle he was able to give an absolutely fascinating blow by blow account of the events of that night and the remarkable courage and professionalism the men of 42 Commando displayed.

From Harriet we could see Longdon, Tumbledown, Wireless Ridge and Mount Kent, all scenes of heavy fighting during the last week of the conflict. I could also see in the distance the position that 4 platoon occupied at the start of that week. It's pretty clear that Argentinians on Mount Harriet were the ones who called down the artillery on us and were responsible for the airburst shell that nearly took



Mount Harriet – the mortar that shelled 4 Platoon? Bluff Cove in the distance

the heads off Gdsm Clements and me, Clements found the piece of shrapnel soon afterwards and apparently still has it.

Sunday 16th March – platoon commander's discretion

A non-military day today. I had a morning's fishing set up and was whisked away to the north of Wireless Ridge by Nick, an islander born and bred, in one of the innumerable Land Rovers of every age, shape and

size that pound the roads of these islands. The afternoon was very special. We went in search of penguins, this time with the assistance of the Kilmartins who own the land with the largest colony. After a proper cross country drive through the peat bogs and rock runs, by Land Rover naturally, we came to a field close to the sea where there were hundreds of Gentoo penguins. They breed throughout the year so there were adults in various stages of moult,

depending on the age of their dependent chicks. There were also a handful of King Penguins, bigger and more colourful and with two beautiful chicks, little bundles of brown feathers. Keeping a close eye on all of them were a couple of Turkey Vultures, lurking malevolently on the fringes of the colony in the hope of an easy feed. As the sun came out they spread their wings to absorb the warmth which served only to make them look more sinister.



Sennybridge? No. 1 WG position near San Carlos May 1982



The author at Fitzroy

Our final activity of the day was a tour of Stanley Bay in the Harbourmaster's boat. It was a beautiful evening, the sun setting over the peaks that were the battlefields of the last week of the war (sic). Stanley looks quite charming from the harbour, brightly coloured roofs fairly regularly spaced giving a reassuring impression of order. We zoomed around at high speed looking at the wreck of the Lady Elisabeth and the mine covered beaches of the surrounding bays before returning to dinner with Tim and Jan Miller, ardent Welsh Guards supporters, who run the market garden business that keeps the islands supplied with vegetables and flowers year round.

Monday 17th March – Sapper Hill

An early start and a visit to the Royal Artillery air defence

battery next to MPA. It was of particular interest because the weapon system that they use is Rapier, the same system that was one of the ingredients of the Sir Galahad disaster. In 1982 the missiles had been deployed above Fitzroy but couldn't be fired because the electronics hadn't booted properly leaving the skies above the Galahad undefended. Today's system is much more robust, if it fails there is a manual system that allows the operator to effectively point and shoot a £100k missile. We all had a go at the pointing bit until Charlie broke it. I'm sure they've got a spare.

The final stop off was Sapper Hill, the closest peak to Stanley and the Welsh Guards objective on the morning of 14th June. We were quietly doing what soldiers do best that morning, making tea after a night move through a minefield, when we

were told to pack up and get on the helicopters that were on their way. Soon afterwards they arrived, all of them apparently piloted by Prince Andrew, and we were whisked to the base of Sapper Hill ready to launch a battalion assault. Philip and I looked down from the top of the hill at the ground 4 platoon was set to cover. There was a 30m minefield to cross followed by a sharp incline into rocks and crags of 200 - 300m or so all in broad daylight. It is a natural fortress and I am eternally grateful for the fact that the white flag appeared over Stanley before we had to advance.

A final dinner at the Malvina hotel to thank the various locals who have entertained us over the past week. Falklands lamb is excellent. It rained on the way back of course, but this time we were in the minibus.

Postscript

Not long after we left MPA the captain warned us over the tannoy that a pair of jets would soon be appearing on the port side. My seat was by the window over the port wing and a few minutes later two Typhoons duly appeared right alongside us, their wings apparently so close to us that they were almost touching. The pilots waved and looked suitably nonchalant as required by pilots, especially fighter pilots, the world over before one dropped under our plane and re-appeared on the starboard wing. After a few minutes of studiously looking cool they got bored, gave a final wave and with a thunderous roar of their engines and a blast of flame were gone.

REGIMENTAL CASUALTIES OFFICER REPORT



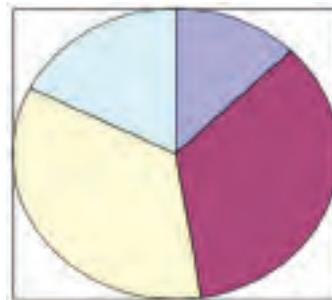
Ex-LCpl Geraint Hillard with a lightweight Wheelchair purchased by the Welsh Guards Appeal

REPORT BY THE REGIMENTAL CASUALTIES OFFICER February – December 2014 J P Myers MBE

The Regimental Casualty Officer is a new role within the Regiment, which started in February this year. I am employed by the Regimental Trustees, in a civilian role, working under the Regimental Adjutant. We are one of only a small number of Regiments that are able to do this at the moment.

My previous role was as the Drill Sergeant but I have also served almost 6 years as the Unit Welfare Colour Sergeant

and during some Operational Deployments, as the Welfare Officer. This new role will draw upon my experience in these



roles and the contacts that I have built up with various supporting agencies.

My main objectives are to support injured Welsh Guardsmen, whether mental or physical and our bereaved families. When a soldier is assigned to a PRU (Permanent Recovery Unit) or leaves the Army, I visit them, when needed/requested, and provide support for as long as is required.

A Casualty Database has been generated, to track individual's progress. All casualties since 1982 are tracked. There are currently 120 Welsh Guardsmen being monitored. Some soldiers are not physically injured but suffer, mentally, later on. These soldiers are added to this database when referred.

So far, I have conducted over

50 visits since February. These visits are to provide support and update individuals on the Regiment's activities. Visits are requested by the individual, family members or friends and are confidential. The chart opposite shows the breakdown of visits.

Some examples of the support provided so far are:

- ▶ Assisting ex-Welsh Guardsmen find employment.
- ▶ Providing references/ testimonials and support with writing letters and CVs etc.
- ▶ Obtaining funding for courses and licences to gain employment.
- ▶ Referring soldiers and families for specialist counselling and support groups.

"My main objectives are to support injured Welsh Guardsmen, whether mental or physical and our bereaved families."



Tony (Ed) Manning, a veteran of the Falklands Conflict, being visited at home

- ▶ Liaising with other charities/organisations on behalf of individuals.
- ▶ Obtaining funding for specialist equipment.

The majority of Welsh Guardsmen that I visit have no visible/physical injuries. Some are suffering with mental health problems e.g. Depression and PTSD. Others are struggling to find employment and funding for courses etc. I will offer advice and guidance on an individual basis and liaise with agencies or the Regiment.

All visits are confidential with personal reports kept by me only. Communication with other agencies is only done when the individual requests.

Meetings with our bereaved families happen several times a year. I update them on the Regiment's activities and invite them to any major event we hold. I also act as a liaison to other support groups and agencies if required.

The Appeal fund has paid out large sums of money so far. Due to the confidential nature of some requests, not all funding can be mentioned. Some examples are:

- ▶ Paying for alterations to houses e.g. Wet rooms, ramps, hand rails etc.
- ▶ Purchasing a state of the art lightweight wheel chair for an injured soldier.

- ▶ Assisting all our bereaved families with the cost of all wakes during funerals.
- ▶ Paying for removals costs for a bereaved family moving house.
- ▶ Funding specialist counselling for bereaved families and ex-Welsh Guardsmen.
- ▶ Purchasing items to make hospital stays more comfortable.
- ▶ Purchasing a special mattress for an injured soldier.
- ▶ Funding transport costs for families to visit injured soldiers in hospital.
- ▶ Paying for respite breaks for families and injured soldiers.

One of the most reassuring aspects that I have found, over the past few months, is that a lot of the referrals I receive come from friends in the Regiment (past and present) and family members that are concerned about an individual's welfare.

For a lot of individuals, the first step is always the hardest.

If you know anyone that might benefit from a visit, please don't hesitate to contact me. All communication is confidential.

Email:

welshguardsrco@gmail.com

Mobile: **07456 985729**

"For a lot of individuals, the first step is always the hardest."



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY







BRANCH REPORTS

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

President: Colonel T C C Bonas
Vice Presidents: Brigadier J F C Rickett CBE
R Lewis Esq.
Treasurer: Major K Oultram
Secretary General: B Keane Esq.
Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road,
Cardiff CF14 3YE
Telephone: 029 2078 1342
E-mail: welshguardsassociation@live.co.uk

In 2014 we commemorated 100 years since the commencement of WW1 and in 2015 we celebrate 100 years since the formation of our wonderful Regiment.

There are many events planned for the year which will take place up and down the country, and it is hoped that members will find at least one of these events close enough to their home to support and enjoy this auspicious occasion.

St David's Day will be the first major event involving the Association, and Cardiff Bay will be a wonderful setting for this.

Her Majesty the Queen has given her permission for the use of Windsor Castle as a setting for The Presentation of New Colours on April 30th, and on September 19th, our Centenary Dinner will take place at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Many of you will remember previous Dinners here, in elegant surroundings, but I assure you, since further refurbishment, it is even more spectacular. There are numerous hotels and guest houses in the surrounding area, so overnight accommodation should not be a problem. I sincerely hope to

see as many members as possible here since it going to be such a special occasion. We will endeavour to keep the costs to a minimum so that it will be affordable to all.

September 2014 saw the resurgence of the Association Battlefield Tour to Hechtel et al. It was such a resounding success, that due to demand, it is planned to arrange a similar tour in 2015, from Saturday 5th September – Wednesday 9th September. If you are interested in joining us then please contact me directly. The Regiment is also arranging a tour to The Somme from 10 – 15 September, and for those interested, please contact RHQ London.

I wish to thank everyone for their continued support to Association events. Sometimes it is difficult to attend functions due to distance or costs, but every effort made by you is greatly appreciated. It would be good to see some younger faces, and I am sure that in the realms of time, they will realize

the camaraderie and friendship available by meeting up with old mates.

Last but not least, a tremendous thanks to all Branch Secretaries. They do a vast amount of work and planning behind the scenes on a voluntary basis, and without their help the Association would fold.

