



WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2008







WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2008

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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

Colonel A J E Malcom OBE

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Affiliations

5th/7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment
HMS Campbeltown

Contents

Foreword

By Col. AJE Malcolm OBE	
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	3
By The Commanding Officer	
Lt Col RSM Thorneloe MBE	4
1st Battalion Welsh Guards	
The Prince of Wales's Company	5
Number Two Company	11
Number Three Company	17
Support Company	19
Headquarter Company	22

Regimental Band

Band Tours	27
------------	----

Distribution of Officers	31
--------------------------	----

Distribution of Warrant Officers	33
----------------------------------	----

Honours and Awards	33
--------------------	----

Battalion Events

Prince of Wales's Review	34
Wales comes to London (Families Day)	36
Battalion Boxing Night	37

Battalion Training/Operations

Belize	39
Germany	41
Leadership with a Language Barrier	44
Operation Valero	46
Sniping: From Training To Operations	
in Helmand Province	48

Recruiting/Training

Recruiting Support Team	51
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst	54
ITC Catterick	55
Army Cadets	56

Battlefield Tours

Normandy	57
Belgium	59

Association Events

St Davids Day	61
Imber Court	62
Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion	63

Individual Articles

Never Done A Queens Guard	64
Colours	66
An Honorary Welsh Guardsman	66
They Shall Grow Not Old	68
The Victor Comic	69
Recruiting 1915	70
Equitation Reminiscences	71
The Only Time it had ever been done	73
Welsh Guards Link with Author	75
WO1 (GSM) W D G Mott OBE	77
RFA Sir Galahad - Chiu Yiu Nam GM	78
The Squad of '58	79

Advertisements	80
----------------	----

Welsh Guards Collection	84
-------------------------	----

British Armed Forces & Veterans Day	85
-------------------------------------	----

IBB & IJLB Association	85
------------------------	----

SSAFA Forces Help Needs You	86
-----------------------------	----

Welsh Guards Association	88
--------------------------	----

Association Branch Reports

Aberdare Branch	88
Cardiff Branch	89
Cardiganshire Branch	90
East Glamorgan Branch	91
Llanelli Branch	92
London Branch	93
Merthyr Tydfil Branch	95
Midlands Branch	95
Monmouthshire Branch	96
Montgomeryshire and Shropshire Branch	97
North America Branch	98
North of England Branch	99
North Wales Branch	103
Ogmore Branch	104
Pembrokeshire Branch	105
Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch	107

Welsh Guards Association Darts and Shoots	108
---	-----

Welsh Guards Association AGM	110
------------------------------	-----

Forecasts of Events 2009	115
--------------------------	-----

In Memoriam	116
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Foreword

by Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

This has been another busy and successful year for the Regiment which our Regimental magazine illustrates well. We should take pride in the dedication and professionalism of the various components that make up the Regiment. The Battalion continue to flourish and have had a mixed year of both ceremonial duties and field training and exercises. The Troop this year won high praise and we should not under-estimate how well they have done in switching from red to green and back again. They are now firmly ensconced in Aldershot, a welcome change from Wellington Barracks and are now training hard for the Afghanistan tour starting in March. I know they will do us proud in Helmand Province.

Despite some under manning the Band continues to maintain high standards and play at a variety of events and venues in the UK and Europe; they are much in demand and widely respected. Our Cadet detachments also continue to thrive in Wales and elsewhere and our cap badged Powys ACF Band is much in demand, a mark of their musical ability and quality. The Association remains strong and our branches do so much to continue to keep Welsh Guardsmen in touch and together and provide that welfare net which is so important. Its many varied events, whether it be golf meetings, darts and shoots competitions or the annual battlefield tour are all hallmarks of its success. The Association is now being complemented by websites run by ex Welsh Guardsmen, namely Welsh Guards Re-United and Welsh Guards On Line. Our own Regimental website is in the process of being improved and I hope this will become a popular port of call for news on the Regiment and future events.

I am delighted that Regimental events are well attended and that our various Clubs are doing so well. Saint David's Day next year will be driven by the Association as the Battalion will be preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. I am pleased to see that so many have contributed to our Regimental magazine and I encourage anyone who feels they would have something worthwhile to contribute, to do so.

I look to 2009 with great confidence and I have no doubt we will remain strong and successful despite what is almost certainly going to be a very challenging deployment for the Battalion.

Foreword

By The Commanding Officer

Lt Col RSM Thorneloe MBE

I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce the Battalion's notes for the Regimental Magazine. I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor, Colonel Richard Stanford, for everything that he did to lay such robust training foundations for the Battalion's forthcoming tour to Afghanistan. Within four days of handing over to me he deployed, on promotion, to a key job as the Chief Mentor to the senior Iraqi Commander in Basra. He will be there for nine months during a period which promises to be critical to the UK's involvement in Iraq. We wish him well.

For me personally it is wonderful to be back in the fold after four years spent away on the staff - two years as the Operations Officer of 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division and two years in the MOD, latterly as Military Assistant to the Secretary of State for Defence.

The Battalion's contribution to this magazine chronicles a highly successful year. The intensity of the program - which is clear from the articles that follow - is a good indication of how busy the Army is these days. It also shows how much variety and fun there is to be had when on Public Duties in London.

We can now look forward to the prospect of an exciting tour to Afghanistan with 19 (Light) Brigade next summer. I cannot write too much about it in this forum, but can say that the Pre-Deployment Training is now well advanced and proceeding well. Afghanistan is a complex and fascinating theatre and I am confident that we will step up to the considerable challenge that it presents - as the Battalion has always done in the past.

I am most grateful for the support of the wider Regimental family - it is much appreciated and it means a great deal to us. We will do our best to keep you informed of our progress next year through the Armyweb (www.army.mod.uk/welshguards) which I commend to all those who have not yet accessed it.

PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

<i>Maj Harris GRH</i>	<i>Gdsm Evans LD</i>
<i>Lt Finnegan HTS</i>	<i>Gdsm Fatchu MF</i>
<i>2Lt Fenton CSN</i>	<i>Gdsm Garrod M</i>
<i>2 Lt Harris D</i>	<i>Gdsm Greenan TO</i>
<i>WO2 Pollard MS</i>	<i>Gdsm Greenman TG</i>
<i>CSgt Griffiths F</i>	<i>Gdsm Haly D</i>
<i>Sgt Williams C</i>	<i>Gdsm Hay J</i>
<i>Sgt Jones BW</i>	<i>Gdsm Henneberry KP</i>
<i>Sgt Parry M</i>	<i>Gdsm Hilton AC</i>
<i>Sgt Parry G</i>	<i>Gdsm Hopkinson MD</i>
<i>LSgt Brandon SA</i>	<i>Gdsm Hughes MH</i>
<i>LSgt Davies JA</i>	<i>Gdsm Johnson MA</i>
<i>LSgt Jones R</i>	<i>Gdsm Jones UB CS</i>
<i>LSgt Owen J</i>	<i>Gdsm Kasteln A</i>
<i>LSgt Scarf C</i>	<i>Gdsm Lodwick RW</i>
<i>LSgt Treharne CD</i>	<i>Gdsm Lovell R</i>
<i>LSgt Edwards C</i>	<i>Gdsm May SM</i>
<i>LCpl Devine MA</i>	<i>Gdsm Meek D</i>
<i>LCpl Dwyer ML</i>	<i>Gdsm Mitchell FR</i>
<i>LCpl Isaac M</i>	<i>Gdsm Morgan C</i>
<i>LCpl Jones 16 K</i>	<i>Gdsm Mottram L</i>
<i>LCpl Jones 89 RA</i>	<i>Gdsm Mula MD</i>
<i>LCpl Lawrence TF</i>	<i>Gdsm Parry SC</i>
<i>LCpl Lewis 64 K</i>	<i>Gdsm Patterson M</i>
<i>LCpl Lewis 65 S</i>	<i>Gdsm Pirie SA</i>
<i>LCpl Love GM</i>	<i>Gdsm Powell J</i>
<i>LCpl O'Brien J</i>	<i>Gdsm Rees CDC</i>
<i>LCpl Owen MJ</i>	<i>Gdsm Rickman-Smith JA</i>
<i>LCpl Pierce ST</i>	<i>Gdsm Roberts DJ</i>
<i>LCpl Qaimuri RV</i>	<i>Gdsm Safer AT</i>
<i>LCpl Selby AJ</i>	<i>Gdsm Salisbury JP</i>
<i>LCpl Rowlands L</i>	<i>Gdsm Saunders LR</i>
<i>Gdsm Abberley ND</i>	<i>Gdsm Simmonds JLS</i>
<i>Gdsm Anderson A</i>	<i>Gdsm Skates L</i>
<i>Gdsm Bawa M</i>	<i>Gdsm Sloman TJ</i>
<i>Gdsm Bebb K</i>	<i>Gdsm Small PM</i>
<i>Gdsm Bilton GB</i>	<i>Gdsm Smith CDS</i>
<i>Gdsm Cook A</i>	<i>Gdsm Thomas L</i>
<i>Gdsm Cook S</i>	<i>Gdsm Townsend RJ</i>
<i>Gdsm Cummins T</i>	<i>Gdsm Watkin Bennett B</i>
<i>Gdsm David CL</i>	<i>Gdsm Williams JO</i>
<i>Gdsm Davies D</i>	<i>Gdsm Williams D</i>
<i>Gdsm De Swardt L</i>	
<i>Gdsm Deeks CMD</i>	

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS
THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANYY Ddraig Goch Ddyry Cychwyn
The Red Dragon Gives a Lead

It has been an extremely busy twelve months for the Welsh Guards and a particularly busy summer for The Prince of Wales's Company. Since the thrills of ceremonial duties last year, the Company has been on exercise in Belize, has trained and been on standby as the lead company for deployment to Kosovo, we provided the Escort on the Troop and have been reviewed by HRH The Prince of Wales. After the Battalion move to Aldershot, the Company is now focused on training for our eventual deployment to Afghanistan in the spring of next year.

Last autumn the company deployed on the Battalion's overseas training exercise in Belize, Exercise TROPICAL STORM. This involved six weeks of intense jungle training and was exactly what the Company needed after a long summer in London.

The exercise proved to be hard work and the pace relentless as the Company was only two platoons strong. The first week or so was spent learning basic jungle tactics, which were new to nearly everyone, however, LCpl Miller found that watching a pig being killed and cut in front of him did not go down too well! The exercise soon moved on to learning conventional SOPs and fighting tactics to enable the Company to take on the advanced jungle school. These included camp attacks, water borne drills and boat assaults. Moving



LCpl Qaimuri taking pleasure in cutting up a pig on EX TROPICAL STORM. Others were less keen to get involved!



No. 2 Platoon during the jungle training.

by river is definitely the most efficient way of getting through the thick jungle. However disembarking from the boats over the river banks can be a nightmare; Gdsm Cummins, seemingly determined to drown himself, was eventually hauled up the bank by his ear by Company Sergeant Major Pollard, before the assault could commence. It was a fast learning curve but the company was ready to be tested on the Battalion final exercise. The insertion tab was hideous; it took all day dragging oneself up the mountain by the roots of trees in torrential down pours into the FUP. It was utterly exhausting. This insertion initiated five hard days of casevacs, camp attacks and defensive exercises.

Adventure training and R&R were a well earned reward and relief from the jungle. Week long activities included: sailing, diving, canoeing and kayaking. R&R was a time to relax and reflect on the exercise and for LCpl Love to come across the odd dyslexic tattooist!



No. 2 Platoon during the jungle training.



POW's Coy taking a bath in the jungle.

TROPICAL STORM was gruelling at times, but overall a great challenge and hugely rewarding. The company left having gained a sense of pride from their performance and could really see the progression that had been made.

Straight after Christmas leave it was all go again for the short notice possible deployment to Kosovo after the country's approaching elections for independence from Serbia. We had a month to prepare for the standby period so it was fast and furious training to get up to standard. The Company deployed down to Pirbright for its own public order training. Command and Control proved extremely difficult and the commanders were put through their paces during the first rather chaotic serials. Companies were trained using the other companies acting as civilian population. Naturally everyone could not wait to be up against The Jam Boys in either role!



Not Impressed. Lt Olzowski and Sgt Parry 700.



Mud Monsters, Members of POW's Coy at ENDEX*

The Company then moved to Lydd for the Battalion's confirmatory exercise in the purpose built Rype village. The main difference was the use of slightly harder batons than we had been used to before which meant the sometimes overly zealous rioters in Pirbright were not so brave in Lydd! There were those, however, who were not phased and seemed gluttons for punishment. The Company Commander proved a hardened rioter and provocateur, both effectively winding up the other companies and leading from the front charging headlong into the shields. Between him, the Company Sergeant Major and Sgt Williams 205 there was not one serial during which at least one of them was not 'arrested'!

Our own exercises as the security forces went well with relatively few real casualties and we felt ready to deploy if necessary. We were then the lead company on OP VALERO on 12 hours notice



A time to relax. Members of 1PI getting used to the jungle



Feigned expressions of enthusiasm? Lt Storrar, Maj Ramsay, LSgt Brandon, WO2 CSM Pollard, Maj Speed, preparing to embark over the Fan's

to move for a month in case troubles started in the now internationally recognised independent state of Kosovo. During this time the company were kept busy with continual public order training, fitness and the dreaded Fan Dance.

Towards the end of March the Company conducted EX DRUIDS DANCE an endurance march over 21 kms through the Brecon Beacons National Park. It was the same route as is undertaken on the Platoon Commanders and Platoon Sergeants battle courses. It is a demanding test going over Fan-y-Big, Pen-y-Fan, and Fan Lila via Storey Arms. The stretcher carry (once we had found the hidden stretchers! The Company Sergeant Major still holds that it was due to his surveillance days that we found them at all!) up Fan Lila is infamous, but everyone dug in and finally made it to the end with both



Mixed emotions. Lt Storrar, Lt Ofzowski and Maj Ramsay after the first leg



Come On Chaps. Look how far we have come!" Lt Storrar leads the way from Fan-y-Big to Pen-y-Fan.



The fight for comms on top of Pen-y-Fan. Lsgt Brandon, the Company signaller brings up the rear



Where are those stretchers?! Lt Olzswoski diligently scans to find them, while the Battalion 2ic takes a more leisurely approach enjoying the scenery!

platoons lead by Lt Olzswoski and 2Lt Finnegan finishing with practically every man who started, less some of the visitors! The sense of achievement was obvious and for many, one of the myths of Brecon was dispelled, slightly!