I wish you and your families a happy healthy and contented 2015, and look forward to seeing you at some of the centenary events.

Brian Keane
Secretary General
Welsh Guards Association

EAST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

President: Lt. Col. D C Macdonald-Milner
Chairman: Howard Main (23577106)
Treasurer: W John Hooper (24364279)
Secretary: Ken Haines (23523287)
Trevone, Duffryn Road
Rhydfelin
Pontypridd CF39 5RU
Telephone: 01443 492316

2013 ended with quite a lot going on within the Branch, and 2014 continued in the same vein.

We all looked forward to celebrating St David's Day with the Regiment this year, but sadly due to various circumstances, St David's Day celebrations was changed to Wednesday 26th February, but the Branch as a whole decided to keep the celebrations to March 1st.

In the early part of the year we planned to visit the Tower of London, but this fell through because the only date available to us actually clashed with other Branch arrangements. Hopefully we can re-arrange this visit during 2015.

Our annual pilgrimage up the M4 to Imber Court in June was attended once again by a full coach consisting of members and friends. Also in our company was Eric Jones from the Merthyr Branch, who at 99 years of age is the eldest member of the Association. He was ably accompanied by Brian Keane, our Secretary General.

Eric was due to attend the sports day during that tragic day June at Imber Court during WW2, but changed duties with another Guardsman beforehand, who was sadly killed.

In October we were entertained by the authoress, Catrin Collier, a local girl, who gave us a most interesting talk on the difficulties in becoming a writer. She went into detail on how she started in the business with many people trying to put obstacles in her way and sometimes just because she was a woman. She overcame these difficulties by firstly changing her name to a nom de plume, then moving out of the area to London. She has a great affinity to the Welsh Guards due to her father having served in the Regiment for a number of years.

The Darts and Shooting competition took place on October 11th at Maindy Barracks and saw the Branch coming away with some silverware. The Branch won the Leatham Trophy for the darts and yours truly won the Gerry Greenstock Cup in the shooting.

The Branch is now looking forward to our trip to Ostend, courtesy of the Lottery Fund, and the able organization of Bob Kenelly. We have been extremely fortunate over the years to receive these funds, enabling many veterans to attend.

Unfortunately during the year we lost one of our staunchest member, namely Parry Taylor, age 65. The funeral was well attended by members, and we send our deepest condolences to his family.

Finally we have one last Branch event for 2014, namely a pig roast at the Institute Club, Pontypridd. There is a limited number of tickets available.

This just leaves me to thank Brian Keane and Keith Oultram for their help and assistance throughout the year.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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)
E-mail: alan.Cunningham1@ntlworld.com

The time seems to go so fast', and not unlike other Branches we have had a few sad partings throughout the year.

We lost Doug Keay, a WW2 veteran (2735135). His story was reported in the local Press since he had left behind a Diary of his experiences of being a prisoner of war. Then sadly Gwyn Phillips (RA) passed away: he was the father of

Eirlys Phillips KIA on the Sir Galahad, then Emlyn Jones (23523136), brother of our Treasurer Vernon Jones. We as a Branch and Association send our condolences to their families. We "Will Remember Them"



Welsh Memorial



Welsh Guards Barbecue 2014



Alan Cunningham, Roy Copson, 01 Mike Jones and a local during Association Battlefield Day



Welsh Memorial at Langemark, Belgium



*Battlefield Tour Group at The Menin Gate
L-R: RQMS Boika, Roy Copson, Terry Evans, 01 Mike Jones*

Several members of the Branch attended a Centenary Commemoration service at Carmarthen to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1. It was a very moving service in the company of the Guest of honour Field Marshall Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB.LVO.OBE. DL.

Then followed a barbecue to raise funds for the Branch, and a good time was had by all. The Branch would like to thank all who helped to make it a success especially our fellow comrades the Ghurkha's

This was followed by an invite to the Branch to a lunch hosted by our President and his good lady Georgina, along with their family, at his beautiful home in Gower. The sun shone on what is a truly tranquil setting. It was another good day which was enjoyed by all.

Several members of the Branch together with their wives joined the Association Battlefield Tour to Hechtel in September. It was a very moving experience shared with good company and meeting up with old friends from Hechtel as well as enjoying a drink or two!!!!

Like every Branch our numbers are down to about 16 attended meetings and about 60 on the books? So we ask everyone out there to spread the word that they are welcome on the first Thursday, every 2 months at the Royal Naval Club Swansea Road Llanelli (time - 7:15 for 7:30pm). First meeting of 2015 will be Feb 5th, then April 2nd: June 4th. : August 6th: October 1st: December 3rd.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to all Members and their nearest and dearest who have been unwell.

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 MEETINGS
IN 2015 WILL BE:**

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2015
London Branch Annual General Meeting Friday

FIRST FRIDAY MEETING 2ND OCTOBER 2015
Meet for drinks in the Garrison Sgt's Mess 4pm. Followed by Annual General Meeting in Regimental Headquarters.

REGIMENTAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015.
Association Secretaries Meeting Cardiff.
(date to be notified)

1ST MARCH ST DAVID'S DAY
Cardiff. Applications, Cheque for £5 made out to WGA send to Brian Keane with a SAE

30TH APRIL
Presentation of Colours - Windsor.

13TH JUNE
Trooping of the Colour.

19TH SEPTEMBER
Welsh Guards Centenary Dinner - Swansea

8TH NOVEMBER
Remembrance Sunday (details from RHQ)

5TH DECEMBER
Annual Christmas Lunch Garrison Sgt's Mess.
(date to be confirmed). Further details from RHQ

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.

A quiet year for London Branch, we have restricted our meetings in London because of the high cost of travel/hotels etc, we only had 3 meetings during the past year.

In 2015 our First Friday is 6th February, 2015, which is our Annual General Meeting, 2nd October 2015 is our Monthly Meeting, and of course our Annual Christmas Lunch is on 5th December 2015,(date to be confirmed), which is normally well attended, prices had to rise in 2014, as we now have to

pay for the use of the Function Rooms, in the Mess, £200 for the Large Room, and £100 for the Anteroom. Our formal meetings are now held in Regimental Headquarters Conference Room.

We meet for a drink in London District WO's & Sgt's Mess Wellington Barracks, by kind

permission of the Garrison Sergeant Major W D G Mott, OBE.MVO Welsh Guards.

The Final Commemoration service was held at Imber Court Metropolitan Sports Club in 2014, our thanks to RQMS Steve Boika who organised the event. Many thanks to members of London Branch and East Glamorgan Branch for the excellent support they gave over the years.

Our thanks to Mrs Cynthia Gribble of Pontypridd, who has knitted her way into donating her sales of her various items of Welsh Memorabilia into, firstly the Walk on Wales Charity and now the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. We invited her and her sister, to our 2014 Christmas Lunch to show our appreciation for her donations to our Welsh Guards Charities.

Our Associate Members, Mrs Jaci and Mr Frank Murphy and accompanied by Mr Tony Winrow and Jeff Heenan were invited in September 2014 to the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Brussels in 1944. Jaci Murphy's father was the late Gdsm Bill James, who was the driver of the first Welsh Guards Cromwell Tank, commanded by Captain Dent, into Brussels on the 3rd September 1944. A wreath was laid in memory of all those who lost their lives during that war.

Sadly during 2014 some members have passed away,

our condolences go to their loved ones, their names are entered in the Memoriam section of the Magazine.

During the year the Branch has been able to sponsor various during 2011. Thank you on their behalf for your support and kindness. Donations and subscriptions always welcome!

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.

Battlefield Tours 2015.

It was decided to cancel the London Branch Battlefield Tour, planned for 2014, but there will be a Welsh Guards Association Tour from 5 – 9 September 2015 incorporating Hechtel together with a Welsh Guards Battle Honour site (contact Brian Keane for further details) and a Regimental Tour from 10 -14 September. This tour is likely to be Arras, Loos and the Somme. Further details from RHQ when known

If you have an email address, please let us know, so we can save on the high cost of postage.

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

(Formed 1953)

President: Captain Harry Legge-Bourke
Chairman: Tom Peters (23523035)
Treasurer/Secretary: Errold Jones (24581438)
 18 Marshall Crescent
 Penydarren
 Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9JA
Telephone: 07903417048
E-mail: errold438@yahoo.co.uk

This last year for the Branch has been rather quiet in comparison to previous years.

As many of you know, 2013 ended with the sad loss of Grant Harper, but I am pleased to say that his position of Chairman has been amply filled by Mr Tom Peters, who was unanimously voted in.

Tom is a Merthyr Branch man through and through, and I look forward to working with him to take the Branch on into the future.

In 2013, as a Branch we decided to try and re-instate a Christmas Dinner. It was highly successful and well attended by members, wives and guests. Entertainment by a comedian/singer was a bit close to the knuckle on times, but was taken in the spirit of the evening, and created a talking point for some time!

St David's Day was celebrated in Merthyr and not with the Regiment, since the overall feeling of the members was that the day had to be celebrated on March 1st and not any other day – so on March 1st we got together.

I was unable to attend the AGM, which was held in Cardiff this year due to a family funeral, but our Chairman, Mr Tom Peters attended in my place. His report back to the Branch was that it went well, so I am looking forward to seeing what happens in the future.

The Branch attended many parades during Veteran Week, and I personally attended an unofficial 'get together' for the Sir Galahad in Swansea. It was good to catch up with some



Eric Jones (2733754) Merthyr Branch, 100 years old in December 2014. Oldest member in the Association.

great mates. Merthyr itself held a few parades, and every one of them, I am happy to say, was strongly attended.

In August the town held the 'Lights Out' service outside the old Town Hall. Most of our members attended, and the service seemed to go down very well with all the old rallying songs being sung by young and old alike. There were approximately 600 present, with ages varying from babes in arms to WW2 veterans and beyond.

In December of this year (2014) one of our strongest members, Mr Eric Jones (2733754) will be celebrating his 100th birthday. Personally and as a Branch we wish Eric a very happy birthday. He has a fantastic memory and so many stories to tell, which should have been recorded and written down over the years.

As a result of low enthusiasm, the Branch Darts / Shooting teams comprised of just myself and our Chairman, Tom Peters. The Secretary General took a vote on whether individuals could play for under strength teams, which was unanimously voted for, and resulted in us playing for Swansea Shooting team and Cardiff Darts. We actually came

away with some silverware for our troubles, but was a shame we couldn't field a complete team ourselves – maybe next year !

The event was a great day and my thanks go to Brian Keane for his determination to get it going. Thanks also to the bar staff who worked so hard on the day, and also to the 'Range staff' for trying to teach the blind, deaf and sometimes dumb the safety side of things.

As a Branch we are looking forward to the celebrations in the Regiment's centenary year 2015, and to date have many names for St David's Day at Cardiff on March 1st and the Presentation of Colours at Windsor on April 30th.

We lost a few of our Elder Statesmen through the year and these members will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and condolences go to their families and friends. We also send our best wishes for those not in the best of health, and wish them a speedy recovery.

Our monthly meetings are still held at the Merthyr Ex-Servicemen's Club, on the first Monday of each month at 2000 hrs (mostly!). Old and new members made very welcome.



The Branch Dinner at The Angel, Abergavenny, October 2014

In 1915 he answered the call to all Welsh soldiers to transfer to the newly formed Fifth Regiment of Foot Guards and fought in the Regiment's first battle at Loos. A quiet modest man, when asked what he remembered of it he did not mention the fighting but his dismay at losing an ounce of tobacco he had been sent from home! He was in the thick of the action all through the war but was never even wounded and returned to the colliery where he also escaped injury. A remarkable man he often walked from Tredegar to Branch meetings in Ebbw Vale, and on his 80th birthday was presented with a Malacca cane with a silver top engraved with the Regimental crest. Memories of Len returned while the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War was marked, a conflict in which our Regiment was born and still survives. It was men like Len Edwards who quickly secured it a reputation that the young men of today uphold with pride.

The Branch was dramatically revived in 1961 and has prospered because among its active membership were Welsh Guardsmen of all ages, from Len Edwards to the many who took part in the second World

War and those who served in so-called peacetime, a period that began in Palestine in 1945-48 to the present day when there are veterans of Afghanistan. Therein lies the strength of the Association, we are all Welsh Guardsmen.

2014 was also the 70th anniversary of the Normandy campaign involving the 1st and 2nd Battalions and the fighting in Italy where the 3rd Battalion having seen fierce action in Tunisia fought not only the enemy but difficult terrain and atrocious weather. We are fortunate to have in the Branch two active members who served in the 3rd Battalion, Gilbert Priddy (2736881) who lives over the Severn in Gloucestershire and Bill Powell (2739251) of Cwmbran. When they get together many tales of that special Battalion flow like wine, Italian wine.

Our Secretary Steve Liversage is not only active in the Branch and with the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) in Wales but researches deeply in the history of the Regiment. He went to Italy in the summer on a battlefield tour with two other Branch members, Bill Powell and Rob Nicholls (24599905) which is the subject of an article elsewhere in the Magazine.

MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

- President:* Captain D M Davies
- Chairman:* Mervyn Delve (22831721)
- Treasurer/Secretary:* Steve Liversage BEM (24141822)
7 Shaw Close, Ebbw Vale , NP23 6QQ
- Telephone:* 01495 302567
- Email:* Vicar54@outlook.com

When the Branch moved its base to Ebbw Vale in 1961 one of its regular supporters was Len Edwards (1356) of Tredegar who had left the colliery and joined the Monmouthshire Regiment when the Great War began.

After eight years as Branch Chairman Alan Mountjoy (23929747) stepped down in February 2014 and was deservedly recognised by the members for his long and loyal service. Like other former Branch officers he remains as active as his work commitments allow and is succeeded by Mervyn Delve a native of Abertillery who lives in Gloucestershire and crosses the Severn Bridge without fail to attend meetings and social events.

The Annual Dinner in October 2014 was a great success and was also different because the ladies attended. The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny is a great venue and as usual the management did us proud. Major Alun Bowen responded to the toast to the Regiment and gave us news of the Battalion and the plans for the Centenary year. He comes from Monmouth and first attended the Dinner in 1998 when he was awarded the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy as Regimental Sportsman of the Year.

Tribute was paid to Brian Keane, Secretary General of the Association for his untiring work in the interests of the Branches. 2015 will be a very busy year for him with the highlight coming in September when the Welsh Guards Centenary Dinner is held at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on Saturday the 19th. We intend making a week-end of it for all members of the Branch family and plans are already in hand.

We were especially pleased to greet Major Alan Denman and his wife who have settled in Rogerstone after ten years at Windsor Castle. The young and the more mature enjoyed a great night in good company

and the quartet of young at heart Guardsmen of the 273 days were in fine form, Eric Jones who reached his century in December 2014, Ray Cumbley, Gilbert Priddy and Bill Powell. Also present with their ladies were friends from the Midlands Branch, Sergeant Shane Brandon of Pontypool and Branch members who are very active in the South Atlantic Medal Association.

The annual Association Day which is centred around the Darts and Shooting Competitions was greatly enjoyed in October at Maindy Barracks. It was a gathering of the Regimental clan and thanks to the organisation and work by Brian Keane it was a great success and to complete a perfect day the Branch team retained the Darts title thanks to a winning throw by Ray Clayton of Bargoed, a Grenadier and a very active Associate Member of the Branch.

2015 will be the 95th year of the Branch and we continue to represent the Regiment in our area and uphold its traditions and standards. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at The Angel Hotel in Abergavenny and also at the Capel Hotel in Bargoed. Full details of our special events and monthly meetings are available from our Secretary Steve Liversage who will be glad to hear from Welsh Guardsmen everywhere.

Note the following dates in 2015 and keep them free – Sunday 3 May the Spring Lunch at the Maes Manor Hotel, Blackwood; Saturday 17 October the Annual Dinner at The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny. Add the major Association Centenary events and we have a year to remember.

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
 01691 653244
 Telephone: j83williams@talktalk.net
 Email:



Grenadiers Service of Remembrance

Members of the branch enjoyed the invitation by the Grenadier Guards Association North Staffordshire and Shropshire Branch to their annual Regimental Service of Remembrance on the 28th June 2014, hosted by their President Sir Algernon Heber-Percy, KCVO and Lady Jane at their home at Hodnet Hall, Hodnet, Shropshire. The day started with a Drum Head Service, 1914-2014 by Rev Mark

Carter and a short display by the Staffs ACF (Grenadier) Corps of Drums, followed by Lunch. It was a lovely day which gave the members the chance to view the gardens and the surrounding area.

Branch Summer Luncheon Wroxeter Hotel 6th July 2014

The Main event for the branch was our annual Summer Lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel Nr Shrewsbury. Our Guests of Honour were Captain and Mrs Beare. Capt Beare gave an



Capt Charles Beare and his wife Judith Beare with Branch President Mr Roger Plowden and his wife Helen Plowden



Norman Edwards with the Standard Bearers' Statuette presented to him in 2009 for his dedicated service

update on the Battalion and an interesting talk on the advance technology in communication and how the social network is being used to gain the attention of the media and members of Parliament, the floods in the West Country being a fine example. The luncheon was, as always, well attended with branch members and associate members and their friends making it a very enjoyable afternoon with plenty of raffle prizes, and enjoyed by all. The date for our next Summer Lunch at Wroxeter Hotel is on the 12th July 2015.

In Remembrance

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing of Norman Edwards who was the branch Standard bearer from 1991 until his retirement in 2009 due to ill health and after 19 years of dedicated service to the Branch. Norman, who originally joined up with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, "volunteered" to transfer to the Welsh Guards and served with the 3rd Battalion. He was also present at Imber Court on the 30th June 1944 when one of Hitler's V1 Flying Bombs landed in the centre of the oval

running track killing 20 people and injuring over 100.

Norman joined the 3rd Battalion in Italy and served in Germany and Austria where he was demobbed in 1946. After the War he worked as a fireman/driver at Nesscliffe Camp Nr Oswestry. Norman loved tinkering with engines and when he was made redundant from Nesscliffe he applied for and got a position with the AA as a patrol-man with a motorbike and side-car where he stayed until he retired with 30 years service. During this time he restored two cars, a Jowett Javelin Convertible and a Ford Consul Convertible, his pride and joy.

Norman became a Branch Committee member in 1977 and in October 1991 took over as the Branch Standard Bearer representing the Branch in Montgomeryshire, Shropshire and the surrounding areas. He attended as many as 18 services throughout the area and was always smartly dressed with great pride in his appearance. He was seen regularly at the Remembrance Service at Oswestry.

Norman was asked by Lt Col

Brian Morgan if could spare a couple of days to assist at Park Hall and help build the Welsh Guards Collection which he did and stayed on to man the Museum for 9 years. Due to ill health Norman had to give up the job of Standard Bearer and his duties at the Collection and, due to a further decline in his health, went into residential care in Llanstffraid Y.M. After a short illness he passed away peacefully in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on the 10th September 2014 at the age of 90.

His funeral service took place at St Agatha's Church Llanymynech on the 22nd September.

Many Branch members attended the Service and the Branch Standard was on display inside the Church and an AA motorcycle and side-car was parked outside the church as a tribute to Normans' Service to both the Welsh Guards Association and the AA.

A proud moment for a very proud man.

NORTH WALES BRANCH

(Formed 1936)

- President:* Captain A.C. Hopkins
- Chairman:* G. Binnie (24060777)
- Treasurer:* H. Mears (2740728)
- Secretary:* M. Jones
Bulkeley Arms
Menai Bridge
North Wales LL59 5DF
- Telephone:* 01248 712715
- E-mail:* north.wales.secretary@gmail.com

This is to be my last entry as Secretary of the Branch in the Regimental. Maldwyn Jones 92 has taken over (Long Overdue), and the 21st century beckons to take this Branch forward. I started in 1999 and here I am, still chomping the bit! As Doris Day said "Move over Darling". Sadly we grow older and new ideas and communication skills replace us.

I leave this Branch a Legacy: a Funeral Pall and also a Standard to die for. The Branch Standard was on parade at Owen Lloyd George's funeral at the family Chapel in Criccieth with the Bishop of St. David's conducting the service. He served with the 3rd Battalion in Italy and was the Grandson of David Lloyd George. He was summoned home by Winston Churchill to attend the funeral of his Grandfather in Llanstumdwy. The Eulogy brought out the story:

'He was flown from Italy by a Polish pilot who asked him as

they approached the North Wales coast "how do I find Criccieth"? His reply was, "follow the coast line till you see a castle and find somewhere to land" (luckily the tide was out!!)