The home straight after heaving the stretcher up the steep Fan Lila



Anyone for a hot dog (they are not optional). The CQMS, CSet Griffiths, at the end of DRUIDS DANCE

After our standby period for OP VALERO came to an end without deployment, the focus dramatically changed to ceremonial duties once again and The Queen's Birthday Parade. After some skiing and leave, it was straight to work. The company had the honour of being this year's Escort. However, this meant extra hours on the parade square which was met with mixed gratitude! The Company Sergeant Major worked hard to make sure the company were ready and forming straight lines on the day. We mounted guard from Horse Guards five or six times in the month leading up to the birthday parade, so the company were well prepared if somewhat weary. The hard work paid off and it was widely agreed that The Escort to The Colour were exceptional. Keeping moral up during ceremonial duties is important; PI days out were organised; a trip on the London eye, a tour round HMS Belfast, and a tour and tasting session at Fullers Brewery were highlights.



The Welsh Guards team, between Cabane du Mont Fort and Cabane de Prafleuri on the famous 'Haute Route' during this summers trip lead by 2Lt Harris



The Escort to The Colour. The POW's Coy march forward to collect The Colour during The Queen's Birthday Parade

Keeping moral up during ceremonial duties is important; Pl days out were organised; a trip on the London eye, a tour round HMS Belfast, and a tour and tasting session at Fullers Brewery were highlights.



A day out in London. No. Three Platoon in Fullers Brewery and by Tower Bridge

The Company Commander organised a hugely successful charity boxing night for Help The Heroes, Combat Stress and related army charities. The night was a roaring success, raising a great deal for the charities and with a high standard of boxing. The Prince of Wales's Company saw two of its own boxers fight against the Police, LCpl Isaac and Gdsm Deeks who both had fantastic fights, the latter winning best boxer.

Another sporting success was LCpl Dwyer representing the army for rugby and notably won a cap for the Army vs Navy game.

The highlight of the year for the Prince of Wales's Company was undoubtedly the Review by the Company Commander His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on 22nd May. It is an enormously prestigious occasion to be reviewed by His Royal Highness and a huge privilege to be serving in the Company at the time; the Company was last reviewed by HRH in 1991. The day was held at Clarence House and the Prince generously invited his Company and their family's into his private garden for the parade and for lunch.



Smiles after the Company Photograph with HRH The Prince of Wales.

The company marched into his garden in tunic accompanied by the Welsh Guards band and drums watched proudly by the many families and past members of the Company. The Prince arrived and addressed the company before inspecting them.

After the ceremony, The Prince presented LCpl Dwyer, Gdsm Lodwick, Jones 16, Jones 89 and Davies 77, who had recently returned from Afghanistan, with medals in the state rooms before returning outside for lunch. He managed



Maj Ramsay leading the Company into HRH's garden in Clarence House



The POW's Coy formed up awaiting the arrival of the Prince of Wales

to speak to every man and family in the company which was exciting and an honour. Among those present were former members of the Prince of Wales's company The Lord Guthrie and General (Retd) Sir Redmond Watt. It was a splendid day that will be remembered by all.



HRH presenting medals to those who had recently returned from Afghanistan



*'The Red Dragon Gives A Lead'.
POW Coy on the battlefield tour*

More recently, the company enjoyed some adventure training success. Lead by 2Lt Harris, a group of thirteen travelled to France and Switzerland to undertake the demanding 'Haute Route'. Eleven days after starting in Chamonix, France the group resurfaced in Zermatt, Switzerland after crossing 180 kilometres, 11 passes and completing height gains of 12,000 metres.

The company moves into an exciting time on the overseas exercise in Germany in September with all focus now on Afghanistan in spring next year.

NUMBER TWO COMPANY

Maj Bettinson
 Capt Freeman
 Capt Spencer Smith
 Lt Charles Jones
 Lt Davies
 Lt James
 2Lt Fraser-Sampson
 WO2 Topps
 CSgt Taylor
 CSgt McCabe
 Sgt Davies 03
 Sgt Furlong
 Sgt Morgan 10
 Sgt Ridgeway-Buckley
 Sgt Roberts 02
 LSgt Balnes
 LSgt Bartley
 LSgt Fuller
 LSgt Griffiths 96
 LSgt Maslen
 LSgt Owen 39
 LSgt Parry 95
 LSgt Treharne
 LSgt Williams 57
 LCpl Buckley
 LCpl Challenger
 LCpl Evans 88
 LCpl Evans 36
 LCpl Greaves
 LCpl Green 08
 LCpl Griffiths 34
 LCpl Marsh
 LCpl Mason
 LCpl Nuku
 LCpl Pheasey
 LCpl Powell
 LCpl Williams 11
 LCpl Anderson
 LCpl Ngando
 Gdsm Adams
 Gdsm Ardizzone
 Gdsm Arnold
 Gdsm Austin
 Gdsm Bailey
 Gdsm Balderstone
 Gdsm Barwick
 Gdsm Beasley
 Gdsm Bevan
 Gdsm Bolabola
 Gdsm Brewer
 Gdsm Bromage
 Gdsm Brown 25
 Gdsm Brownett

Gdsm Buller
 Gdsm Byfield
 Gdsm Chambers
 Gdsm Cooper
 Gdsm Culley
 Gdsm Davis 31
 Gdsm Davies 35
 Gdsm Davies 20
 Gdsm Edwards 90
 Gdsm Edwards 95
 Gdsm Evans 16
 Gdsm Francis
 Gdsm Fuller
 Gdsm Gizzie
 Gdsm Green 05
 Gdsm Green 79
 Gdsm Griffiths 43
 Gdsm Hobbs
 Gdsm Jackson
 Gdsm James
 Gdsm Jenkins 46
 Gdsm Jones 17
 Gdsm Jones 08
 Gdsm Jones 88
 Gdsm Jones 13
 Gdsm Jones 10
 Gdsm Kemp
 Gdsm Kosterly
 Gdsm Lloyd
 Gdsm Meaney
 Gdsm McMail
 Gdsm Millins
 Gdsm Milton
 Gdsm Mortimer-Rees
 Gdsm Mundy
 Gdsm Murdoch
 Gdsm Nadin
 Gdsm Penlington
 Gdsm Retallick
 Gdsm Rickman-Smith
 Gdsm Roberts 72
 Gdsm Rosser
 Gdsm Rowlands 89
 Gdsm Stanfield
 Gdsm Taylor
 Gdsm Thomas 22
 Gdsm Thomas 56
 Gdsm Viavialevu
 Gdsm Walters
 Gdsm Whitefoot
 Gdsm Williams 42
 Gdsm Williams-Day

NUMBER TWO COMPANY

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

Resisting the perennial urge to state that the past twelve months have been busier than ever before, the reader can decide once he has cast his eye over our recent activities.

In the Autumn of 2007 the Company broke out of London for a week long exercise on Hankley Common and a series of Adventure Training (AT) weeks in Capel Curig. Then followed the Inter Company Patrolling Competition (Leuchars Cup) which was held on Salisbury Plain. During a five day window, each rifle company fielded two platoons that participated in a 48 hour patrolling exercise, under the watchful scrutiny on the Battalion's umpires. Number Two Company's platoons were led by Lt Charles-Jones with Sgt Roberts 02 and Sgt Ridgeway-Buckley with LSgt Griffiths 96. It was a closely contested competition, which required Major General Leuchars to adjudicate between the top two.



Gdsm MacMail Rock Climbing



Lt Charles - Jones after the Leuchars Cup

In the end, the difference between them was that Lt Charles-Jones ensured that his entire platoon completed the gruelling insertion tab; no-one dropped out. In fact, no-one dropped out of our 4th placed platoon either, despite Gdsm Stanfield breaking his foot in the process. He showed terrific willpower by carrying on. Winning the Cup was a terrific accolade to the determined efforts of both platoons. Much of the pre-Competition preparation was conducted in the sidelines when we were not conducting State Ceremonial and many (Gdsm, LCpls, LSgts and Sgts) were required to step up a rank in order for the platoons to operate effectively.



Sgt Morgan and Colin the horse



5 Platoon capsize drills

In November, the Company deployed at short notice to Belize for a Battalion 6 week exercise (TROPICAL STORM). A full account of the exercise can be found elsewhere in this magazine. Suffice it to say that 'Shiny Two' put in a strong performance, and were the busiest Company during the Final Training Exercise (FTX) securing its own objective, clearing the route for Number Three Company's advance, marking their Line of Departure (LD) and then doubling forward in case we were required to assist the 'Little Iron Men'.



5 Platoon fire support boat

State Ceremonial is never far around the corner in London District (LONDIST) and in the New Year, the Company found a Guard of Honour for the Turkish Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). Whilst the Company Commander was complimented by our own CDS on his mastery of the Turkish language, it is fair to say he found the task of escorting officer was not without its challenges as the inspecting officer was a little unsure of his role in the proceedings.



6 Platoon



Gdsm Chambers & Arnold



Casevac Belize

Later that month, the Company Commander, Company Sergeant Major and Company Quarter Master Sergeant travelled to Denmark to recce Ex LARKSONG FOXTROT - a reciprocal two week exercise with the Danish Army sponsored by HQ LAND. The climate and geography could not have been more different from that of Belize just a month earlier. Blistering heat, hills and fast flowing rivers were to be replaced by a noticeable drop in temperature, continuous rain, wind and flat countryside in all directions. Nevertheless they departed 48 hours later having negotiated a promising exercise, that was then regrettably cancelled as the Battalion took on the HQ LAND Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) commitment for Kosovo (Op OCULUS(K)).



Excercise Cooperative Spirit

In late January and early February we conducted a three week training package at very short notice in Pirbright and Lydd and then went on standby to deploy at 24 hrs Notice To Move (NTM) in case we were required to reinforce troops already in Kosovo. Our likely task was Public Order. After a month of being on standby, the commitment was taken on by 2 RIFLES and we were stood down again. There was a brief period of disappointment that we weren't able to practise our newly-found skills, however this quickly subsided. And it was not all bad news. We had at least received a new supply of cold weather clothing and equipment that accompanies the SLE commitment!

At the end of 2007, the Company experienced a number of personnel changes with Lt Spencer Smith appearing intermittently between his Sniper Cadre, deployment on Op HERRICK 7 and Sniper Instructors Cadre. Lt Charles-Jones also came and went as he deployed on Op HERRICK 8



Gdsm Evans 16



Walters, Exercise Cooperative Spirit

with the R IRISH and was then posted to ITC Catterick as a Platoon Commander Instructor. The Company Second in Command, Lt Freeman departed to attend an Arabic course at DSL Beaconsfield before deploying on Op TELIC. Fortunately in January 2008, 2Lts Davies and James arrived to fill some of these voids.

Both were soon overseeing RAAT tasks. In March 2Lt James and Sgt Furlong took 6 Platoon to Brecon for a week, to provide exercising troops for the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course (PSBC). In fact, 2Lt James did such a good job that he then took LCpl Evans 36 with him to BATUS, Canada for 4 months to run ranges on behalf of 1 PWRR and 5 RIFLES. In July, 2Lt Davies and LSgt Davies 03 took members of 4 Platoon to Bisley Ranges for ten days to help run the TA and then the Regular Army Central Skill At Arms Meetings (CENTSAAM).



5 Platoon Exercise Cooperative Spirit



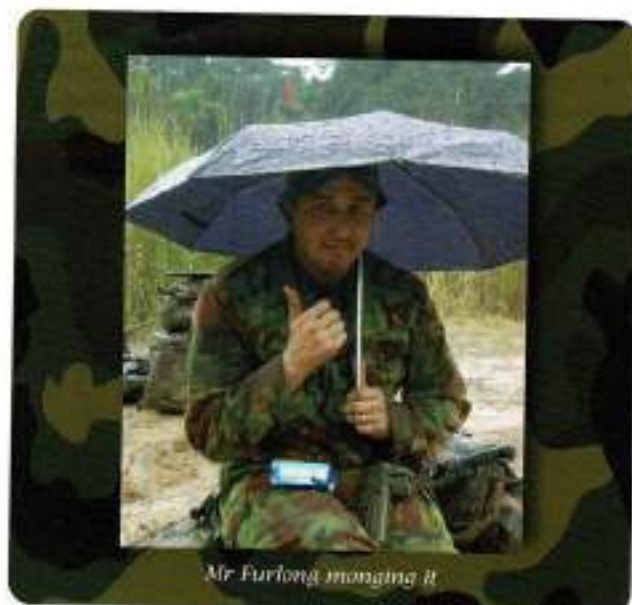
Public Order

Preparations for the Queen's Birthday Parade began at the end of April, in Pirbright. Although we travelled for up to 2 hours in each direction, when there was a perfectly good parade square just around the corner at Horse Guards, the journey time was taken in good humour and provided a chance for some well earned 'shut-eye'. The parade itself went without a hitch and who are we to disagree with the Adjutant's comment on the day that 'Number Two Guard were the smartest on parade'.

There is tremendous esprit de corps within Number Two Company. This has been fostered during the past year by ensuring that information is been 'drip-fed' down to the lowest level at the earliest opportunity. Each man has been issued with a Company polo shirt and personalised Company mugs have been bought by all. In addition, Sgt Furlong organised a 'Farewell To London' party on the River Thames



Farewell to London



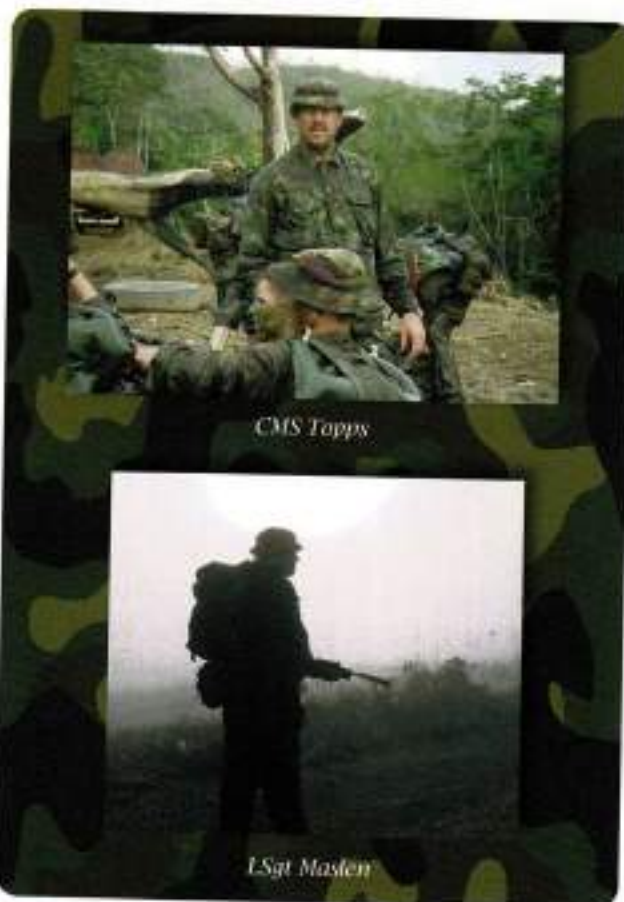
Mr Furlong enjoying it

in June. Despite running through the heart of the Capital, few from the Company had actually been on the Thames. The 4 hour river cruise allowed everyone to see some of London's landmarks from a different perspective as we left Westminster Millennium Pier and motored up to Putney and then down to the O2 Dome. On our return to Westminster, a crowd of maroon-shirted men spilled out into the night as the Chain of Command wondered what they had unleashed onto the local residents. Fortunately, the Company was all present at muster parade the following morning...less our Fijian element (LCpl Nuku and Gdsm Viavalevu) who decided that Shepperton Studios was a more interesting place to awake.