At the family request our Funeral Pall draped the coffin. Lord & Lady Guthrie attended the funeral together with our former President John Harrop and myself. His Grandson Fred Lloyd George now serves with the Regiment.

It turned out a real nice sunny day at the Guards Chapel for

the funeral of 'legend 61' (Dave Jones, London Branch) and his send-off was top drawer. The Welsh Guards Band was on parade and over 200 mourners were present. His coffin was shouldered into the chapel by Johnny Mott, Warren Williams, Kev Sincoc, Scully, Mark Morgan, Martin Evans 07 and Bob Pitchford, led by our Branch Standard. The coffin was also draped with the N.Wales Pall, and the Cap and Belt was supplied by Merthyr Branch. Col. Bonas, GSM Mott, Brian Keane, Stan Evans 67, Ade Davies, Les Peake and many more including Irish, Coldstream, Grenadiers and Scots Guards attended. Kelvyn Jenkins has to be congratulated for his effort in bringing the whole spectacle together. The 2 Hymns chosen, "Abide with me" and "Bread of Heaven" were sung with real gusto, and the W.G. Band playing "Memories" as a solo spot was mind-blowing. I read the Commendation in Welsh followed by Warren Williams in English. The coffin was again carried out with the Standard in front to a medley of Welsh songs (Men of Harlech, Sospan Fach ect.) We all retired to the Mess for a drink and Buffet and informed that 61 had placed £1000 behind the bar to celebrate his life! That speaks volumes to this Legend. I then led the Mess to sing "We'll Keep a Welcome". A truly memorable day.

RIP 61 we will miss you.

The New year brought about the disappointment of "no St. David's with the Battalion"! Thanks to George Townley, members from the Branch celebrated in Colwyn Bay Wetherspoons 'The Picture House', with a few Penderyn's being swaffed plus the local Cwrw for starters.

No sooner had Dai's Day finished it was time to welcome 2 Coy to Bangor for the Freedom Parade in March with reveille at 0230 in Hounslow for the long journey up to God's Country for the 1100 Parade: the joys of being a modern soldier - you have to take your hat off to them. Brigadier Talbot Rice accepted the Freedom Charter on behalf of the Regiment off the Mayor, Douglas Madge. After the march through Bangor with bayonets fixed, a reception was held in the Council Hall where we all got into what we do best! The Branch was well represented and led by our President Captain A.C. Hopkins. A massive thanks to Bangor Section Chairman David Morgan for making this day possible with lobbying the local councillors over the last 8 years.

June brought the annual Falklands reunion to Wrexham which was well supported with many travelling long distances to attend. A huge thanks to Alan Loose who took over the duties of Standard Bearer for the day, giving me a rest!! I must also mention Knocker Knowles who attended with the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch Standard - very much appreciated. George Townley laid the Wreath on behalf of the Branch.

In July it was the turn of Wrexham to welcome Prince of Wales's Company for the Freedom of the town (long overdue). A Massive thanks to our President Captain A.C. Hopkins for his sterling work in making this possible, with a little help from me. Colonel Bonas was on parade with R.Q.M.S.S. Boika. Brigadier Talbot-Rice was invited into the Council Chamber Meeting before the parade to witness

the historic event of granting the Freedom to the Welsh Guards. I am told this is the first time this has ever happened, a truly memorable occasion. Prince of Wales's Company was led by the Band, and marched onto the green in front of the Town Hall in glorious sunshine, a wonderful spectacle. The Association lined up with them with the Branch Standard again being carried by Alan Loose (another day off for me). The Mayor David Bithell presented the Freedom Scroll to Brigadier Talbot Rice which was followed by a March Past with bayonets fixed, with the Branch bringing up the rear. The reception was held in the council chamber which had to be cut short since the lads who had reveille at 0300 that morning had to leave for Pembroke for Field Training after handing their Tunics in - a really busy Battalion.

I represented the Association for the 70th celebration at Monte Battaliga with our Branch Standard in September. A report has been submitted, and hopefully published in the magazine.

Our losses this year have been heavy: 22831771 Norman Sutton, 2740728 Hugh Mears (our former Treasurer), 23523294 Peter Roberts, Steve Jones 42 (Spoons), 24154085 David Evans (Mac), 22217466 Meurig Jones and finally 24263871 John Stephen Griffiths. May you all rest in Peace.

Well now it is time to ride out in the sunset. Thank you all for your support over years and I know you will all support Maldwyn Jones 92 and welcome him as our new Secretary (not an easy job!) Thanks to all in RHQ London

and Association Headquarters Cardiff for all their help over the years (Diolch)

Cymru am Byth

Dave (Spider) Webb.

Thank you for compiling this year's report Spider.

I would, on behalf of the Branch take this opportunity to thank you for the work you have done over the years and handing over a healthy membership onto myself. I look forward to the challenge in taking the Branch forward and hopefully increase our numbers, especially the younger end of the scale.

My first task as Branch Secretary, is to organise a coach to Cardiff for the St David's Day celebrations during the centenary year, 'a nice full luxury coach full of Gogs'. I look forward to seeing you all there.

A lot of the younger lads on leaving the Regiment could benefit greatly from the Association. We have memberships in all walks of life and can assist probably with 'almost' everything. We may look 'old' but are young at heart, and in our hearts still 'Welsh Guardsmen' until our calling. It is a big wide world out here!

To finish, if you are thinking of leaving and settling in North Wales, please make contact with me if you need any help or advice. We also we hold 'informal meetings' on a regular basis, the only rules are to bring plenty of beer tokens and your own sandbag. Search North Wales Branch Welsh Guards Association, on facebook, for regular updates.

Mal Jones (92)
Branch Secretary

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH

(Formed 1946)

President: Major K Oultram
Chairman: Trevor Davies (22831186)
Treasurer: Arnold Brassey (24125038)
Secretary: Keith Bonehill (22831043)
 5 Halls Place,
 London Rd,
 Northwich,
 Cheshire,
 CW9 8BA
Telephone: 01606 41317
E-mail: Bonehillkh@aol.com

Our last AGM was in November 2013, where the committee was re-elected for a further term.

2014 has been a rather quiet year for the Branch. The year started with the sad lose of our ex-President Ted Williams (35927). Ted served from 1944 to 1947. He was a long serving Branch President, and later, Vice-President. The Branch was extremely well represented at his funeral.

Apart from Ted, we also lost Norman Sutton (22831677) in July, and in August lost Joseph (Joe) Cameron (2379355). Everyone who met Joe would never forget him, and over the years he collected hundreds if not thousands of pounds for various Regimental charities in the Birkenhead area where he lived. RIP Joe, although I am sure he is rattling the 'collection box' before the Almighty. We will be talking about him for some time to come – such a character!

We welcome back to the Branch, four former members: Steven Ollerhead (23929723), Paul Liddy (23929602) , William O Davies (22688781) and Graham Fenton (24141873)

I do not know how many members have been on a Battlefield Tour with The Association, but I can thoroughly recommend it – it was most interesting and very informative, and talks by

Rhydian Vaughan, who was our guide on the battlefields, I found extremely fascinating. We visited the site of the 38th Welsh Divisions attack at Pilkem Ridge on 31st July 1917, which is commemorated by a memorial of that Division and unveiled in August 2014. This memorial depicts the Welsh Dragon which is mounted on four granite blocks. The size of the sculpture I equate to "the size of an eighteen hands shire horse body with a dragons head and a tail, a deep red colour, standing approximately fifteen to twenty feet high (give or take a foot or two !)" The small field where the memorial is situated is to be called 'The Welsh National Memorial Park Langmark', and is well worth a visit.

A few yards down the road from the memorial is a plaque attached to a building, commemorating the Bard, Ellis H Evans, who died of wounds sustained in the attack. Across the road is a café named 'The Sportsman' The owner, Mr Marc Decaester, was kind enough to open the premises in order for our group to use his toilet facilities. He was pleased to see us and said he would be welcome anytime in the future. He had a number of books and items from WW1 on

display and many members purchased these. Brian Keane presented him with a Welsh Guards shield and thanked him for opening his doors to us.

Many thanks to Brian Keane, and our President Major

Oultram for their help and support during the past year, together with staff at RHQ.

The Branch wishes the very best to the Battalion and Association members for the coming year.

NORTH AMERICA BRANCH

(Formed 1986)

Treasurer/Secretary: Andrew Suter (24704978)
 8314 Tintinhull Lane
 Waxhaw
 N. Carolina
 USA 28173
Telephone: (from UK) 001 704 8140676
Mobile: 001 968 0814
E-mail: asuter001@carolina.rr.com

Well it's been another quiet year for the North American Branch. 09 Evans living in Canada is still trucking up and down and all around the states and his diet is still subject to criticism.

I had the pleasure of having my old friend Ken Evans 038 come to visit my wife Beth and I for a few weeks. We went on a hike for a few days on the Art Loeb Trail which is in the North Carolina Mountains near the Blue ridge trail, and our objective was to reach the summit of Cold Mountain.

The beginning of the trip went off to a great start - wind and rain sideways along with fog!

At any other time the weather is great with breathtaking views, so what did we do? - we looked at each other, grinned and carried on. We also visited Chimney rock where a few movies were filmed.

Ken who is fanatic about civil war history wanted to visit a few sites where the Scots and Irish banded together with other rebels to defeat the British for the Battle of Kings Mountain in North Carolina.

As always I am glad to be able to support any funding towards helping the veterans and families of all wars and conflicts regardless of what regiment or country they may come from.

I send my best wishes to all members of the Association, particularly the North America Branch, and hope to see everyone for the centenary celebrations next year.



Ken Evans (038) on the 'Blue Ridge Trail'

OGMORE BRANCH

(Formed 1982)

President: Major A. Denman
Chairman: Mr Richard Morgan (23877388)
*Treasurer/
 Secretary* Mr Mike Jones (23523201)
 40 Garfield Avenue
 Litchard
 Bridgend CF31 1QA
Telephone: 01656 – 650367
E-mail: mike_jones928@msn.com

The first thing one will note is the change of names both of our President and Hon. Chairman this year. Our previous President, Major Tim Wakefield regrettably had to stand down due to ill health, and the sad loss of our Chairman of many years Mr Ray Gorrington who died in March 2014. He is sorely missed.