No sooner had we finished Trooping, we Arms Plotted back to Aldershot. One of the peculiarities of the Hand Over/Take Over (HOTO) included leaving our rifles in Wellington Barracks for the Grenadier Guards to inherit. In similar fashion, we inherited theirs in Lille Barracks. As a consequence, these were quickly re-zeroed on Day One at Ash ranges. During the next two weeks, the Company re-orientated back to Aldershot with trainer and boot runs over the area whilst the Farnborough Air Show flew overhead.

On return from summer leave, the Company deployed to Bavaria, Germany for 5 weeks training. This involved a weeks Live Firing in Grafenwoehr that culminated in a Company Day Advance to Contact. We then embussed 2 hours

south to Hohenfels to participate in Ex CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT (a multinational ABCA exercise involving A - America, B - Britain, C-Canada and A - Australian and New Zealand forces). The exercise was Afghanistan-focused which was an initial cause of concern to us as we had yet to begin our OPTAG-sponsored pre-deployment training. However such concerns were unfounded as we found that many of the tactical principals and drills learnt from Northern Ireland have an enduring relevance. The Company worked hard to absorb some quick-fire lessons that were extracted from the Afghanistan Tactical Aide Memoire (TAM) including Multiple Patrolling, 5 and 20 metre checks, Op BARMA (walking vehicles through vulnerable points such as road junctions), Vehicle Check Points (VCPs), Convoy Drills, Cultural Awareness, MEDEVAC 9 Liner, and Key Leader Engagement (KLE). We were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to practise all these skills and more whilst patrolling the streets of 'Nuristan' and the surrounding area. We will gain more from our OPTAG training as a consequence.



CMS Toppy

LSgt Maslen



Gdsm Walters Army U20



300 Cup

In the world of sport, Gdsm Byfield represented the London District TA & Army Boxing Club, and Gdsm Walters made his debut for the Army U20 rugby side playing hooker against the Oakmedians.

We have welcomed LSgt Parry 95 from ITC Catterick via PSBC, LCpl Mason from RMA and Gdsm Jackson from being Orderly to CinCLAND. Gdsm Bailey, Bolabola, Davis 51, Jones 08 and Taylor all returned safely from a 6 month tour of Afghanistan with the Coldstream Guards on Op HERRICK 7. Most of the 'Afghan 5' have settled back into Battalion life extremely well.

Sgts Morgan 10 and Davies 03 both completed PSBC with strong reports and are Number 4 and 6 Platoon Sergeants respectively. LSgt Owen 39 also completed PSBC. Over the past year, Gdsm Pheasey, Marsh, Powell and Buckley, all passed their LCpl promotion courses whilst Lts Freeman and Spencer Smith have been promoted to Capt.

Sgt Furlong has been busier than most during the last 12 months. Although employed as Number 6 Platoon's Sergeant, he has also been their Platoon Commander for prolonged periods including the entire Belize exercise and whilst his Officer was running BATUS ranges for 4 months. In addition, his never-ending appetite for work saw him step into the Company Sergeant Major's shoes during the Arms Plot move to Aldershot whilst WO2 Topps attended a 3 week Search Course. His dedication and attention to detail has been recognised, and he has recently been posted on promotion to CSgt as the Company Quarter Master Sergeant for 19 (Lt) Brigade's BRP (Brigade Reconnaissance Force). Other departures include LSgt Griffiths 96 who left the Company in January for PSBC and a subsequent posting to ITC Catterick on promotion to Sgt. LSgt Baines was also posted to Catterick and LSgt Treharne is due to be posted AFC Harrogate shortly on promotion to Sgt. We wish all our Company members well for their respective postings.

A number of men also completed Inter-Company transfers after summer leave: Gdsm Stanfield moved to the Motorised Transport Platoon whilst Gdsm Fuller, Evans 16 & Millins are now to be found in the Signals Platoon. The movement of personnel in and out of the rifle companies has always been necessary in order to balance the needs of the Battalion, the individual and the Household Division. This will continue in the run-up to and during our deployment in Afghanistan. The count-down has now begun and our focus is firmly set on Op HERRICK 10 which starts in March 2009.

NUMBER THREE COMPANY

MAJ STONE	GDSM CLARKE
2LT EVISON	GDSM CRIPPS
2LT HARVIE	GDSM DAVIES
2LT RICHARDS	GDSM DAVIES
2LT DUNLOP	GDSM DAVIES
WO2 BALDWIN	GDSM DAVIES
CSGT RYAN	GDSM DRAVESI
SGT CROSS	GDSM DOYLE
SGT GEEN	GDSM EVANS
SGT LEWIS	GDSM GOSS
LSGT BRAITHWAITE	GDSM GRIFFITHS
LSGT EVANS	GDSM HILL
LSGT EVANS	GDSM HUISH
LSGT HARRHY	GDSM JENKINS
LSGT LEWIS	GDSM JONES
LSGT LONG	GDSM JONES
LSGT MATHIAS	GDSM JONES
LSGT SOKO	GDSM KEMP
LSGT VUEVUEIKA	GDSM LANGLEY
LCPL CROMBIE	GDSM LEWIS
LCPL EVANS	GDSM LEWIS
LCPL DAVIES	GDSM MACEDRU
LCPL EDWARDS	GDSM MALLEY
LCPL HAINES	GDSM MATTHEWS
LCPL HEDGES	GDSM MEADOWS
LCPL HISCOCK	GDSM MORGAN
LCPL MOCE	GDSM MORRIS
LCPL PEEK	GDSM MUNDY
LCPL ROBINSON	GDSM O'SULLIVAN
LCPL ROWLANDS	GDSM PREECE
LCPL SIMONS	GDSM RICHARDS
LCPL WALTERS	GDSM ROBERTS
GDSM ADJEI	GDSM ROBERTS
GDSM BISP	GDSM ROBERTS
GDSM BROOKS	GDSM ROBERTS
GDSM BROOME	GDSM ROBERTS
GDSM BROWNING	GDSM THOMAS
GDSM CANNING	GDSM TUCKER
GDSM CAVENDER	GDSM WILLIAMS
GDSM CHARD	GDSM WILLIAMS
GDSM CHE	LCPL BENT

NUMBER THREE COMPANY

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

It must be many years since Number 3 Company has had such a varied year which has encompassed Belize, public-order training for Kosovo, the Queen's Birthday Parade, BATUS (Canada) and Southern Germany. Exercise TROPICAL STORM in Belize in November and December 2007 sits as a real highlight of the year. Twenty-four hours after providing the Guard of Honour outside the House of Lords for the State Opening of Parliament, the Little Iron Men were in Price Barracks, Belize City. The heat and testing conditions raised everyone's game and every man in the Company agreed that he was a better soldier after six weeks in the jungle. There were very some challenging aspects to the exercise, including intense jungle marches, followed by platoon and company attacks. Nature was an added challenge with spiders the size of small cars and vicious tree adders which the boys enjoyed prodding with sticks to prove their mettle. Amazingly no-one ended up in hospital.

Company Quarter Master Sergeant Ryan, throughout the six weeks, proved himself early as an outstanding 'Q Bloke' by somehow always delivering cold cans of coke at just the right moment; cheap popularity, but it worked. The Company spent twenty-four days in the jungle rotating through demanding cycles: basic



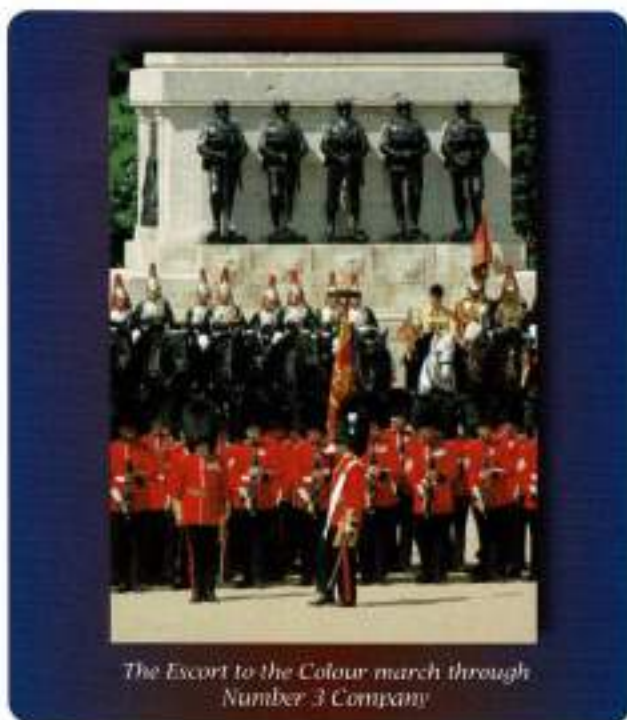
LCpl Peek (left) issues a set of orders to his men on Exercise TROPICAL STORM

training, advanced training, live-firing and cordon and search operations. There followed the opportunity for R&R in Cancun in Mexico; a week for less than £200 in a decent hotel. Cancun was so popular that many plan to go again before Operation HERRICK with their wives and girlfriends. Of the three major exercises that the Little Iron Men completed this year Exercise TROPICAL STORM was certainly the most memorable and rewarding.

Christmas Leave allowed Wales to see some impressive sun-tans and hear the stories from Belize and Cancun, which can only have been good for recruiting. 2008 began with the quick realisation that we may deploy to Kosovo in February or March as the Spearhead Land Element. Whilst this was short-notice it meant, in our favour, that we would escape some Public Duties for a number of months whilst we prepared for a potential riot-control role. Ranges and local training areas were booked and we spent a number of weeks fighting the Jam Boys and Number 2 Company using potatoes and protective visors and operating from Snatch vehicles. The training culminated with a week in Kent at OPTAG where the Company showed itself as ready for deployment. It was therefore with some disappointment that 2 RIFLES were sent instead of us and we turned our attention to providing Number 3 Guard ('The Split') for the Queen's Birthday Parade. With two months of drill, predominantly in Pirbright, the Company proved that they had not lost the 'red side' to their role after weeks of conventional training. The manning for the parade was challenging, but was handled with characteristic skill by the



Gdsm Williams 01, Huish, LCpl Rowlands 39, LCpl Hiscock & Gdsm Roberts 34 relax in Cancun



The Escort to the Colour march through Number 3 Company

Company Sergeant Major. With one Lance Corporal ill on the day itself, Lance Corporal Walters stood in having not taken part in a Birthday Parade since 1998. His mother spotted him on television and told him that he had looked rather 'tired' as he marched around Horse Guards which, with no training, is not surprising! The day went very well and we understand that Her Majesty mentioned that it was 'the best split in a number of years.....!'

The Birthday Parade led straight into a few weeks leave and then deployment to BATUS in Canada as the dismounted Infantry Company for the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (2 RTR), for which there is a separate article in this magazine by Number 7 Platoon Commander. The highlight of Canada was the adventure training, the opportunities for which are second to none. With a four day break on return from Canada, the Company was off again, this time on Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT for six weeks in Southern Germany and, again, there is a separate article about this exercise elsewhere in this magazine. The exercise prepared us well for further pre-deployment training and Operation HERRICK as well as providing the opportunity to train alongside Americans, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders.

On return to the UK, we learnt that the professionalism and spirit of the Little Iron Men



LCpl Hiscock and LSgt Braithwaite prepare to clear a building on Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

were needed in the other two rifle companies with Number 7 Platoon required to be attached to Number 2 Company and Number 8 Platoon to the Prince of Wales's Company for Operation HERRICK in the Ground Holding role. Company Headquarters and elements of Number 9 Platoon will form an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team to train and fight with the Afghan Army; it is likely that Number 3 Company will train a Battalion sized group which should be demanding and very rewarding as we assist them in making the Taliban irrelevant. We look forward on return to regrouping the Company and sharing some great stories.

The Little Iron Men have had an extremely rewarding and fun year professionally, but it has been hard indeed for the wives and girlfriends with many nights away from home. Without support from families, such a demanding programme would be more difficult for us, so it is important to acknowledge our thanks to them for their understanding and patience.

We have said farewell to a number of Company members over the past year. Captain Jones left us to assist the Special Forces, Lieutenant Bourne departed for attachment to the Household Cavalry, and Lieutenant (now Captain) Noyons has become the Equerry to HRH The Colonel. We have said goodbye to three outstanding Platoon Sergeants: Sergeant (now Colour Sergeant) Mills is now instructing at RMA, Sergeant (now Colour Sergeant) Pullen is second-in-command of the Recce Platoon and Sergeant Gwilliam is instructing in Catterick before going on the RMA Cadre in May 2009. We congratulate Lance Sergeant Geen and Lance Corporal Peek on their marriages and we have welcomed over the year three Platoon Commanders, Lieutenants Evison, Richards and Harvie.

SUPPORT COMPANY

**Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth
Fear Nothing but Disgrace**

There can be little doubt that this year Support Company has crammed several years of peacetime soldiering into a hectic twelve months. Since October 2007, Support Company has been to Belize and Germany, sent full Platoons to Afghanistan and Canada, conducted intense Public Order training and been on stand-by for Operations in the Balkans. We have sent individuals on Adventure Training in the French Pyrenees and UK offshore waters. At the same time, the Company has played a full part in the Battalion's ceremonial commitment. Before the year is out we will have deployed to Germany for a month of ranges and exercises and started cadres and pre-deployment training for Afghanistan.