We are indebted to Major Wakefield for what he did for us whilst he was in situ and wish him and Mrs Wakefield good health in the future. We warmly welcome our new President on his appointment and congratulate Mr Richard Morgan on assuming the post of Chairman, having held the position of Vice Chairman for many years.

Our AGM took place in February 2014. 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 18th February. As ever he found it an informative meeting with much discussion between the various Branch Secretaries. Our thanks to Brian Keane as ever for the Buffet afterwards.

For the first time in a long while we missed visiting the Battalion for St. David's Day in

March, due to the celebrations being cancelled. Great news is that we should have a bumper day next year in Cardiff, we look forward to it with anticipation.

We held our Dinner Dance on Saturday 12th April, again in the Masonic Hall in Bridgend and once again there was a healthy attendance sitting down to Dinner. The Guests of Honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough and the Association Secretary General Brian Keane and his wife Sandra. We must thank our Ladies Section for their help in setting up the Hall prior to the event and also the Manager and Chef for doing us proud in the Catering department. We then enjoyed the rest of the evening dancing to the music of our musician Dave Escott. He has attended at least ten of our last Dinners and has never let us down, brilliant.

On Wednesday 14th May, the first time I can remember, the Association AGM was held in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. As usual it was an informative and entertaining day out, a lot nearer than Wellington Barracks for most of us and the

Secretaries from further afield are to be applauded for making it to Cardiff. The "pub grub" across the road was good also.

The Secretary of the East Glamorgan Branch invited a few of us to attend the Commemoration Service at Imber Court on Sunday 22nd June, to be followed by a great meal at a Carvery in Wootton Bassett on the way home. As usual those who did attend enjoyed what 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 28th 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. The Parade ended at the Recreation Centre where a fine Buffet and entertainment was laid on. A good day was had by all.

Over the weekend 5th - 9th September, with the aid of a Lottery Grant, some of us again made the pilgrimage to Hechtel in Belgium to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the town's Liberation. Bob Vranken our Belgian Associate Branch member once again had arranged a wide and varied programme for us over the weekend and on the Sunday morning we attended the Town Church with members of the Association Battlefield Tour who were also visiting Hechtel and sharing our Hotel. The

highlight of our visit was a "Tattoo" held on the Town Square which lasted most of the afternoon. During the Interval a Ceremony took place where the Mayor of Hechtel and the Mayor of Bridgend signed a Certificate of Friendship between our two towns. The Mayor of Bridgend and his party had travelled out independently and we met up at a Civic Reception and Lunch prior to the parade. We can now expect cultural exchanges and activities due to the signing of the Charter, which was initiated by myself and our late Chairman Ray Gorrington on our last visit three years ago.

We held a "Quiz" night in the Wildmill Community Centre on Friday 19th September with members of the Bridgend Town Twinning Committee followed by a Fish and Chip Supper. A very entertaining evening with our thanks to 22831222 Roy Poland for setting the questions.

We turned up this year for the Darts and Shooting Competitions on 11th October in Maindy Barracks full of optimism despite the physical condition of some of our aged players, which was soon to be dashed when we started playing / shooting. Needless to say we didn't reach a final or come near the prizes/trophies.

Our Branch Annual Remembrance Service was again held in Nolton Church, Bridgend on Sunday 19th October 2014 when we again paid homage to the fallen Welsh Guardsmen from the Borough. A good turnout, which was much appreciated by the Padre.

On Remembrance Sunday the Branch will again be represented on the Parades in Bridgend and Maesteg, and for

the first time since 2001 Ray Gorringe will not be the Parade Marshall in Bridgend. Our Branch Standard will again be on parade and Poppy Wreaths from the Regiment and the Branch will be laid on the War Memorials as usual.

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.

Sadly we have lost the following members this last year: 23263191 Derek Hanlin.

23585533 Ray Gorringe.
23400900 John Townsend.
22217782 David Hillman and

2735189 David Tovey.

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 9th March 2015. 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.

formed in 1957, and since then there have only been 3 Secretaries (excluding me). The first Secretary was Ernie Huxtable, followed by Fred Hughes and then Trevor Warr.

Sadly the Branch Annual Luncheon didn't go ahead this year due to lack of interest, but the committee have decided to have a look again around February 2015, to meet up and hopefully arrange something for Branch members. If anyone have suggestions as to what we can do to encourage attendance and participation then please do not hesitate to contact me.

As things have gone quiet in the Branch, if anyone is interested in coming along to one of the meetings please contact the Secretary for dates and times etc, it would be nice if we could get the Branch back thriving the same way as it was years ago.

We extend our sincere sympathies to all those who have lost loved ones this last year, and wish a speedy recovery for those who are not in the best of health.

Finally on behalf of myself and the committee, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year.

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1957)

President: Major I B Ramsden MBE
Chairman: J Lloyd (23290247)
Treasurer/Secretary: R Davies (24753414)
The Cottage, Heathfield
Letterstone
Haverfordwest SA62 5EG
Telephone: 01348 841056
E-mail: letterstonwindows@tiscali.co.uk

Nothing to report from the Branch again I'm afraid, and the attendance at the meetings is still very poor considering the amount of members we have.

The Branch has lost a couple of members this year including Harry Lovering and Bob Ridley who were very active on the committee and are sadly missed by us all.

The other person that I must mention that we have lost this year is 2740352 Trevor Warr, a great man who without him there simply wouldn't still be a Pembrokeshire Branch. He joined the Welsh Guards in 1944 and served in Palestine,

where he served two and a half years in the Quartermasters' Department, and Cyprus. He was demobbed in 1948.

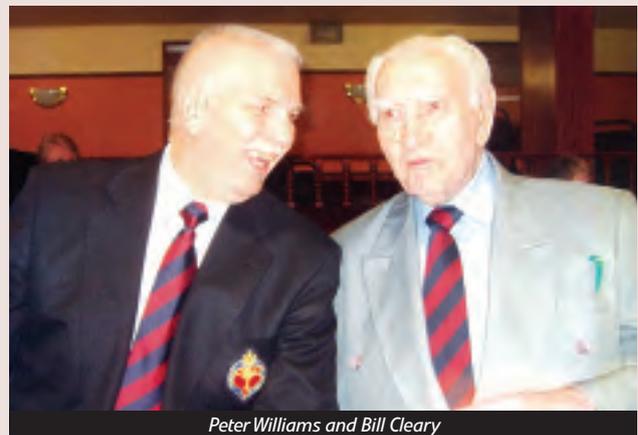
Whilst in Palestine, Trevor took over as Branch Secretary in 1974 and did the job for 37/38 years and this year would have been his 40th year - a fantastic achievement that we all owe our gratitude for. Just as a matter of interest to some members, the Branch was

SWANSEA & WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1927)

President: Major Charles Carty MBETD
Chairman: Bryn Pennock (23877288)
Treasurer/Secretary: Peter Williams (23877300)
12 St Peters Avenue
Cockett
Swansea SA5 5BX
Telephone: 01792 416010
E-mail: peterwilliams300@googlemail.com

This year is the anniversary of the Great War 1914 -1918 which we were told was the war to end all wars, how wrong they were. But we must all pay tribute to all those men who went to the front line for King and country, their patriotism, bravery, tenacity and courage we must pay homage too.



Peter Williams and Bill Cleary



Peter Williams and Grandson Charlie Williams at Remembrance Service



Remembrance Parade at Swansea with Serving Members of the Battalion and Associate Members

The horrors that they met, saw and lived in are indescribable but they carried on for four long years and for many the horrors never left them, so please stand, think and pay homage to all those who fought and fell, and left behind bewildered and heartbroken families. We salute them all for the millions of men who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Next year is our Regiments' 100th anniversary, which was formed on the 28th February

1915 and we pay tribute to those first Welsh Guardsmen who went to war wearing the leek, who bestowed on us Valour and our 1st Battle honour and traditions which we still hold dear in our hearts today still 100 years on.

So next year when we take part in the celebrations of our 100th anniversary, we can hold our heads high and be proud that we are Welsh Guardsman, A family! Once a Guardsman always a Guardsman!



Major Charles Carty with Members of SAMA at Falklands Remembrance Service



Rob Nicholl Rob Nicholls with standard bearers and members of SAMA

On a personal note what I learned and done on my service still guides me today and I am very proud of that.

Our oldest member Bill Cleary who is 91, and now in a nursing home in Swansea, I only wish he could be with us in Next year's celebrations but he is not well enough to partake. Bill served with the 3rd Battalion through North Africa and Italy and he is still a Guardsman through and through.

I must thank all the members of our Swansea Branch who keeps the Branch going each year.

One of our members Roy Bennett is our longest serving member and as held every post in the Branch during his service, and his now a life Vice President.

Also Roy's son in laws' Grandfather, Joseph Jenkins (who was a Welsh Guardsman in WW1 on the Somme) became the then Prince of Wales, later to become Edward V111 orderly and accompanied him on a fourteen week tour of South Africa on the battleship HMS Renown.

After his return he was on public duties at Buckingham Palace when the Prince of Wales Grandmother reported him for being improperly dressed and he had seven days confined to barracks. He was also in the guard of honour at Westminster Abbey at the Queen Mothers' Wedding in 1923.

He continued his association with the Welsh Guards and made many visits to London up until 1981 where he was a guest of the Scotch Guards at Chelsea Barracks. Joseph

served from 1918 to 1929.

Swansea Branch is doing well due to the continued support from its members. We have now moved to a new venue for our monthly meetings, which are now held at the St. James Club, St. James Gardens, Uplands, Swansea, where we have made very welcome by the steward and stewardess Kate and Gill and we look forward to a long association with the club Every 3rd Monday of each month.

Our Branch Sunday lunches have again been a great success this year, I would like to thank our Branch President Major Charles Carty MBE TD (Rtd), our Chairman Mr Bryn Pennock and our life President Major Glyn White MBE (Rtd) for all their help and support, and a further thank you to all our Branch Members.

The Darts and Shoot at Maindy Barracks I felt was a great success and very well supported and organised, our thanks to the Secretary General Brian Keane for once again organising this excellent event, was wonderful to see so many old friends and comrades. I would also like thanks 82 Davies Llanelli Branch for making himself known to me as he recognised me from 50 years ago when we served together. It made my day, talking about old times and such happy memories. Also thanks to Errol and Tom of the Merthyr Branch for joining us in our shooting team.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife Pauline and Daughter Nicky for their continuous help and support - where would I be without them in my role as Secretary?

WELSH GUARDS REUNITED

(Formed 2006)

President: Major (Retd) David Woods - France
Chairman: Major (Retd) Martin Browne BEM - Spain
Secretary: Dennis (Knocker) Knowles (24122474) - Wales
 197 Bryntirion
 Matthewstown
 Mountain Ash
 Rhondda Cynon Taff CF45 4EX
Treasurer: Mike Cummins (24472964) - Wales
Webmaster: Allan Rogers (24220048) - England
Technical Support: Mike Cummins (24472964) - Wales
Vice Presidents: Albert Richard Lewis (2734395)
 served in 1WG 1938 - 1946
 Alan Parry-Booth (22326094)
 served in 1WG 1950 - 1952
 Ray Skinner (22329571)
 served in 1WG 1950 - 1952
 Mike Wakely (24076183)
 served in 1WG 1968 - 1977
 Larry John (24141857)
 served in 1WG 1969 - 1982

Once again WGR membership is growing steadily with around 3,400 members compared to 3,241 at the same time last year. The Branch is fortunate to have some really proactive members who contribute regularly and without whom WGR would not exist, far too many to mention here individually, suffice to say, your input and friendship is appreciated by us all. We also consider ourselves most fortunate in having five superb Branch Vice Presidents who bring a wealth of regimental knowledge, history and fact to the website and whose contribution is immeasurable.

In an attempt to grow the Regimental Family and provide an all informed net, our Facebook page now has over 900 registered members, it really is a fast way to communicate and we try to ensure what appears on the Facebook page also appears on the website. We continue to try and attract younger and older members alike and although there might still be some degree of suspicion amongst the older association members, we can assure everyone that we are simply a Welsh Guards Association Branch which just happens to be on-line with no geographical home. We are not

after world domination or out to change traditions, we just simply want to communicate with like minded people and bring comrades together. In a perfect world we would see every single member of the Association as a member of WGR for communication purposes, each branch has a dedicated area within the website but currently only the North Wales Branch and the Cardiff Branch make any use of it. It really is a shame as we are able to communicate rapidly all manner of information of interest to all Welsh Guardsmen and not just WGR members. This speed of accurate and up to date

information is more important than ever as we approach the Centenary year. Please look us up on either of the following and jump on board, you never know, you might just enjoy it:

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

We really are most fortunate in WGR having the continued support and friendship of Nick Farr. As a website historian with a wealth of knowledge on all matters WG, Nick is able to answer many questions from individuals who arrive at the website looking for details of their relatives, but not only is Nick a superb font of historical WG knowledge, he also supports the branch from his business;

www.embroideryunlimited.co.uk providing personalized merchandise for members as and when required. In addition he continues to provide a quarterly prize in memory of his uncle (1038 Cpl Stanley Kiernan WG) which is awarded to a member as decided upon by the Branch President – thank you Nick, you are so very much appreciated by us all and thank you also to our President David Woods for making the decisions.

A recent sad date in the diary which involved the funeral of Two Welsh Guardsmen on the same day exposed the need for us as a Branch to hold our own "funeral pack". This we now do, with the generosity of our members enabling us to

purchase a professionally made black hemmed Coffin Pall (see picture). This coffin pall along with a donated buff belt and a forage cap are held by Mike and Mandy Wakely at their home in Merthyr Tydfil and are of course available for use by the wider association if required.

Another successful WGR reunion was held over the weekend 14 – 16 Feb and although numbers were down on previous years with 95 attending, those that did attend had a great time and were well entertained on both the Friday and the Saturday evening. It appeared that the Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl which has been the venue previously, had let its standards slip a little and become somewhat complacent, there were several complaints during the event, but these were taken up with the management by the function organisers. We are of course forever grateful to both Mandy Wakely and Paul Morgan (24578071) aka Flicker for organising the event for all members, a hard task, often underestimated, but appreciated by us all. Of course in addition to providing a superb reunion for members, funds were raised for Walk on Wales - see photo of Mrs Mandy Wakely presenting a cheque for £2250 to Dai Graham (24386530).

A further success story for WGR came along when Yvonne Lumby, daughter of the Late Sergeant (23908696) Alan Lumby posted a request in WGR for help in trying to trace her late Father's medals which had been out of the family for over 30 years. In 2007 a DCI Daniel Richards had contacted the North of England Branch WGA with information that he



Mrs Mandy Wakely presenting cheque for £2250 to Dai Graham (24386530)



Alan Lumby (23908696) at Dhala Camp Aden

had the medals and was happy to return them to the family. Yvonne's request was a long shot, but with the help of Robert Roberts (24400031) aka Potsy and Andy Brinkworth (24388552), now living in the USA but still with many contacts in the UK police force, they were able to track down DCI Daniel Richards and although he no longer had the medals, they did eventually manage to get them returned to the family in June 2014 some 30 years after they were last seen.

Many years ago, Brigadier JF Rickett, then Regimental Lieutenant Colonel said that in his opinion any meeting of two or more Welsh Guardsmen, for whatever occasion, would, constitute an association meeting. Unfortunately we

have said farewell to far too many Welsh Guardsmen in the last 12 months, but the Brigadiers words ring true and Welsh Guardsmen always meet and remember at these solemn occasions. The feedback from the families is that it really does help them to grieve when they see the support they have from the comrades of their loved one. The funeral of Griffiths 71 in March was such an occasion as can be seen in the photograph below.

There have been many meetings of old comrades made possible by contact on WGR and one such meeting in August last year bought together two old friends who had not met for sixty years.

Alan (22326094) Parry-Booth



Alan Parry-Booth, Keith Smith and Bill Elcock

and Bill (22217217) Elcock were in the same Platoon in Pirbright in the early 50's and had not met since Alan left at the end of his National Service in December 1951. The meeting was facilitated by WGR member Keith (24283390) Smith who collected Bill from his home and drove him to see Alan at his home in Holmfirth.

Our Branch standard has been borne magnificently by Dennis "Knocker" Knowles at various gatherings around Wales, predominantly (unfortunately) funerals, but it has also been seen at events such as Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day, Falklands Services in Swansea and Wrexham, Imber Court and, hopefully whilst accompanying the East Glamorgan Branch on their Battlefield Tour to Loos the

WGRStandard will be dipped at Menin Gate also. Whether alone or accompanied by the Standards from other branches, Dennis has carried out his duties diligently, precisely and with the utmost respect for the occasion – thank you Dennis.

Being an on-line virtual branch means we have no real tie to any one particular area, with members scattered around the whole of the UK as well as many other countries; the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, Corsica, Malta, Cyprus to name just a few. However, that does not stop us from taking part in Regimental occasions; the Association darts and shooting competition in Cardiff, at which this year WGR failed to secure any silverware (but must have



Members of W.G.R. at the funeral of Griffiths 71

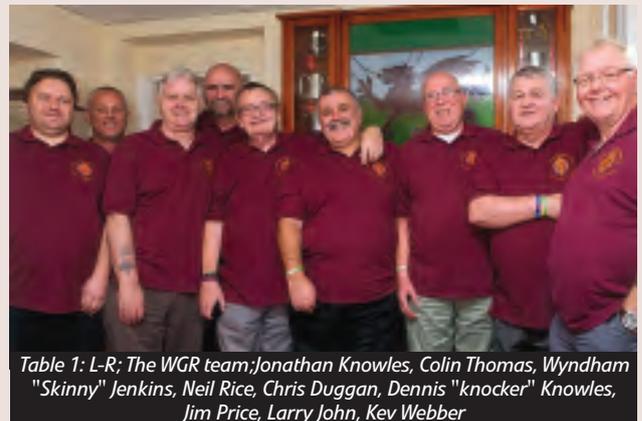


Table 1: L-R; The WGR team; Jonathan Knowles, Colin Thomas, Wyndham "Skinny" Jenkins, Neil Rice, Chris Duggan, Dennis "Knocker" Knowles, Jim Price, Larry John, Kev Webber

come first in the best polo shirt competition), the Falklands Reunion weekend in Wrexham, funerals of old comrades, you can almost guarantee that wherever there is a gathering of WG there will be somebody there from the WGR Branch.

The communication we have with our members is second to none, no other branch (through no fault of their own) can boast contacting 100 members daily, every day of the year, with WG information.

Of course the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch would not be possible without the actual Welsh Guards Reunited website and so it would be remiss of us as a Branch not to thank the people that enable our Branch to function

correctly, the people that run the website for us. 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)

Neil Rice (24446066)

WGR Facebook:

Jack Jones (24076011)

What better way to end our Branch notes than with a poem from our poetic maestro and one of our Branch Vice Presidents, Mr Alan Parry-Booth;

Our Regiment

T'was on the day of Dewi Sant

A hundred years this week

When the "Fifth of Foot" went on parade

To proudly show the leek.

Five hundred gallant Welshmen

With lanto, Dai and Harri

All from the principality

From Wilfa Head to Barry.

Labourers from the quarries

Colliers from the mines

All as smart as buttons

Parading in their lines.

Polished boots and rifles

Brass that shone like gold

Marching to the music

Like the warriors of old.

Good King George was so impressed

(Though some say it is a myth)

That when the Welsh Guards passed his plinth

He called "Cymru am Byth".

A century has passed since then

The "Taffs" still standing tall

Finely tuned and ready

To heed the nation's call

Anyone who's worn the leek

Will hold his head erect

And offer to our regiment

Affection and respect.

A.P-B 19.08.14



To help publicise the Regimental Centenary, Welsh Guards Reunited has a quantity of car window stickers which are available free of charge to anyone sending a stamped addressed A5 (not A4) envelope to;

**Mandy Wakely,
1A Hawthorn Hill, Trefechan,
Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales,
CF48 2ES, UK.**

Please ensure you have sufficient postage on the envelope - 1st class - £0.62p and 2nd class - £0.53p

CAN YOU HELP?



Can you help 1?