As the Company welcomed the Mortar Platoon back from Op HERRICK 6, the Company was preparing to move to Belize to conduct four weeks' jungle training in dense, secondary jungle. In front of a group of family and friends, the Colonel of the Regiment, introduced by CSM Scholes with CSgt Lewis 37, presented Afghanistan Campaign Medals to the Mortar Platoon. Meanwhile, the Recce, Anti-Tanks, Guns and a section of mortarmen had landed in Belize and had begun their preparations for the jungle. After completing the basic and advanced jungle phases, the Company split into two halves: Recce and Anti-Tanks remained in the jungle to act as an ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) Group for the Battlegroup, whilst the Mortar and Machine Guns moved off to the Baldy Beacon ranges to integrate and develop their capabilities as a Fire Support Group.

The Baldy Beacons provided an excellent opportunity for the Fire Support Group to 'have an effect'. Miles of rolling countryside, with thick coniferous woods, provided ample targets for the guns and mortars to drop onto. Both Guns and Mortars started off with a short cadre, giving their newest members a chance to ease their way into the specialist weapons systems. Compared with those in the trees, the Fire Support Group were housed in relative luxury. They enjoyed the use of several buildings, a chef and showers

SUPPORT COMPANY

Major Salisbury	Gdsm Davies
Capt Durham	Dmr Davies
Lt James	Gdsm Davies
Lt Richards	Gdsm Evans
Sgt Boika	Dmr Griffiths
Sgt Lewis	Dmr Hillard
LSgt Collins	Gdsm Hopkins
LSgt Davies	Gdsm Hopkinson
LSgt Duffy	Gdsm Howells
LSgt Evans	Gdsm Jones
LSgt Jones	Gdsm Jones
LSgt Lawman	Dmr Jones
LSgt Martin	Dmr Leach
LCpl Ahearne	Gdsm Lewis
LCpl Comeston	Gdsm Liddy
LCpl Dryland	Gdsm Liversey
LCpl Evans	Gdsm Macedru
LCpl Evans	Gdsm Matthews
LCpl Haines	Gdsm Meadows
LCpl Johnson	Gdsm Morris
LCpl Jones	Gdsm Mortimer-Roes
LCpl Lewis	Dmr Nutyagoyago
LCpl Lewis	Dmr Potts
LCpl Lewis	Gdsm Pugh
LCpl Martin	Dmr Rawson
LCpl Stevens	Gdsm Rees
LCpl Williams	Dmr Rogers
Gdsm Ashworth	Gdsm Sheppard
Gdsm Bisp	Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Booker	Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Broome	Gdsm Taylor
Gdsm Brownett	Gdsm Thomas
Gdsm Bunce	Gdsm Vaganalau
Dmr Cooke	Dmr Williams
Gdsm Cousins	Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Cummins	Gdsm Williams
Dmr David	Dmr Williams
Gdsm David	Dmr Wyer

(albeit very cold!) which ensured that they could concentrate throughout the long days which ran from PT before breakfast and lessons until well after sundown, with long days on the ranges as the cadres progressed. The Mortars, lead by Capt Anderson and ably assisted by CSgt Davies 90 who had started their Belize planning whilst in their Company and Platoon locations on Op HERRICK 6, were able to introduce the firepower of the Battalion's only integral indirect asset to their newest recruits. It is a credit to the flexibility of LSgt Cunningham, LCpl George, Gdsm Watts and Evans 94 that they went from the intense infantry skills of the jungle to the intricacies of the Mortar without barely a raise of an eyebrow. The Guns, under DMaj Hayward, fired several thousand rounds and thoroughly grasped the opportunity to flex their green muscles after the rigours of London drumming.

The ISTAR Group, under CSgt Hooson, stayed in the trees and started very arduous jungle training, which finished with a long patrol to mark the Battlegroup line of departure.

New Year 2009 saw the Battalion hurled into preparations to act as an emergency force for Kosovo in case its declaration of independence from Serbia turned violent. Initial training took place in a cold, blustery Lydd and the Company, under Maj Smith, were very successful in their Public Order skills, although some of the larger Guardsmen were less enthused by his rapid and mobile crowd clearance drills. Progressing to Pirbright, the Company developed their skills with further vehicle drills, including the use of karaoke over the vehicle loudspeaker which is actually a surprisingly effective crowd-dispersal system. After the training, the Battalion was held at readiness in London with limited opportunities for training and courses. However, there were plenty of chances for the platoon commanders to introduce some variety into the training. Capt Anderson's Mortars covered death, life and art in one day, having watched an autopsy, attending an exhibition by 'Banksy' (a graffiti artist) and, controversially, ended the day in the "Museum of Sex and Love" in Piccadilly.

In the end, we were not deployed so were able to put down riot shield, baton gun and hickory stick, get back into Bearskin and Tunic and handover spearhead to 2 RIFLES - just in time to watch them go out to Kosovo for what turned out to be a very quiet month.

After some leave, the Company began to prepare for the Troop. Although we hoped that we might have the privilege of being on the parade as Support Company, we were eventually used to reinforce the Rifle Companies. Most of the Mortar Platoon went to the Jamboys as the Escort, along with Capt Corbet Burcher as the Subaltern and CSM Scholes as the initial Escort to the Colour. Capt Anderson went to No 3 Company as Subaltern, and the Anti-Tanks were divided amongst 2 and 3 Company. We again found ourselves in sunny Pirbright, although this time wearing Barrack Dress and Bearskins instead of the slightly less comfortable Robocop Kit. The long days on the square were exaggerated by the journey to Pirbright, due to the closure of Chelsea Barracks. However, the morale and humour of Support Company never faltered. As ever, the Company provided a fine addition to the Escorts, in particular to the Prince of Wales's Company who were, we have to admit grudgingly, an excellent Escort to the Colour.

With the anti-Tank Platoon supporting 3 Company in Canada, the remainder of the Battalion had an extremely busy period of Public Duties to finish what has been a hugely successful tour in London. Most people completed back-to-back Guards with stoic good humour, although there was general relief when the final Queen's Guard was completed and all the ceremonial paraphernalia could be handed back to the Stores and packed away until the next time...

There were a few moments for members of Support Company to enjoy some adventure training. LSgt Ralph, LCpl Cook and LCpl George completed an arduous trek around the Chamonix valley in France, generally held to be a particularly picturesque and scenic route. Capt Anderson took LCpl Parry 34, Gdsm Jones 98, Gdsm Burnett, Gdsm Scaife and Gdsm Richards on Gladeye. The expedition started from Cork, in the Republic of Ireland, to Plymouth, via Penzance and Falmouth. The wind was always quite strong, and on the nose, which generated some fairly big waves and some trying sailing. Inevitably, this led to a certain amount of seasickness, particularly amongst those new to sailing. However, it must be said that the Guardsmen's spirit was indefatigable and they could be relied upon as crew even with the Irish Sea crashing over their heads! Having left the

Battalion in Wellington Barracks, we rejoined them in Aldershot. Our professional emphasis shifted as we quickly began to prepare for the next overseas task, this time in Grafenwoehr Ranges in Southern Germany.

Initially, the Support Company Platoons reinforced the Rifle Companies as riflemen and completed the range package which took the battalion up to and including Company live attacks. The Mortar Platoon also took the opportunity to take most of the NCOs and Officers through basic Arty-Target procedures and to give a firepower demonstration. At the same time, a German FAC team was calling in US, German and French fast air and the Mortars grasped the chance to add combined arms fire support to their repertoire of expertise. The US Air Force Officer who was running their course was delighted with the ability of the Mortars to integrate with fast air, and said that it had never worked as smoothly in the three years he had been running the course. For the Company live attacks, the Mortars fired into an HE box at the end of the range, giving the MFCs a chance to practise their judgement of the last safe moment when using indirect fire to support troops as they approach an enemy position, whilst demonstrating the effect and noise of indirect firepower.

The Battalion moved to Hohenfels training area (also in Bavaria) and embarked on a rigorous and effective programme of counter-insurgency training in preparation for a large exercise involving US, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. The Anti-Tanks and the Guns reorganised into three Fire Support Groups, lead by Capt Durham (Anti-Tanks), CSgt Jenkinson (Anti-Tanks) and DMaj Hayward (Guns) and did sterling work supporting the Rifle Coys. The Companies were also joined by Fire Support Teams (which include FACs and FOOs), as well as their MFC pairs (LSgt Marsh and LSgt Cunningham with the Jamboys, Sgt Evans 62 and LSgt Fasfous with No. 2 Coy, and LSgt Thomas 90 and LSgt O'Brian with No. 3 Coy). The exercise was a huge success, and 1WG BG impressed the attached US observers.

With the Battalion now reorganised into two Rifle Companies, Support Company is now at its largest for several years with over 170 on the nominal roll. Maj A Salusbury arrived from ITC Catterick to take over from Maj T Smith. CSgt

Evans 44 has moved to Kenya and CSgt Jones 27 has taken over as COMS. The Mortars have welcomed LSgt Marsh and LSgt Jones 14 back into the fold. Capt P Durham has also 'come South' from ITC Catterick Anti-Tank Pl Comd, with CSgt Jenkinson as the new 2ic of the "Javlineers". CSgt Davis 76 has moved to the Anti-Tank Division of the Support Weapons School. Lt O James, Lt H Finnegan and Sgt Lewis 34 have arrived in Support Company to take over the Fire Support Groups. CSgt Pullen has taken over from CSgt Hooson, who has joined the Brigade Recce Force for Op HERRICK 6. We are busy running Cadres for our new members, who are working hard to learn the skills required for Op HERRICK 10.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Lt Col Stanford MBE	38 Sgt Turner
Lt Col Thorneioe MBE	39 Sgt Warchol
Maj Cooling	40 Sgt Whitting
Maj Miles	41 Sgt Williams
Maj Speed	42 Sgt Williams
Capt Aldridge	43 LSgt Davies
Capt Bethel	44 LSgt Grant
Capt Bowen	45 LSgt Harris
Capt Evans	46 LSgt Hemmings
Capt Harman	47 LSgt Jones
Capt Launder	48 LSgt Maslen
Capt Lewis	49 LSgt McFall
Capt Mott	50 LSgt Owens
Capt Moukarzel	51 LSgt Prosser
Capt Plewa	52 LSgt Smith
Capt Pridmore	53 LSgt Taylor
Capt Thomson	54 LSgt Threadgold
17 WO1 Monaghan	55 LSgt Todd
18 WO2 Campbell	56 LSgt Webb
19 WO2 Davies	57 LCpl Abraham
20 WO2 Hughes	58 LCpl Adams
21 WO2 Nicholls	59 LCpl Allen
22 WO2 Roberts	60 LCpl Butler
23 WO2 Thomas	61 LCpl Butler
24 CSgt Edwards-Jones	62 LCpl Clowes
25 CSgt Harries	63 LCpl Davies
26 CSgt Myers	64 LCpl Glamville
27 CSgt Roberts	65 LCpl Gwilym
28 CSgt Shield	66 LCpl Gray
29 CSgt Smith	67 LCpl Haines
30 CSgt Thomas	68 LCpl Hannan
31 Sgt Farr	69 LCpl Hayman
32 Sgt Hawkins	70 LCpl Jenkins
33 Sgt Jones	71 LCpl Jones
34 Sgt McGowan	72 LCpl Lewis
35 Sgt Owen	73 LCpl Lewis
36 Sgt Parry	74 LCpl Marquardt
37 Sgt Stephens	75 LCpl Miller

76 LCpl Morgan
77 LCpl Pienaar
78 LCpl Ratcliffe
79 LCpl Robinson
80 LCpl Smith
81 LCpl Sullivan
82 LCpl Stirling
83 LCpl Wilks
84 LCpl Williams
85 Gdsm Allen
86 Gdsm Barnes
87 Gdsm Berry
88 Gdsm Boulton
89 Gdsm Cullen
90 Gdsm Divers
91 Gdsm Evans
92 Gdsm Florence

93 Gdsm Fuller
94 Gdsm Gardner-Allen
95 Gdsm Horrell
96 Gdsm Hughes
97 Gdsm Jones
98 Gdsm Johnson
99 Gdsm Lee
100 Gdsm Llewellyn
101 Gdsm Livock
102 Gdsm Luke
103 Gdsm Mathews
104 Gdsm Milbins
105 Gdsm Payne
106 Gdsm Rogers
107 Gdsm Rowlands
108 Gdsm Stanfield

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Ofna Dduw, Anrhydedda'r Brenin
Fear God, Honour The King



The last twelve months for Headquarter Company has been extremely busy and challenging, but it is with a great deal of satisfaction that the Company can look back on a successful period. Over the year the Battalion has deployed on two overseas exercises at very short notice, been warned for an operational deployment and moved from London to Aldershot. In the sidelines there has been the usual schedule and inspections and the advent of Op HERRICK pre-deployment training in the autumn. The impact of all of these cannot be underestimated, and it is credit to the hard work of Headquarter Company personnel that everything has worked. After the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2007, the

whole battalion was looking forward to a quieter period. The Signals Platoon had their attention firmly fixed on conversion to BOWMAN. Platoon personnel attended specialist courses, and led the way as the new system was embraced. As the platoon were preparing for the final phase of BOWMAN conversion on Salisbury Plain, the Commanding Officer leaped on the opportunity to deploy on Exercise TROPICAL STORM. So, with six weeks notice, the battalion was to depart for Belize and, as ever, the G4 chain began to kick in. Both Quartermasters caught the first flight available flight for the recce. Capt Mott went and came back with a folder full of points which was thicker than a Stephen King novel, and he soon had his cutting about demanding and arranging every item of kit from the stores system. This must have been based on his personal packing list from Brecon Instructors days; the stores system rejected the "Rambo" knives he wanted, but instead gave us Gerber Tools, an amazing amount of Gucci kit up which we are sure was appreciated by all in the Companies.