A new arrival to WGR (Steve Veysey), the nephew of Sgt John Arthur Veysey, enquired as to the other people in the photograph which appears at page 352 of Welsh Guards at War. It depicts Sgt John Veysey being briefed by Major JDA Syrett (standing & pointing), Commanding Number 4 Company near Cagney 19 July 1944. We know that also in the photograph, in the foreground with the pick elf on his back is Gdsm George Kitchen and that Gdsm Fenwick is the Bren gunner.

Steve Veysey had watched the BBC One Show on Fri 6 Jun where a viewer sent in this very same photograph and said that her Father, John Arthur, was in the photograph? The question is; is anyone able to recognise John Arthur or anyone else in the photograph?



Can you help 2?

In an attempt to try to identify the Corporal in the rear rank (third from right as you look at photo) of this photograph for the family of Rex Whistler, it was published on WGR. Although as yet we have been unable to identify the Corporal, it has come to light that the Sergeant sat on Rex Whistlers right is none other than 4188030 Sgt Robert Nelson Roberts (aka Darkie), Father of 22831083 Raymond Roberts and Grandfather of 24220169 Dave Roberts and 24400031 Robert Edward Roberts (aka Potsy). But the mystery remains, who is the Corporal in the rear rank?

DARTS AND SHOOTING COMPETITION

Darts and Shooting Competition 2014

By Brian Keane

The Association Darts and Shooting Competition took place on Saturday 11th October at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. It had been looked forward to with great anticipation since the unavoidable cancellation of 2013 due to structural damage of the Sgts Mess. Members were 'baying for blood' after previous encounters, and looked forward to taking home the spoils!

The competition was extremely well attended (thanks to the hard work of Branch Secretaries who 'called their members to arms', and proceeded with light banter and lots of laughter.

A huge thank you goes to Sgt Kevin Jury and his Recruiting Team who controlled the Shooting competition with such finesse and professionalism, and without whose help the day would have floundered.

Personally, I had enormous satisfaction in meeting up with old mates I hadn't seen in years, and also meeting new members.

It was a great day for renewing friendships. Thank you one and all for making it such a success.

Photographs courtesy of Neil Rice (www.nhr.photography) Tel: **07595 264871**, who gave his services free of charge to the Association. Thanks Neil for suburb pics!



Darts: Winners of Welsh Guards Association Cup, Monmouth Branch



Darts: Winner of The Abertawe Shield, Cardiff branch

RESULTS

DARTS

<i>Welsh Guards Association Cup:</i>	Monmouth
<i>Abertawe Shields (Runner-up)</i>	Cardiff
<i>Highest Individual Score</i>	Tony Lewis (Cardiff)

SHOOTING

<i>Leatham trophy:</i>	East Glamorgan
<i>Aberdare Cup Champion Shot:</i>	Andrew Brown, Llanelli
<i>Gerry Greenstock Cup:</i>	Ken Haines (East Glamorgan)
<i>William Burman Cup:</i>	Errold Jones



Darts: Highest Individual Score, Tony Lewis, Cardiff Branch

Darts and Shooting Competition 2014



Shooting: Winners of The Leatham Trophy, East Glamorgan Branch



Shooting: Winner of The Gerry Greenstock Cup, (over 70 years of age)



Shooting: Winner of Aberdare Cup, (Champion Shot)



Shooting: Winner of the William Burman Cup, Errol Jones, Merthyr Tydfil Branch

Darts and Shooting Competition 2014

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION AGM

MINUTES OF THE 84TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

Held at Maindy Barracks Cardiff, at 1100 hrs
Wednesday 14th May 2014

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:

J Harding Esq., President
Llanelli Branch: Captain A C Hopkins, President North Wales Branch: Major I B Ramsden MBE, President Pembrokeshire Branch: Major C Carty MBETD, President Swansea & West Glamorgan 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 T Peters, representing Merthyr Tydfil Branch: Mr J Bayliss, Secretary Midlands Branch: Mr S Liversage BEM, Secretary Monmouthshire Branch: Mr J Williams, Secretary 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 M Wakely, representing Welsh Guards Reunited.

There were 5 other Association members present.

In Attendance:

Capt D Pridmore, 1st Btn Welsh Guards: Capt C Dawson, 1st Btn Welsh Guards: WO2S Boika, Headquarters Welsh Guards:

Apologies for Absence:

Brigadier J F Rickett CBE, Vice President WGA: Major K Oultram, Treasurer WGA: S Rhodes Esq., President Aberdare Branch: Colonel C Stephens, President London Branch: Capt H Legge-Bourke, President Merthyr Tydfil Branch: Capt D Davies, President Monmouthshire Branch: R G P Plowden Esq., President Montgomery/Shropshire Branch: Major D Woods, President WGR: Mr E Jones, Secretary Merthyr Tydfil Branch: Mr P Morgan, Secretary WGR

Item 1 - President's Address

The President opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, especially Captain Darren Pridmore and Captain Carl Dawson from the Battalion. He reported that the Battalion was in good order and under a new Commanding Officer, Colonel Giles Harris.

Morale is high, and they are kept busy with Ceremonial and Public duties. The Battalion move to the refurbished Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright in October after they return from Kenya. There is also a possibility that they will return to Afghanistan in 2016, but purely in a 'policing' role. The Welsh Guards have now connected with the Royal Welsh (hence the use of the Officers' Mess in Maindy Barracks)

He concluded that the Association owes its success to the Secretaries, who do a huge amount of work for their members, and grateful thanks were given to them for being so loyal and enthusiastic.

Item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 14th June 2013 was proposed by Mr S Liversage (Secretary Monmouthshire Branch) and seconded by Mr P Williams (Secretary Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch). This was carried and the minutes signed.

There was one matter raised by Mr D Webb who was concerned about the delay in receiving the 2014 diaries, making it very difficult to sell on to his members. The President apologised for this explaining it was out of his hands since the initial order should have arrived in September. Consequently many diaries remained unsold resulting in a big loss financially. A vote was taken to

discontinue with the diary and this was unanimous.

Item 3 – Darts and Shooting Competition

The Sec. Gen. announced that this competition will revert to Maindy Barracks, and will take place on Saturday 11th October, since the Sergeants' Mess has now been completely renovated,

Mr D Webb enquired about overnight accommodation and this will be looked into. Mr M Wakely stated that a member of WGR would be able to provide hotel rooms in Cardiff at discount prices for anyone who is interested.

Item 4 – Remembrance Day

Commemorations will take place on Sunday November 9th, and further details will be announced in the Summer newsletter. The President hopes that the Battalion will be able to send representation from the Battalion to some Branches again this year. Mr D Webb complained that his Branch has only been designated three wreaths, and needs more. It was pointed out by the Sec. Gen. that every Branch receives one free wreath plus one if there is a Falklands Memorial, and any extra should be paid for by the Branch. The President agreed that if there is a representative from the Battalion attending then an extra wreath will be allocated. Mr Webb insists he needs five.

Item 5 – Centenary 2015

Branch Secretaries receives regular updates from the President regarding plans for 2015, and confirmation and dates will be distributed to them as and when they occur.

- a) The Summer Newsletter will contain a 'flyer' for the Centenary Book, due to be published in October at a cost of £30 - £35, but if members order before the end of July, the charge will be £15 (plus £5.45p UK postage).
- b) St David's Day: Original venue was the City Hall, Cardiff, but there is some doubt of the capacity, and the extra use of marquees etc would make the costs astronomical. Other venues such as the International Arena Cardiff are now being looked at. Before any definite decisions are made, it is essential that we get feedback from the Association as to how many members and their families are expected to attend, and the Sec. Gen. requested all Branch Secretaries try to get some idea of numbers before the end of July. An advert will be placed on the Regimental web site as well as that of the Association making it clear that the event will be 'ticket only', since HRH Prince Charles will be attending, making it a high security venue.

D Webb enquired about some financial assistance to Branches for coach travel, and this was

agreed. The Sec Gen. suggested that a charge of £5 per ticket for entry and £5 per person for travel be made in order to control numbers, which was accepted. (will also apply to the Presentation of Colours).

- c) Presentation of Colours: The President has written to the Palace suggesting a date for this as Thursday 30th April 2015, but is still awaiting confirmation.

The Laying up of Old Colours will be in Caernavon and possibly the Freedom of Newport in November.

- d) Centenary Dinner: This is planned for Saturday September 19th 2015 at the Brangwyn Hall Swansea, and further details will be published at a later date.

Item 6- Christmas card

Unfortunately a copy of the 2014 card was not available but will be included in with the Summer Newsletter. It is expected that the cost will remain the same as last year i.e. 60 pence.

Item 7 –New Constitution

The Secretaries present were given a hard copy of the New Constitution at the meeting explaining the changes from the old rules to the new Constitution, which is more simplified and flexible, allowing the Association to be responsible for their own finances. Many man hours and money has been spent carrying out this exercise and the President hoped that the

Secretaries will endorse the changes.

J Harding Esq. asked if the original rules will be an annex to the new constitution, and this was confirmed.

Regarding Branch accounts, these must be submitted to the Sec Gen by October each year, signed by two members of the Branch, namely Treasurer and another Branch Officer. THIS NOW BECOMES A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.

The President requested a vote of acceptance to the new constitution, and this was unanimously agreed.

Item 8 – Association Accounts

Since the Treasurer was unable to attend, the President informed the meeting, that there was approximately £300,000 in capital funds, and Secretaries and Trustees can now agree to the spending, taking into consideration that money needs to be reinvested.

Item 9 – Battlefield Tours 2014 / 2015

The 2014 Association Battlefield Tour commences 6 – 10 September, visiting Hechtel, Menin Gate, and Ypres battlefields (guided by Rhydian Vaughan.) and the cost has been kept to a minimum of £285 per person. The coach is full, but a reserved list is in place. A Cunningham enquired whether representatives from individual Branches lay wreaths at Hechtel, but was informed that this is done by the President, although the Ogmores Branch laid their own wreath since they are on a separate tour.

In 2015 the Regiment is running the tour to the Somme, but not planning on visiting Hechtel. The Sec Gen. felt that this would be extremely disappointing to the people of Hechtel since we have had close ties with them for many years, and the President assured him that there would be a representation there. The 2015 tour will take place around the second week of September.