Exercise Tropical Storm split the Quartermaster's into two, with B Echelon located at Airport Camp, and A2 Echelon some 4 hours and many miles away in the jungle at St Augustine. This tested both Main and Tech in different ways. B Ech had to endure wearing Army Blue shorts and green socks pulled up to the knees at 0600hrs every day for Maj Cooling's compulsory early morning aerobic session on the football pitch followed by a few laps of camp. Another luxury that all had to put up with was the locally produced food from a small shack next to the inadequately sized, non heated swimming pool that was on



The Quartermaster Tech Capt Nicky Mott looking for his song

camp. Sgt Parry 64 often skipped meals for more pressing G4 issues and having to settle for his cuisine, which was often sometimes just a plate of chips and a less than appetising large fully loaded burger, they all showed courage and resilience and just got on with the job at hand, sometimes sacrificing their daily swims to meet with A2 for Replens.

At St Augustine, CSgt McCabe and Sgt Williams 36 very quickly adapted to driving the state of the art 4 Toners (Bedford's) sideways down steep, wet and muddy roads shuttling Replens back and forth from civilisation to the jungle, they had to control their vehicles one handed allowing them to keep communications, and sending locstats by radio to base station Capt Mott every 5mins. CSgt McCabe ("Willy Wonka") took on a dual role for the exercise as IC Choccy bars and pop, he could be often seen sitting late into the evening in all weathers in his refrigerated ISO supplying his sweet toothed



The Quartermaster (right) Major Mark Cooling relaxing



Battle Group Main



Permanent Range Team headed by Capt Plewa Centre

customers with their daily fix of sugar. LCpl Davies 44 took on the role as stand in toilet janitor, taking great pride in his work and often burning half the assembly area instead of just the pre dug pit.

Capt Mott found the A2 commanders role a new and exciting appointment, our first task was to erect eight 18x 24 tents to be used as an Assembly Area (AA) of which we erected and then took down and moved 100 meters a day later, just for the practice! Capt Mott soon mastered the airways of Central America inclusive of all bordering Countries, and could often be seen stood to attention trying to get the best signal to allow him to manoeuvre the G4 moving parts around Belize. RQMS McKeon spent most days charging the copious amount of batteries that were needed to support the radio station.

The Battalion chefs performed exceptionally well deploying into the field for 5 weeks to give catering support to the Battalion. This was a good opportunity for the newer members of the catering department (and some older ones) to see the operational field catering system (OFCS) in action. Capt Jordon, the Regimental Administration Officer, worked tirelessly to ensure that almost every member of the Battalion had the chance to do some adventure training. For many this involved caving and climbing in the jungle, whilst others enjoyed the warm ocean at St George's Caye. Sgt Gordon (PTI) and Lt Thickett (AGC) endured five hard weeks on the island assisting with the water sports on offer; Sgt Gordon's basic kayak course more closely resembling a five day PT session, than a chance to unwind.



Battalion Chefs waiting for the food rush

The REME detachment had a busy job keeping the vehicle fleet on the road in some difficult conditions. In between the busy workload of changing clutches the LAD came across an opportunity to increase the camp's morale. Major Miles the Company Commander Land rover came in for a routine pit stop, and after receiving full attention from the whole LAD, left the workshop fully "PIMPED UP", with go faster stripes, fluffy dice, personalized licence plate, and pride of place was the REME colours on the antenna mast. Meanwhile the Regimental Aid Post had a number of exotic stings, bites and afflictions to deal with on a daily basis.



Sgt Wharchol taking time out from the PRT

A key aspect of Exercise TROPICAL STORM was confirming BOWMAN conversion in what is probably the most challenging communications environments possible. The whole platoon worked extremely hard, and were rewarded with some good results. The Regimental Signals



* Lcpl Gwllm then Gdsm enjoying the a day on the ropes

Officer, Capt Aldridge, aged markedly as the days went on, but took solace in the fact that both secure voice and data communications were proved. Battalion Headquarters became fully immersed in COMBAT (BOWMAN's computer software system), and at times it was impossible to draw the Battalion Second in Command away from his "SMART BOARD". A great deal of the success was down to the BOWMAN expertise of Sgt McGowan, having recently returned from a BOWMAN posting. WO2 Davies 33 and Sgt Savage were not far behind and both became expert problem solvers.



Company Commanders PIMP mobile



Something we had to put up with



Another thing

While still in Belize, the Battalion was warned for a possible deployment to Kosovo at the end of February. The Battalion proceeded on Christmas leave as soon as it returned from Belize and came off leave in January to start training for our standby commitment. All of this meant that more rapid action for the G4 chain. Winter clothing packs were collected and distributed, the Motor Transport Platoon was kept busy converting Guardsmen to drive Snatch vehicles and Capt Evans worked long into the night overseeing the packing of equipment and vehicles. An activation party deployed under the charge of Capt Mott (Quartermaster (Tech)) to take over kit in theatre and prepare the way. The Battalion made it as far as South Cerney on 14 Feb ready and expecting to deploy. However, the call did not come and the Battalion was eventually stood down at the end of March. The



Medic LSgt Evans fix it standing now LSgt Owen



Headquarter Company CQMS then Sgt Thomas 99 of the PR

activation party spent 3 very cold weeks in Pristina before being called back.

Over the summer Headquarter Company contributed regularly to public duties, and prepared for the move from Wellington Barracks to Lille Barracks. The Battalion Chefs made valuable contributions throughout the period, catering for 300 diners at a hugely successful charity boxing evening. They provided a huge barbeque for the Battalion Families Day and provided excellent food that the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess balls respectively.

The welfare office under the guidance of Capt Bowen and CSgt Myers provided valuable support to the unit move, ensuring as far as possible that all families moved into a decent quarter in good order. The handover/takeover with the Grenadier Guards ran smoothly, and



RSWO CSM Davies 33 a hard days night

most departments are grateful for the chance to see daylight during their working day, rather than working in the dark depths of Wellington Barracks.

We said farewell to a number of people during the year, a number too large to mention them all, however it's worth mentioning the RLC (Catering Department) that we left behind in Wellington Barracks; they were great supporters to the Battalion. The REME detachment has also been left behind. We owe both departments a debt of gratitude after a very busy year. Both were instrumental in ensuring the Battalion achieved everything it did.

It is also worth mentioning a few individuals who sadly have left the Company. These are CSgt McCabe to 2 Company, WO2 Nicholls, Capt Thompson, to civilian life, CSgt Roberts 99 to the LONDON Regiment, and CSgt Griffiths 34 to the Long Service List. All these individuals have given the Company their full dedication and loyalty. We also say good bye to WO2 McKeon on promotion to WO1 to the Royal Military School of Music; keep up the good work, and don't forget to practice that triangle ever night. Finally we have said goodbye to Major Hazard, the Regimental Medical Officer, who served the Battalion superbly for over two years. It is great news that she has since announced that she is pregnant with a minor Hazard.



LSgt Todd finding Belize amusing

We have now started a new challenge in our history, moving to Aldershot and preparing for a Multi National Overseas Exercise, with our mind focusing on Operation HERRICK in 2009. The Company welcomes our new Catering Department and our REME Support detachment in Aldershot and wish them well and look forward to working with them in all the challenges that wait for the Company, and if 2007-2008 is anything to go by, challenges there will be.



C/Sgt Roberts QBP Marker

THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL JOURNAL NOTES /
FANFARE MAGAZINE Nov2007-Nov 2008



"Take cover!" - The band doing its bit at Winterbourne Gunner

After the CDA course in November 2007, Autumn brought perhaps the most significant change to the band for a number of years, eviction from our home at Chelsea Barracks. The event was marked by the combined bands of the Welsh and Scots Guards plus 1WG Corps of Drums marching to Guard as had been the tradition many years before. This was coincidentally Lt Col Owen, Scots Guards, Senior Director of Music's last guard prior to retirement.

Sgt Beckett MBE coordinated the band move, but despite his best efforts accommodation facilities were challenging to put it mildly. Due to a severe shortage of female accommodation at Wellington, LCpl Caroline Smith was one of the last to move from Chelsea Barracks and more or less switched off the lights when she left. By this time too it had been confirmed that the proposal to move the band onward to Regents Park Barracks had also changed and we remain at Wellington sharing practice facilities with the other 4 bands until a new block build over the inner square car park when the treasury can afford it. The working environment at Wellington is challenging in every respect, bizarrely warmer in the winter (stifling!) due to the boiler room above us.

We fulfilled Christmas duties including Christmas Day in Guards Chapel, Guard Boxing Day and every 48 hours right through into the



CSgt Ralph Brill playing a solo at the Millennium Centre Theatre in Cardiff

New Year. Mercifully unseasonable weather meant we didn't freeze too often. Following support to Kneller Hall for a couple of weeks our first trip to Wales of 2008 took us to the Millennium Centre Theatre for a combined concert with Treorchy male voice choir, the bands first and hopefully not last performance in this wonderful venue.

A more familiar and somewhat closer venue to us is the Cadogan Hall where the Massed Household Division Bands staged the third 'Viva Musica' recruiting event that showcases the division's talents and many quality ensembles. We took centre stage in the absence of two other bands, the bandmaster arranging and conduction the impressive finale from *The Firebird* which accompanied the film clip from *Fantasia 2000*.

By this time too the Battalion had started to come to terms with an unexpected second Trooping the Colour in three years which encouraged the Director of Music to 'colour' the troop music with as much Welsh influence as is possible. New arrangements were auditioned by the hierarchy and the selection approved by the new Major General. The Garrison Sergeant Major steered the Major General firmly in the desired direction!

With Her Majesty in residence in Windsor Castle and only two bands available for duty in London for almost three months, the commitment to Palace and Castle Guards was relentless, though simplified by our new location at Wellington.

The band were just getting into the swing of things and enduring an already busy season when the Royal Windsor Tattoo hit the diary in an already packed May. The Director of Music was appointed tattoo Director and the band played the central role in the pageant to



The band entertaining the crowd at Ascot

'Welcome the Heroes'. Following some fraught and tense rehearsals during which the script for one of the flight scenes was scrapped and re-written, the finale of the Tattoo incorporated a marching contingent of veterans from all the recent operational tours that British forces have been involved in. A genuine hugely warm reception was given every night, but particularly on the final night in front of Her Majesty. A few spare hours were found in May to squeeze in the review of the Prince of Wales' Company at Clarence House, another opportunity to support the Battalion coming towards its end of tour in London. Blessed by fine weather the ensuing reception was swiftly moved outside to the gardens, and Prince Charles' gracious supplies of refreshments were consumed in copious amounts.

The run in to the Troop included the Household Division Beating Retreat as usual, which almost uniquely incorporated the band of the Royal Malay Regiment, giving us all the chance to experience once again their unique musical style which we had done so during the Windsor tattoo and on many occasions on guard at the palace. The Queen's Birthday Parade was heralded as a major success for all concerned, especially the battalion and the Welsh flavoured music. The retired Senior Director of Music had been engaged to the BBC commentary team and regularly highlighted Major Cresswell's contribution to the event.

As if this time of year is not busy enough, following a week on duty at Windsor and Ascot, the band hosted the inspectorate from Headquarters Army Music for its staff advisory visit at the end of June. Remembering our

experiences from Viva Musica earlier in the year, the Director of Music conducted Ducas' Sorcerer's Apprentice to accompany the film by Walt Disney from Fantasia, and the second major work was the highly challenging Samurai by Nigel Clark conducted by the bandmaster. A fine selection of outstanding ensembles and marching band completed the presentation. The ensuing 'fit for role' grading is all that can be anticipated but the accompanying report reflected the high quality musicianship displayed throughout the day. The band also displayed its alertness and discipline by one of the quickest evacuations of the Grenadier Guards practice room when the fire alarm went off. The fact that it was during the Bandmaster's sight reading session possibly have sped the process up a little. Despite it proving yet another false alarm there seemed little point returning to the practice room as we were half way to the Guards Museum, to where we adjourned for our buffet lunch.

July and August proved to be more than just routine too. During an innocuous yet high profile garden party at Buckingham Palace the Director of Music was approached by a young lady who suggested that the band were 'just great' and might we be available to play at her firm's staff party the following week. Ever the diplomat and charming chap that he is, and avoiding guffaws and hilarity, the Director was just starting to explain how and why, predominantly for security reasons, that this would not be possible when the business card with the address 10 Downing Street was placed in his hand! Needless to say, any security issues were swiftly overcome and the dance band had the privilege of entertaining the Prime Minister and his staff at their party the following week. Following the dance band's success, the band was asked to host the Prime Minister's children the next day during a rehearsal at Wellington Barracks, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Following the very busy spring season that had resulted in the cancellation of previously planned adventure training, remarkably, time was available in July for members of the band to pursue a diverse range of activities. In addition to powerboat driving, hill trekking and endurance leader's courses, less adventurous yet useful courses were found resulting in a number of the younger members of the band gaining



Ex band members including David Read watching the changing of the guard before the band reunion

driving licences. We also managed to find time to organise a band reunion in July at which nearly 100 former members of the band witnessed the band mount guard and then adjourn to the Garrison Sergeants Mess for a buffet lunch and afternoon of swapping old memories. A wide selection of archive photographs were projected onto a large screen throughout the day which proved very popular with all. The atmosphere was cordial and friendly throughout and it was great see old friendships re-kindled.

Just before leave the band hosted the second Household Division Audition day. This new initiative was instigated by the Bandmaster in January and has produced twenty five recruits, twelve of which are committed to the Guards Bands.

After leave routine duties in London were a prelude to a short tour to Germany to support military units from Bavaria in the south to Fallingbomel in the North East and JHQ in the



Evening Concert - Orberstdorf House

West. Concerts at Obertsdorf and Nebelhorn in Bavaria were the highlights of the tour in the presence of the General Officer Commanding UKSC (G), Major General Mungo Melvin OBE and some old friends, pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The band's return from Germany was re-routed across the channel as opposed to the tunnel which had been closed due to a fire. Luckily this did not significantly delay the travel plans which included another channel crossing to France for our annual trip to Paris for the Prix de L'Arc de Triumph. We also managed to squeeze in a KAPE tour where Samurai got another airing!

Congratulations to the leader of the orchestra, Musn Rebecca Watts for winning the Household Division Musician of the Year prize, no mean feat as the standard this year was considered by all to have been exceptional.

Regrettably we have said farewell to a number of band personnel throughout the year. We continue to bump into Sergeants Richard Plampin, horn, and Bob Mitchell, euphonium, posted to Grenadier and Coldstream Guards respectively. Sgt Mike Hernandez, clarinet, has moved further a field on promotion to the AGC band at Winchester. We hope that all their careers continue to flourish. The Director of Music, Major David Cresswell has also departed on retirement to work with Kent Music. Major



Major Cresswell's presentation to the band (The carpet from the Royal Military Chapel Chelsea!)

Cresswell has enjoyed three years at the helm during which time he has completed a New Colours Parade, review of Prince of Wales Company, a visit to the Battalion in Bosnia and two Welsh Queen's Birthday Parades. Major Stephen Barnwell will move across from the Irish Guards to take up the baton after Remembrance weekend. The new Bandmaster, WO1 Justin Matthews arrived from The Rifles in autumn last year, to be followed soon after by our latest recruit on cornet, Musn Tony Watt. LSgt Ash Watson from the Prince of Wales Band and LSgt Eddy Eccles from the AGC Band were also assigned after the last promotion board. We wish them prosperity and success with the band.



A schools concert during Kape Tour

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

as at 1 January 2009

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

Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE

Regimental Adjutant

Colonel (Retd) T C S Bonas

Temporary Equerry

Captain A E H Noyons

Assistant Regimental Adjutant

Major (Retd) F K Oultram

Director of Music

Major S Barnwell

1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel R S M Thorneloe MBE

Commanding Officer

Major A P Speed, MBE Scots Guards

Second In Command

Major G R Harris MBE

Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company

Major H C G Bettinson

Officer Commanding Number Two Company

Major G C G R Stone

Officer Commanding Number Three Company

Major M W Miles MBE

Officer Commanding Headquarter Company

Major A J Salusbury

Officer Commanding Support Company

Major N P Mott

Quartermaster

Captain J W Aldridge

Adjutant

Captain E N Launder

Operations Officer

Captain N R K Moukarzel

Regimental Signals Officer

Captain F T Anderson

Mortar Platoon Commander

Captain J J Bethell

Intelligence and Training Officer

Captain S C Broughton

19 Light Brigade-BRF Liaison Officer

Captain P J Durham

Anti Tank Platoon Commander

Captain T C Spencer-Smith

Reconnaissance Platoon Commander

Captain T Harman

Technical Quartermaster

Captain K Dawson

Defence Transport Manager

Captain A F Bowen

Regimental Careers Management Officer

Captain P Robinson

Recruiting Officer Wales

Captain D Pridmore

Welfare Officer

Lieutenant C J P Davies

FSG Platoon Commander

Lieutenant H T S Finnegan

FSG Platoon Commander

Lieutenant J R E Harvie

Forward Air Controller

Lieutenant O G James

Platoon Commander

Lieutenant J P Olszowski

Platoon Commander

Lieutenant T R Richards

Platoon Commander

Lieutenant M L Evison

Platoon Commander

Lieutenant D J L Harris

Platoon Commander

Second Lieutenant C S N Fenton

Platoon Commander

Second Lieutenant C J R Fraser-Sampson

Platoon Commander

Second Lieutenant A Dunlop

Platoon Commander

Second Lieutenant C Beare

Platoon Commander

Second Lieutenant T R Thompson

Platoon Commander

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Brigadier B J Bathurst OBE
Multi National Forces, Iraq

Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE
Chief of Staff Initial Training Group, Upavon

Colonel R H Talbot-Rice
Chief of Staff Ministry of Defence Baghdad

Colonel R J Æ Stanford MBE
Mentor to Basra Operations Command, HQ MND South East

Lieutenant Colonel R H W Bodington LVO MBE
SO1 G5 Plans, HQ 1 (UK) Armoured Division, Herford

Lieutenant Colonel G A J Macintosh
SO1 J3 Land Division, PJHQ, Northwood

Lieutenant Colonel G Bartle-Jones
Adviser/Mentor to Afghan & National Army, Kabul

Major C K Antelme DSO
Ministry of Defence

Lieutenant Colonel D L Bossi
SO1 Sldrs, Inf Wing APC Glasgow

Major C T Sargent
SO2 Recce HQ NRF, Milan

Major R G B Pim
SO2 (POL) Ministry of Defence

Major B P N Ramsay
SO2 G3 Ops HQ Theatre Troops, Netheravon

Major T F Charles
OC 3 Coy, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards

Major D W N Bevan
SO2 G2 ISTAR 52 Infantry Brigade, Scotland

Major R W Gallimore
SO2 G2 Istar, 12 Mechanized Brigade, Aldershot

Major S A Birchall
SO2 J3 Planning, PJHQ, Northwood

Major J H Hobrough
SO3 G3/5 HQ Theatre Troops, Netheravon

Major E J Mellish
SO2 G5 Plans, HQ 1 Mechanized Brigade

Major M L Lewis
ICSC, Defence Academy, Shrivenham

Major D H Basson
ICSC, Defence Academy, Shrivenham

Major T A Smith
ICSC, Defence Academy, Shrivenham

Major J D Salusbury
ICSC, Defence Academy, Shrivenham

Major M Cooling
ICSC, Defence Academy, Shrivenham

Captain C N Ulvert
SO3 Basra

Captain T A H Eastman
SO3 J3/J5 Ops Lanesbury, Kabul

Captain A R M Spry
SO3 Infantry, Field Training Theatre Group, Salisbury

Captain M Evans
SO3 G3 O&D Headquarters 4 Div, Aldershot

Captain A J Plewa
Gunnery School, Armoured Centre

Captain H S Llewellyn-Usher
Ministry Of Defence

Captain T J Badham
Adjutant New College, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Captain C G Jones
Ministry of Defence

Captain J D Livesey
Ministry of Defence

Captain J A Corbet Burcher
Ministry of Defence

Captain J C R Westropp
Platoon Commander, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Captain W G H Freeman
Interpreter, Baghdad

Lieutenant A R Bourne
Household Cavalry Regiment, Windsor

Lieutenant G C H Charles-Jones
Platoon Commander, Guards Company, ITC Catterick

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS & BATTALION STAFF

as at 1 January 2009

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS	Number	Rank	Int	Name
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	24788725	WO2	W J	Williams
REGIMENTAL BAND				
Band Master	25010243	WO1	J	Matthews
Band Sergeant Major	24713115	WO2	J	Kirk
1st BATTALION				
Regimental Sergeant Major	224797524	WO1	M	Monaghan
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main)	24772832	WO2	A J	Hughes
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech)	24788299	WO2	A L	Roberts
Drill Sergeant	24772353	WO2	D L	Thomas
CSM The Prince of Wales's Company	4830440	WO2	M	Pollard
CSM Number Two Company	25014288	WO2	M	Topps
CSM Number Three Company	4823463	WO2	B J	Baldwin
CSM Headquarter Company	24797497	WO2	A	Campbell
CSM Support Company	4738054	WO2	L T	Scholes
Company Sergeant Major in Musketry	4836716	CSGT	I M	Edward-Jones
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer	24772333	WO2	J G	Davies
Master Tailor	24823101	CSgt	S D	Shield
Drum Major	25043668	Sgt	M	Hayward
EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED				
Garrison Sergeant Major London District	24520588	WO1	W D G	Mott OBE
Regimental Sergeant Major, Kneller Hall	24802867	WO1	J	McKeon
30 Cadet Training Team Wrexham	24805880	WO2	A	Brown
Welsh Guards Recruiting Team	4772480	WO2	A	Price
Training Warrant Officer, Kenya	24773216	WO2	T W	Fade
Jungle Warfare Warrant Officer, Belize	4815116	WO2	D W	Roberts
LONG SERVICE LIST				
RQMS Ministry of Defence	24454142	WO2	B J	Cordy
ACIO Wrexham	4623898	WO2	R J	Brace

HONOURS AND AWARDS 2008

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

Major C K Antelme

MEMBER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Major M W Miles

24719959 WO1 (RSM) P R Jones

QUEENS COMMENDATION FOR VALUABLE SERVICE

Lieutenant Colonel G Bartle-Jones, Afghanistan

JOINT COMMANDERS COMMENDATION

Captain J A Corbet Burcher, Afghanistan

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT

25025048 Lance Sergeant R Hunter

24927352 Lance Sergeant J Lane

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S REVIEW

By Major BPN Ramsey



The Prince Of Wales's Company marches through Clarence of Gardens

Soon after assuming command of The Prince of Wales's Company I was informed that the Company was to be reviewed by The Prince Of Wales. His Royal Highness has always taken an active interest in his Company, following their progress on operations and recently very generously donating presents to them whilst we were deployed in Bosnia. Despite this personal interest, due to the intense commitment of both the Company and His Royal Highness, seventeen years had passed since the last Review and London afforded the ideal opportunity to conduct one prior to our unit move to Aldershot.

Despite a popular misconception that London District is uneventful our programme was already incredibly busy with deployments to Belize, a commitment to the Spearhead Land Element for Op VALERO and as Escort to the Colour on The Queen's Birthday Parade. It would have been too easy to cancel the Review for another year, citing our commitments, but it was felt that this was too important to the morale component of the Company to drop from the programme. However rather than undertaking a complicated parade it was felt a simple parade would be sufficient and what was key, was the

opportunity to give His Royal Highness the opportunity to meet members of his Company and their families in a garden party type setting.

The initial planning scoped many different settings from Buckingham Palace Quadrangle to Horse Guards Parade, fortunately His Royal Highness graciously allowed the Company the use of Clarence House Gardens for both the parade and the garden party with the use of the sumptuous State Apartments should the weather be inclement. Once the location was set, Captain Ali Spry and Regimental Headquarters set about the unenviable task of planning the day in detail. The format of the parade was designed by Company Sergeant Major Pollard. The Company would depart from Wellington Barracks and then march across the St James' Palace, complete one circuit of Clarence House Gardens and then be inspected by His Royal Highness, deliberately simple. Once the parade was finished The Prince of Wales would then present operational service medals to members of the Company fresh back from serving in Afghanistan followed by photograph and then an opportunity to meet the soldiers and their families. Whilst conducting the reconnaissance for the Review it became apparent that this had the potential to be an incredibly special day. Clarence House Gardens are beautiful and with the magnolia trees in full bloom created a magical backdrop to the day. The wet weather plan was equally as impressive in the lavish state apartments.



HRH The Prince of Wales accompanied by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel S Malcolm OBE



The Prince of Wales's Company gives a Royal salute to HRH



HRH Reviews His Company



HRH meets members of His Company



HRH meets members of the Association



HRH speaks to His Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Pollard and family

The day itself could not have been bettered. It was with an incredible sense of pride that we marched into Clarence House Gardens to 'God Bless the Prince of Wales' watched only by our close family, friends and past members of the Company. Once His Royal Highness had inspected the Company he gave a brief and moving speech clearly displaying his active interest and support of the armed forces and of the Company in particular. Lance Corporals Jones 16 and Dwyer and Guardsmen Lodwick, Jones 89 and Davies 77 were then all presented with their Afghan Operational Service Medals in a private ceremony which marked a high point for all of them in what has been an incredibly turbulent and fulfilling year. The Prince of Wales then took the opportunity to meet past and present members of his Company and their families. This was the high point for all of us in the Company and His Royal Highness made both families and soldiers feel very much at ease as he discussed the forthcoming Queen's Birthday Parade, in the immediate future, and in the longer term our deployment to Afghanistan. His comments to the families about Afghanistan made a significant impact as it was clear that he was speaking not just as Colonel of the Regiment but as a parent with experience of a child deployed on operations.

It is unquestionable that the review has further strengthened the relationship between His Royal highness and the Company. All the guardsmen I spoke to after the day were elated, as were their families. With the forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan looming I am sure that this has a significant benefit in the development of the morale component of the Company and the development of a strong identity crucial for the difficult times that lie ahead.

Battalion Events

WALES COMES TO LONDON (FAMILIES DAY)

by Maj H G C Bettinson

On 31 May the Battalion held a Families Day at Wellington Barracks to thank our families for standing by us during the last 18 turbulent months – a period that has seen us return from Bosnia and Kosovo, Arms Plot to London, deploy to the jungles of Belize at short notice and prepare for a return to Kosovo in a Public Order role at very short notice.

Key opinion formers from the Welsh Assembly and civic leaders were invited, along with a cross party group of Welsh Westminster MPs who all had an interest in either Afghanistan or Defence in general. Both the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the WRU attended, along with some of our ACFs, the Army Preparation Course in Cardiff and Treorchy Comprehensive School.

These VIPs were given a short history of the Regiment by the Battalion Second in Command, who as a Scots Guardsman is living proof that ours is an age when adaptability is key to overcoming many of today's challenges. After a brief on our current and future activities, our Recruiting Officer in Wales continued by explaining to them what it actually means to be a Welsh Guardsman. The VIPs were then escorted down to Horse Guards to watch the Major General's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade along with our families who had loyally made the journey from Wales. No sooner had we returned to barracks, the tunics and bearskins were changed for combats and berets, as a vivid demonstration of our ability to quickly change between the ceremonial and operational roles.

The Commanding Officer extended a warm welcome to the families on behalf of the Battalion and then handed over to Brigadier Libbey, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade who presented operational and service medals to a number of our Guardsmen.

A 70 metre marquee screened the parade square from the public on Birdcage Walk in order to reinforce the family feel to the day; inside, the Battalion's chefs produced an outstanding BBQ lunch whilst the Officers' Mess Sgt and Number 2 Coy provided liquid refreshments; outside, the

Companies manned their own stands and the Regimental Support Team ran a Laser Dome, a Paintballing range, an Inflatable Assault Course and a 30 metre high Climbing Wall. The Gym staff encouraged passers-by to have a go at throwing a Medicine Ball, and the Welsh Guards Dance Band provided some terrific entertainment whilst families wandered between the Regimental Headquarters and Stan Evans shops, the ice cream van and the portrait photographer. We were blessed with sunny weather and despite being in the shadow of Buckingham Palace, the atmosphere was relaxed and informal. The day was a great success for all those who came, leading many to ask the question, 'Why haven't we done this before?'





CHARITY BOXING NIGHT

By Major BPN Ramsey



Gdsm Clerk prepares to do battle

With the current tempo and ferocity of operations so high the need for service charities and the facilities they provide to our broken soldiers and their families have never been so immediate or high profile. Given the Battalion's location in the heart of London and at the centre of State Ceremonial Duties it was felt that we were in a prime position to put on a spectacle in order to help support the charities. Three charities were selected: The Army Benevolent Fund, Help for Heroes and Combat Stress. We were looking at the requirements of the soldiers returning from operations and it was felt that these three all provide something unique to the injured soldier. In simple terms Help for Heroes fixed their bodies, whilst Combat Stress provided support for those with damaged minds and the Army Benevolent Fund acted as the over arching umbrella and most importantly helped support servicemen's families. A boxing dinner night was felt to be the perfect medium in order to help generate support as it seemed to incorporate much of what is natural to infantry soldiers; namely violence and discipline. These qualities combined with good food, alcohol and all underpinned with true Household Division dash, bash and panache would set the conditions in order to encourage our guests to give generously to charity.