Item 10 – Newsletters

Since the Summer Newsletter will contain important information regarding the Centenary, it is hoped that it will be posted by the second week of June; hence all Branch newsletters must be submitted to the Sec. Gen. ASAP in order to get them copied

Item 11 – Imber Court

As in previous years, the East Glamorgan Branch is running a coach to Imber Court, on Sunday 22nd June. Mr Eric Jones, a 99 year old member of the Merthyr Tydfil Branch has been invited by East Glam to join them since he should have been there on that fateful day in 1944, but changed duties, and was reported missing for a while! This will be the last official commemoration at Imber Court, and a Bugler from the Battalion will be in attendance.

Item 12 – Future AGM's

Due to a few bad incidents at Wellington Barracks last year, it was thought that the GSM did not wish the Association to hold future meetings in his Mess. It was therefore decided at the Secretaries meeting in February to hold the 2014 AGM

in Maindy Barracks. The Officers' Mess of the Royal Welsh at Maindy Barracks is an ideal venue since the Welsh Guards are now connected to their Regiment.

Mr R Lewis pointed out that the cost of travel and staying in London was now astronomical, and Mr J Heenan reminded the meeting that Sodexo now run the Mess and charges a total of £500 for the use of two rooms for a meeting. Major C Carty pointed out that the main issue was the cost of the venue. Mr M Jones asked if the Mess being used for the current meeting would be available for future AGM's and was assured that was the case.

The President's view was that since it would be the GSM's last Birthday Parade in 2015, it would be nice to be able to present him with a suitable gift from the Association, and he (the President) would try to obtain a room in Wellington Barracks free of charge. After lengthy discussions it was decided to provisionally book Maindy Barracks for 2015, but the Sec Gen and President will look into the viability and costings of Wellington Barracks, and as to a gift for the GSM, the Sec Gen suggested that individual Branches refrain from buying separate gifts, but contribute to just one from the Association.

Item 13 – Points raised at Secretaries Meeting

Llanelli:

1. A Branch member has died and left a diary from the Second World War,

and Mr A Cunningham asked whether the Regiment would be interested. The Sec Gen suggested that he speak to Stan Evans of the W G Collection, since it would be in safe keeping there.

2. Could an Associate member, who did not serve in the Regiment be added to the 'In Memoriam' page of the Regimental magazine since his father had previously served? He was informed that only Welsh Guardsmen are allowed to be listed.
3. A former Welsh Guardsman wishes to donate a sum of money to go towards local amputees. The President advised him to contact the Casualty Officer Jiffy Myers since he knew there were three amputees in need of wheelchairs.

London:

As discussed in previous meetings, Mr J Heenan wished to know if there is anyone now liaising between the Association and Trainee Guardsmen at Catterick. It was explained that unfortunately the people involved had moved on and nobody had taken their place. Capt D Pridmore agreed to investigate.

Swansea and West Glamorgan:

Mr P Williams referred to the proposed gift to the GSM next year, and suggested that each Branch donate a sum of money to the pot, and

decide on just one suitable gift from Association members.

North Wales:

Mr D Webb enquired as to the date for the next AGM?

Item 14 - Date of next Annual General Meeting

As already discussed in item 12, the date and venue of the next AGM is to be decided, and will be discussed at the Secretaries meeting in February 2015.

The President and Secretary General thanked everyone for attending and contributing to an excellent constructive meeting.



FORECAST OF EVENTS 2015

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

26 Centenary Book Launch, Royal Hospital Chelsea

MARCH

1 St David's Day, Millenium Centre, Cardiff

APRIL

30 Presentation of New Colours, Windsor Castle

MAY

3 Monmouthshire Spring Lunch, Maes Manor, Blackwood

30 Trooping The Colour – Major General's Review

JUNE

6 Trooping The Colour – Colonel's Review

13 THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

JULY

AUGUST

15 Llanelli Branch BBQ, Royal Naval Club, Swansea Road, Llanelli

SEPTEMBER

5- 9 Association Battlefield Tour to Hechtel

10 - 15 Regimental Battlefield Tour

19 Centenary Dinner, Brangwyn Hall, Swansea

24 Laying Up Of Old Colours, Caernavon

28- 30 Company Freedom Marches

OCTOBER

1 Freedom of the City of Newport

17 Monmouthshire Annual Dinner at The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny

NOVEMBER

8 Remembrance Day

DECEMBER

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths of the following

22068043 Gdsm W Robinson

Died: 12th November 2013, Aged: 84 years
Served: 1948 - 1950

22217383 Lcpl J Stone

Died: 6th November 2013, Aged: 79 years
Served: 1951 - 1954

2741840 Lsgt DE Jones

Died: 27th October 2013, Aged: 84 years
Served: 1945 - 1954

22874873 Gdsm RD Clayton

Died: 7th October 2013, Aged: 79 years
Served: 1951 - 1953

2734152 Gdsm O Evans

Died: 16th August 2013, Aged: 93 years
Served: 1936 - 1940

2739661 Lsgt D Jones

Died: 25th October 2013, Aged: 88 years
Served: 1945 - 1948

23263191 Gdsm D Hamlin

Died: 14th October 2013, Aged: 77 years
Served: 1955 - 1957

330927 Lt EL William

Died: 23rd December 2013, Aged: 88 years
Served: 1944 - 1947

273800 Sgt RH Burman

Died: 9th January 2014, Aged: 92 years
Served: 1941 - 1946

2738623 Lsgt GI Roberts

Died: 26th January 2014, Aged: 89 years
Served: 1941 - 1946

2739385 Lsgt MG Brewer

Died: 9th January 2014, Aged: 92 years
Served: 1943 - 1947

2740230 Sgt E Strang

Died: December 2013, Aged: 86 years
Served: 1944 - 1947

24905557 Gdsm R Vancolaer

Died: 15th February 2014, Aged: 41 years
Served: 1992 - 1998

24263871 Gdsm SJ Griffiths

Died: 25th February 2014, Aged: 55 years
Served: 1975 - 1985

2739661 Gdsm DWD Jones

Died: 25th October 2013, Aged: 87 years
Served: 1944 - 1948

2738005 Gdsm Hamilton

Died: 9th January 2014, Aged: 93 years
Served: 1941 - 1946

24474914 Lcpl PY Horner

Died: 20th January 2014, Aged: 58 years
Served: 1980 - 1985

23585533 Gdsm R Gorringer

Died: 31st March 2014, Aged: 75 years
Served: 1958 - 1960

23877214 Lsgt M Scott

Died: 14th February 2014, Aged: 73 years
Served: 1972 - 1979

22831709 Gdsm A Hope

Died: 6th April 2014, Aged: 74 years
Served: 1957 - 1960

22217012 Lsgt D Long

Died: April 2014, Aged: 84 years
Served: 1948 - 1953

23929783 Lcpl IJ Thomas

Died: 10th February 2012, Aged: 78 years
Served: 1966 - 1980

22217798 Lsgt EJ Reed

Died: 6th May 2014, Aged: 79 years
Served: 1953 - 1965

2387739 Gdsm P Baitup

Died: 12th January 2013, Aged: 69 years
Served: 1961 - 1964

476520 Lt Col JL Goodridge MBE MA

Died: 18th January 2013, Aged: 69 years
Served: 1962 - 1999

22831569 Csgt HA Edwards

Died: 28th February 2013, Aged: 75 years
Served: 1956 - 1979

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths of the following

22631272 Gdsm GP Hamer

Died: 25th May 2014 Aged: 74 years
Served: 1954 – 1958

22217631 Gdsm JT Barnes

Died: 14th June 2014, Aged: 79 years
Served: 1951 – 1954

2739272 Gdsm R Janes

Died: 25th May 2014, Aged: 91 years
Served: 1944 – 1947

23523369 Lsgt M Turner

Died: July 2014, Aged: 72 years
Served: 1959 – 1965

22831771 Lsgt N Sutton

Died: July 2014, Aged: 75 years
Served: 1959 – 1968

22217631 Gdsm JT Barnes

Died: 14th June 2014, Aged: 79 years
Served: 1948 - 1953

2734390 Lsgt G Jones

Died: July 2014 Aged: 93 years
Served: 1939 – 1945

22831371 Gdsm M Hale

Died: August 2014 Aged: 77 years
Served: 1955 - 1958

14363331 Gdsm R G N Edwards

Died Sept 10th 2014, Aged 90 years
Served 1942 – 1946

2740352 Gdsm T Warr

Died 18th July 2014, Aged 86 years
Served 1944 – 1948

24125032 Gdsm P Taylor

Died 19th June 2014, Aged 65 years
Served 1968 – 1979

22831455 Gdsm J H Pritchard

Died 13th Oct 2014, Aged 77 years
Served 1956 – 1959

22831771 Gdsm N Sutton

Died 12th July 2014, Aged 76 Years
Served 1956 – 1965

23879355 Gdsm J Cameron

Died 13th Aug 2014, Aged 69 years
Served 1963 – 1975

2738911 Gdsm F C Burton

Died 25th Sept 2014, Aged 91 Years
Served 1942 – 1946

22631272 Gdsm P Hamer

Died 25th May 2014, Aged 77 Years
Served 1954 – 1958

23400900 Gdsm C J Townsend

Died 30th April 2014, Aged 75 Years
Served 1956 - 1958

22217782 Gdsm D Hillman

Died 4th July 2014, Aged 81 Years
Served 1953 – 1962

2735189 Gdsm D Tovey

Died 4th July 2014, Aged 93 Years
Served 1953 – 1962

24184084 Gdsm D M Evans

Died July 2014, Aged 61 Years
Served 1970 – 1979

2nd Lt J Rickards

Died 23rd Nov 2014, Aged 75 Years
Served 1958 – 1959

24808942 Gdsm S Jones

Died April 2014, aged 44 years,
Served August 1988 - April 2001

315897 Lt KV Rose

Died 28th January 2014, Aged: 68
Served: 1943 - 1946

436248 2Lt FR Griffiths-Lloyd

Died Summer 2013, Aged: 81
Served: 1950s

139455 Capt the Rt Hon Earl of Lisburne

Died 3rd September 2014

457419 2Lt JA Rickards

Died 23 November 2014, Aged: 75
Served: 1958 - 1959

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Field Marshal The Lord Guthrie GCB, LVO, OBE, DL presenting the trophy for the Welsh Guards Association Handicap Hurdle to the Jockey Richard Johnson, who rode the race winner 'August Hill'



WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2014