We very much take for granted the Households

Division's ability to put on a show. Trooping the Colour and other key state ceremonial occasions mean that what ever event is organised at battalion level is imbued with a sense of style and élan that many civilians are in awe of. Given this back ground one could suppose that putting on a charity boxing event would be pretty straight forward; nothing could have been further from the truth. The plan of the night was a simple one; targeting civilians or ex service personnel with considerable disposable incomes, entertaining them in the Sergeant's Mess prior to serving up a scrumptious three course meal followed by high class amateur boxing and, once the audience were sufficiently inebriated, holding a charity auction, supported by a bevy of beautiful girls, all in order to encourage bidding and generating cash flow. A seemingly fool proof plan, and had this been a Battalion 'ordered to attend' event it would have been a pretty straight forward. Sadly Army Officers and all ranks simple do not possess the means we required to ensure the evening was a success and it was clear from the start that marketing was essential in order to generate support from the City. Sandhurst prepares you for many eventualities but professional marketing is not one, and it was with Heath Robinson like trepidation that my platoon commanders and I set about trying to market the evening to a City in the throws of the credit crunch. The build up to the boxing night ran concurrently to Allan Sugar's search for his apprentice and it was with some considerable empathy for the contestants that I watched their amateur fumbblings as project managers in their various tasks and some considerable relief that my own attempts were not televised in the same brutal manner. Fortunately the charities were a tremendous support and with the support of their tireless volunteers we were soon able to sell tables. Indeed once the word got out that we were looking to raise money for such worthwhile charities the generosity of the public and ex service personnel was truly astounding in donating charity auction items and purchasing tables.

Concurrent to the marketing the Battalion Physical Training Instructor, Sgt Gordon put his considerable expertise and eye for detail in setting up the venue and the Battalion catering staff developed a plan to serve truly outstanding food from a squash court. Essential to any Boxing Night is of course the boxers and here I

truly struck gold by way of the London District TA and Army Boxing Club who took on responsibility in training the boxers and matching the bouts. A very new club, run by a bevy of ex Irish Guardsmen, they provided much more to the night than just the boxers and indeed without their support the night would never have happened. Despite the immense support of all those connected with the evening I still felt unprepared for the night and would have loved more time to prepare, however again the Household Division's ability to put on a show at short notice with little resources should never be underestimated.



The night itself was a blur for me and a hazy memory for many of our guests but the professionalism of the Sgt Gordon and the Army Boxing Officials who so willingly and selflessly gave their time up to support us and the sport they love was outstanding. Their attention to detail and professionalism was matched by the culinary expertise of our chefs who put on an incredible feast in extremely difficult circumstances. The tone of the night was set by an inspirational speech from an ex Commanding Officer of the SAS who highlighted the realities of war and its inevitable damage on those who fight them. His poignant words further enhanced by examples given by the charities of their incredible work. The main event started with a light show conducted by the Corps of Drums which stunned the audience into an awed silence followed by rapturous applause and this was swiftly followed by the boxing. I am conscious that this article does not detail each and every bout in a way that would give sufficient credit to the magnificent boxing which was conducted that night. The sheer bravery dedication and professionalism of the soldiers in the ring echoed those currently serving on operations and epitomised all that we hold

important to us as a Battalion. The boxers were taken from across London District and they were pitted against the Metropolitan Police which provide the sufficiently volatile mixture as one would expect between soldiers and the law. Amongst their ranks were four members of the Battalion; Lance Corporal Isaacs and Guardsman Deeks from The Prince of Wales's Company, Guardsman Bayfield from Number Two Company and Guardsman Clerk from Support Company. All acquitted themselves excellently, however the best boxer was richly deserved by Gdsm Deeks, a truly gritty individual who outclassed his opponent and gave the audience a master class in the noble art. However, the performance of the evening must be reserved for our charity auctioneer, Christopher Holden, and ex Coldstream Guardsman who gave the evening a genuine touch of class. A professional auctioneer with Bonhams, he readily volunteered his services to the evening, and his ability to work a room is simply awe inspiring, encouraging the guest to part with £10,000 for an SAS beret and £5000 for tickets to Trooping the Colour to name but two items. The night was finished off in true style in the Sergeant's Mess.

As I reflect on the evening it is with real pride that I look back and see how much we achieved as a Battalion. The sheer diversity of skills from boxing, to cooking, to auctioneering conducted by soldiers or ex servicemen was truly staggering and the night generated in the region of £45,000 for our nominated charities. However I feel that we have not even scratched the surface of what we could generate for these service charities. If a battalion can raise over £40,000 from within their own resources and contacts it makes one wonder what we would be able to generate if we were to work together as the Household Division



The Major General presents the Best Boxer award to Gdsm Deeks

Battalion Training/Operations

REFLECTIONS ON BELIZE

by Maj H G C Bettinson

When opportunity knocks, the wise man grabs his chance with both hands. This is exactly what the Battalion did in late September when Headquarters LAND declared that they were unable to find a battalion to conduct a 6 week exercise in Belize at the end of 2007.

With just 6 weeks notice (rather than the usual 12 months) from being granted the exercise to arriving in-country, Battalion Headquarters and the Quartermasters' Department became a flurry of activity as clothing, ammunition, rations and equipment were ordered. The Signals Officer also felt the increase in tempo as the Battalion's new communications equipment (BOWMAN) was to be given its first run-out in Belize rather than on Salisbury Plain. There was no doubting BOWMAN's increased capability over its aging predecessor (COUGAR), but its increased weight and bulk was to be one of many challenges for our freight allowance in addition to the tight timeframe.

Exercise TROPICAL STORM was a welcome respite from the Public Duties commitment. Ten years ago, it was possible for a company at a time to escape to Belize or Jamaica for a 6 week exercise (Ex NATIVE TRAIL or RED STRIPE). But not a whole battalion. When we went to Washington State for Exercise TRUMPET DANCE in Feb-Apr 1999 it took months of forward planning to ensure that the Military Task 2.5 State Ceremonial was unaffected by our absence. In 2007, all Welsh Guardsmen recognised that this very short notice training opportunity was a gift that wasn't to be squandered.

In soldier-like fashion, the Battalion rose to the task and deployed in-theatre on time, with all its kit and equipment. Acclimatisation in the tropics typically takes 6 weeks. With our time in-country running out as soon as we landed in Belize, the carefully managed training programme immediately began, to ensure that time 'In the trees' was maximised before we returned home. Indeed, the adaptability of today's Welsh Guardsmen could not have been more visibly demonstrated than by the fact that 2 days after providing a Guard of Honour for King of Saudi Arabia on Horse Guards, the Battalion was in-country and under the canopy, beginning Jungle School.

After a brief 4 day introduction into jungle basics where all Guardsmen learned how to eat, sleep, wash, navigate, and survive by collecting water, making fire, collecting food and constructing shelters, the training programme split. The rifle companies rotated through Intermediate Jungle School, Coy Offensive Operations and Live Firing.

The Permanent Range Team (PRT) was run by Capt Plewa, the Regimental Careers Management Officer (RCMO) and the Training Wing aka The Sun Gods. Not only did they locate their harbour area on the edge of the clearing that served as a Helicopter Landing Site, but they seemed rather keen to return to it each day in order to work on their tans.

The Company Offensive Operations phase run by Capt Thomson, the Training Officer with the assistance of Capt Broughton and the able Company Sergeant Major In charge of Musketry (CSMIM) Nicholls. WO2 Nicholls was noticeable for having his personal administration completely squared away at all times. At no stage did he look hot, break into a sweat or lose the creases in his fatigues. Most of us were in awe at his ability to look as if he had just stepped out of the Mess as if at the start of a working day, no matter what time of day or night it was. He will be missed.

The Reconnaissance and JAVELIN (formerly MILAN) Platoons were tasked by the Commanding Officer to locate enemy camps for the rifle companies to subsequently assault during the Final Training Exercise (FTX). The Mortar Platoon - fresh from returning from Afghanistan (Op HERRICK) with 2 MERCIAN (previously the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters) conducted yet more Live Firing, albeit this time on Baldy Beacon. The rifle companies were given the opportunity to practise adjusting rounds onto target - something that none of them had done before.

Ex TROPICAL STORM was different from many previous Battalion Exercises for the time spent in the field. All troops deployed for 4½ weeks. There was no respite. Headquarter Company supported the Companies by establishing A1, A2 and B Echelons. A1 Echelon, headed by the ever-present Capt Mott QM(T) was forward-based at St Augustine Camp, through which the Companies passed in between rotations. A2 Echelon was co-located at St Augustine Camp and was co-ordinated by the indomitable Capt Evans MTO. Last but by no means least, the chosen few based at B Echelon were guided by the steadying hands

of Maj Cooling QM and Capt Jordan RAO and had to put up with daily swims in the Price Barracks pool and cold drinks at Raymondo's Coffee Bar.

The exercise also had a large number of visitors in various guises. Eight members of the Royal Artillery Territorial Army accompanied us on the exercise. Their presence boosted our numbers and permitted a cross-pollination of ideas and capabilities at a junior level. It is also fair to say that their attachment indirectly boosted our esprit de corps as it helped to retain one or two less robust individuals in the field who might otherwise have been tempted to give up in the unforgiving environment and risk the ridicule from their Regular counterparts.

Five Potential Officers also visited the Battalion for a week. None of them had started their training at Sandhurst, but all found the experience of working with, and living amongst regular soldiers on exercise in an unfamiliar environment to be incredibly beneficial. Hopefully it will serve to be a source of strength for them as they undertake the 11 month course at Camberley. The Men of The Island of the Mighty also found it to be a worthwhile experience as even the most inexperienced Guardsman realised he knew more about soldiering in the jungle than any of them.

Whilst the Company Commanders oversaw their Company's training for the first 4 weeks of the exercise, Battalion Headquarters did not stand still. All members attended elements of the Basic Jungle School, before pulling back to establish Bn MAIN. The Headquarters completed a number of Planning Cycles and a mini CAST. But any thoughts of a steady existence were ruthlessly dashed by Maj Speed SG, the Second In Command who ensured that MAIN re-located every few days. The BOWMAN Systems Support Team, who had flown out to advise on communications issues as and when they arose, and the validator from CAST (North) all began to question whether swapping the cold and wet of a British winter for the hotter climes of Belize really was worth all the upheaval. The Sergeant Major must have had a sense of foreboding, and wisely attached himself to the Permanent Range Team (PRT) where life was more sedate.

The Commanding Officer wrestled control back from the Company Commanders in the final days of the exercise to launch the FTX. This was the

culmination of Ex TROPICAL STORM with all members of the Battalion employed in their primary roles during a series of offensive battle runs. Despite being on exercise for a month at the start of this stage, lingering thoughts of fatigue and a longing for a change from Menu D in the 24 hour ration packs were put aside as everyone focused on the task at hand. Individually, each man conducted himself with professionalism and collectively, we proved to ourselves and our external validators that we could operate as a battalion using our new BOWMAN communications equipment. It was over all too quickly and before we knew it, a convoy of buses arrived in the middle of the jungle to take us back to A1 Echelon. With a final equipment check, a closing address by the Commanding Officer and a Battalion photograph taken on a local waterfall, we returned to Price Barracks to begin the Adventure Training (AT) and Rest and Recuperation (R&R) phases of the exercise.

Adventure Training exposes an individual to a limited risk within a controlled environment. If an individual can conquer a fear of water by learning to dive, or a fear of heights by learning to rock climb and abseil, his self confidence increases. When he is exposed to uncertainty in the future, he might be more likely to control his fear because he has controlled it in the past. This mental strength or positive 'Can Do' attitude contributes towards the Moral Component of Fighting Power - the ability to get people to fight. To that end, every Welsh Guardsman undertook 5 days AT, either on St George's Caye - an island in the archipelago to the east of Belize City or at Cave's Branch - an inland AT centre. They became proficient in sports as varied as diving, sea canoeing, dinghy sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, caving, underground abseiling, mountain biking and pony trekking.

After a short 6 weeks, we returned to Wellington Barracks, London browner certainly but also fitter, with a better understanding of each others roles and eager to get back into the field. As our very short notice Public Order training for Kosovo demonstrated again just 4 weeks later (in January 2008), the Battalion will continue to grab opportunities as they present themselves. Sapiens Qui Prospicit - Wise is the man who looks ahead.

EXERCISE BAVARIAN DRAGON and EXERCISE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

by Major G C G R Stone
& Major G R Harris

Consistent with the remainder of 2008, Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT was a short-notice deployment for 1 WG, coming almost immediately after summer leave and Number 3 Company's return from BATUS. Although it was unexpected, the Battalion was very fortunate to have this exercise opportunity. It arose because HQ 19 Lt Bde believed that it suited our pre-deployment requirements better than those of 2 MERCIAN for whom involvement in the exercise was originally planned. The exercise itself was split into two distinct parts; Exercise BAVARIAN DRAGON was a battalion led field firing package on Grafenwoehr ranges, from which the Battalion moved straight on to Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. The field firing camp was run almost entirely by and for Welsh Guards personnel, with a Royal Engineer field section attached, and culminated in platoon night attacks and company day attacks. Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT was a large multinational brigade exercise, run by the US Joint Multinational Readiness Centre in Hohenfels.

Exercise BAVARIAN DRAGON

It is hard to tell how the Battalion got to Germany on time - and with all the right kit - given the short notice for the exercise, other than clearly once again the 1 WG G4 world under the leadership of Maj Cooling (QM) and Capt Mott (QM(T)) kicked in to action and delivered. Also, whilst most had been packing away their bearskins for another year, Capt Corbett-Burcher (the Recce Platoon Commander) had also been launched across the channel for a recce task with a difference - to set up a range package. It was to prove to be complex in delivery but excellent in training value: after 10 days of going 'down range' 1 WG were in good shape - although tired - and well prepared to tackle the subsequent Ex CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT 2008 (CS08) in Hohenfels, the Battalion's main effort for the Germany exercise.

The Grafenwoehr range package consisted of the usual progression from individual pairs fire and manoeuvre to company group attacks complete

with mortars and a Fire Support Group from Support Company comprising a section of machine gunners from the Drums and a notional Javelin anti-tank team. The transition was steady and deliberate allowing the Guardsmen and commanders alike to gain gradual confidence in their respective roles. Throughout the package concurrent activities focussed on medical training, mine awareness and basic patrolling skills in preparation for CS08 and AFG beyond, and in the evenings all road movement was without light – a considerable challenge but of great training value for subsequent exercise and operational moves.

The ranges themselves were very restrictive in arcs, although as it turned out this worked in our favour. Commanders at all levels were forced to keep plans very simple and focus more on the synchronisation of indirect and direct assets to get formations across the ground. Lack of ability to do clever flanking movements meant covering fire and properly controlled movement was essential. As well as conducting traditional field-firing the companies also had the opportunity to test their command and control during night time platoon defence ranges and 'Russian Trench Systems'. Both were demanding and starkly highlighted the need for every man to be able to think for himself and communicate to his left and right. In addition the Battalion had use of an exceptional 'Shooting House' range which allowed teams of four men to clear through a building firing 5.56 rounds at almost blank range within very close confines. With very realistic targetry of animated life sized civilian and enemy mannequins the range provided excellent and exciting training which built confidence and trust within the platoons. All these lessons learnt were to serve us well in CS08 a few weeks later, as well as being critical no doubt for HERRICK 10 next year.

Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

With considerable United States' resources and funding, this exercise was a first in that it aimed 'to conduct an ABCA (American, British, Canadian, Australia/New Zealand) Armies' FTX in order to validate key interoperability solutions, identify future programme work and build mutual trust and confidence for future multinational operations.' For 1 WG this meant a three-week exercise, with other nations, that would concentrate on Counter Insurgency



Number 3 Company on a Platoon Convoy with US HMMVVs integrated into the patrol

operations with US Army Training Teams ('Timberwolf') monitoring and assessing us. The endstate for which we were aiming was CTC Level 4, namely whether or not we were a Battlegroup competent to operate collectively in a combined arms formation context, a decision that stood with our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier Radford. Hohenfels in Bavaria, Southern Germany which, in late September, was certainly preferable to Salisbury Plain.

The Guardsmen arrived in Hohenfels confident and well prepared after a valuable week of live-firing in Garfenwoehr. We were joined by our Battery Commander, Major John Oldroyd, and engineer support under Major Jack Nicholson. Initial suspicion of our US Army 'Timberwolf' mentors with their dark sunglasses, chewing tobacco, permanent donning of helmets (even in the cookhouse and debriefs) and almost robotic nature was very quickly quashed after the first day. We all realised that these officers and NCOs were going to provide 1 WG with exceptional advice, through their recent operational experience and a well-practised and highly professional method of monitoring and assessment.

The Companies rotated first through four one-day Platoon stands: Convoy Patrols, Search and Attack, Cordon and Search and Quick Reaction Force and then two Company stands: Search and Attack and Cordon and Search. Each day concluded with an After Action Review where Platoons and Companies were asked to provide aspects of the operation that they would 'sustain' and 'improve' in order to progress. It was interesting to note that, although less good performance points were clearly addressed,



2Lt Evison prepares to enter a building in Barji Matal

Timberwolf tended to concentrate on the good points and were quick to encourage and praise. This had a positive effect on the guardsmen and JNCOs in particular, raising their game, and perhaps differs from approaches taken in some UK training establishments.

The training area in Hohenfels is impressive with plenty of real estate and few other users. Well built exercise villages exist and, for Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, each was filled with Afghans. Over three-hundred Afghans, Iraqis and Germans took part in the exercise playing locals, insurgent fighters and interpreters, a resource that we could only dream of in the UK. When the US press visited the Little Iron Men, it was summed up well: 'It's the realism - the markets and the Arabic clothes,' said British Army Lance Sergeant David 'Crash' Braithwaite, 1 Section commander, 9 Platoon, 3 Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and from Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. 'There are loads of assets available to us. It's also seeing the way other nations do things. Working with Americans has been quite cool.' This realism made the final phase of the exercise, the FTX, highly dynamic and rewarding. For the five-day FTX, with our Canadian, Australian and New Zealand colleagues, we came together under 3/2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team and its formidable Commander, Colonel Funk US Army.

1 WG was given its mission and area of operations comprising three principal urban locations for counter insurgency operations: Jalalabad (POW's Company), Nuristan (Number 2 Company) and Barji Matal (Number 3 Company). Each Company aimed to improve the situation in their urban location (clear-hold-build), the effects



3/2 Stryker Brigade Commander, Colonel D Funk: 'take something away from the enemy everyday'

for which ranged from conventional attacks onto insurgents to careful engagement with village elders, mayors and police chiefs. Valuable lessons were learnt by commanders and guardsmen all drawn out in a comprehensive After Action Review.

In short, Timberwolf, Colonel Funk and our UK Brigade Commander were very pleased with our performance and we achieved CTC Level 4. The resources and training area were second to none. Having been visited by the Assistant Chief of the General Staff, Major General Mayall, and the Director General Training, Major General Kennett, it is likely that Hohenfels may become a more regular training area for the British Army. There is no doubt that Exercise COOPERATIVE SPIRIT was a great opportunity that has put 1 WG on the front foot as we now begin in full our Operation HERRICK 10 pre-deployment training. Again, from the US press, one young guardsman summarises well: 'Assaulting the positions, searching the houses, finding the enemy...' said British Army Guardsman Ryan Roberts, second in command of the 3 Section, 9 Platoon, 3 Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and from Holyhead, Wales. 'It's very intense training. We've been doing live-fire lanes, but today is the best training so far. It has made me a better soldier, and I'm ready for a more aggressive enemy.'

LEADERSHIP WITH A LANGUAGE BARRIER

By Capt J A Corbet Burcher

During the summer of 2007 I was fortunate enough to be deployed with 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, as Company Second in Command of The Inkerman Company Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT), on Op HERRICK 6. The Battalion was set the task of mentoring 3/205 'HERO' Brigade of the Afghan National Army (ANA). The Company was assigned to the 3rd Kandak (Battalion) within that brigade and remained with it throughout the tour.

The entire experience and, indeed, the whole concept of Operational Mentoring and Liaison, provided a wonderful insight into humanity and humans working together at the most basic level. It proved that when life's complexities are removed from everyday life, all humans operate along the same simple frequencies regardless of where they are from. It was refreshing to be a part of, and to observe from a distance, and demonstrated the real strength of the British Army and how those who aren't, or ever will be, part of the organisation can get 'it' so wrong. This is by no means a personal lament at the failings of certain societies, more a collection of observations from time spent with an extraordinary bunch of people; The ANA.

Throughout my brief time in the Army I have always been reminded of the qualities of leadership and what being a leader entails. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS), were extremely keen on teaching it, but throughout

my commissioning course and ever since I have always paid a certain amount of lip service to the concept. Not forgetting, it is a fairly simple concept that is not so simple to explain. No doubt numerous books have been written on the subject and everyone has their own opinion on exactly what leadership is. I'm sure every officer will have heard of 'Serve to Lead', read it, got to the last page and thought 'Now what?' The best description of leadership is the one submitted by Field Marshall Lord Slim, 'Leadership is just plain you'. Never has this been more prevalent than when working with the ANA. I might add that the time spent with the ANA vindicated all the Sandhurst teaching that, this author, at times may have taken for granted.

The language barrier ensures that leaders are constantly under the spotlight. Communication is 90% body language apparently. With the ANA it is 100%. Your character and your demeanour are all important in trying to inspire people who can't fully understand what you are saying. In essence, you lead by example and if the example you set is a good one, they will follow you. It is raw leadership at its best and is a useful tool in demonstrating who the natural leaders are. The proof is the effect you, collectively, have on the enemy and the local population and the effect you, as an individual, have on the ANA themselves.

Working with the ANA requires patience and understanding. Ultimately, they do things differently to the way we do and commanders have to accept that or run the risk of having no effect, success or impact whatsoever. They are a proud group of people, especially the elder members, many of who fought for many years in the Northern Alliance against the Russians. Understandably, they believe they have proved their methods work and some find our presence mildly insulting. It is quite easy to forget this crucial fact and the impact it has had on the Afghan psyche, coupled with the fact that we as an army have been to Afghanistan three times before and proved predominantly unsuccessful each time. Regardless of the intricacies of British military history, that is the way they view it and nothing will change that opinion for the foreseeable future.

There were many times last year when commanders, this author included, became increasingly frustrated at the fact that the ANA



Capt Corbet Burcher in centre

weren't doing what they were supposed to or what we deemed to be the right thing. This was not the case. They just didn't do things the way we did them. This isn't to say that this is always the case and the best way to move in a positive direction was to make them interested in the way we do things, explain how we do them, demonstrate the way we do them and then hope that they choose to imitate and practice. It is classic Explain, Demonstrate, Imitate and Practice (EDIP) and is a very simple formula. Some commanders found it difficult as the only reference they had was time spent in one of the British Army training establishments. They tried to enforce those models on the ANA and became incredibly despondent when they didn't necessarily do exactly what was required of them. This is not to say that they are not incredibly effective on British soldiers, more that they didn't always work with the ANA. Unfortunately, commanders will always achieve little by telling the ANA how to do things. Commanders should never forget that they can do what they want as it is their country and their tours are continuous, not just for six months. Realising this last fact can be quite a humbling moment.

The greatest success can be achieved when more perceptive individuals among appreciate that failure to do things the way you want them to is not failure in itself. In addition, they realise that whether a language 'barrier' exists or not, it is not permanent 'barrier'. I'm sure commanders at all levels will agree at how surprising it was that the soldiers could understand each other even in the absence of an interpreter. It was refreshing to watch and proved that there are few differences between us. It helped that a few of the ANA spoke English but this was a rarity. Still, the ANA and the British soldiers appeared to understand each other. This kindred spirit was developed and strengthened over time as the two groups lived and fought alongside each other. At all times the best way to have an effect was to follow another simple formula; treat people how you would like to be treated yourself. This is especially relevant when soldiers are killed or wounded. Indeed, the success of the OMLT can partly be attributed to the impartiality and the professionalism of the medical chain out in theatre. The ANA were extremely grateful when their dead and wounded were looked after, which in turn made mentoring easier. It is a self-fulfilling cycle.



From an anthropological perspective it was interesting to note that there were few differences between us. The ANA had a wicked sense of humour might like the darkish one the British army prides itself on. They never failed to amuse the British soldiers and ensured that we were guaranteed a laugh at least once a day. Humour proved to be a useful tool in having an effect on the ANA. Therefore, if you were able to make them laugh you could create enough intrigue and they would follow you out of pure fascination even if you were trying to tell them off. In addition, they, like us, are sensitive, emotional and proud people. They would sulk after a telling off or work slower if it was too hot or they were tired. They would be angry with you if they thought they were being unfairly treated or that their masculinity was being questioned. Occasionally they would virtually refuse to soldier or go absent. Our own troops demonstrated far more resolve.

It has not been the intention of this article to paint a gloomy picture of the OMLT. The OMLT had considerable successes during Op HERRICK 6, the tours previous to that deployment, the tours since and no doubt will continue to do so in future tours. The key to success was a firm grasp in understanding, managing and leading people regardless of who they were. It was leadership at its most raw. Unquestionably, we wouldn't have had as much of an effect were it not for a body of pre-dominantly eager and competent interpreters and numerous copies of Nuts, FHM and Zoo magazines. When all else failed the international language of hand signals, shouting, talking English at a ridiculously slow speed and general gesticulation always seemed to help. The ANA were always impressed that we tried to learn a few basic phrases as it showed a

level of respect, which they appreciated. That was the essence of leadership with a language barrier. Treat the ANA and you would like to be treated and don't become frustrated when it isn't reciprocated the way you would want it to be. More often than not the same result is achieved.

OPERATION VALERO: THE DEPLOYMENT THAT DID NOT HAPPEN

by Second Lieutenant J R E Harvie,
Number 3 Company

In early 2008 1 WG was warned for a possible deployment to Kosovo as the Army's Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) Battalion. The last minute 6 week exercise to Belize (Exercise TROPICAL STORM) had just finished and it appeared that flexibility and short notice warnings were also going to be characteristic in 2008; similar to the rest of the Army, we needed to start being comfortable with uncertainty. In short, the increasing political tension in Kosovo led to the Battalion being required to train quickly for a potential deployment in a Public Order role. The programme was very tight: a possible deployment not before 18th February, up to six weeks in theatre and recovery to the UK in time for The Queen's Birthday Parade and its six week preparation lead-in. Would it be possible or would the Birthday Parade need to be given to another Battalion and, if so, was this possible? Headquarters London District was therefore busy with CONPLANS.

Political tension in Kosovo is nothing new. The seemingly irreconcilable differences between the Kosovo Albanian majority and Kosovo Serbian minority who live there have led to several atrocious incidents of violence, but recent years have been more peaceful. However, there were a number of factors creating additional friction. Hashim Thaci, the Kosovan Prime Minister and a prominent former member of the Kosovo Liberation Army, had been planning to announce Kosovo's independence from Serbia for some time, and finally did so with the UN's consent on the 17th February. This move has always been fiercely fought against by Serbia, and the outcome of the Serbian presidential elections was seen as being central to the success of



*Number 3 Company shaking out in Public Order mode
(Lydd, Feb 08)*

Kosovo's declaration. Therefore when Boris Tadic, a candidate with greater UN sympathy, was re-elected on the 3rd February, it was seen as a positive sign for a peaceful declaration. Nevertheless there was much concern for the safety of the Kosovo Serbs once Serbian support had been withdrawn: 'Retribution' from the Kosovo Albanians was considered possible, and ethnic conflict would ensue. As a result it was decided that more troops might be required to police the trouble spots and 1 WG was tasked. With our extensive experience of the Balkans (2002 & 2006), we were a good choice.

After an initial Commander's package at Lydd, the Battalion deployed for two weeks to Pirbright. The lessons on Public Order learned at Lydd were passed down to the men ('Train the Trainer'), and the shield and baton became increasingly familiar. Drills were rehearsed using Snatch vehicles until they were as good as possible without opposition. However, the introduction of another highly competitive 1 WG company, keen to show off its fighting

credentials as the civilian population (CIVPOP), made the training more challenging. The second week in Pirbright involved various testing scenarios which were run by the Training Wing and served to highlight the difficulties of command and control in noisy and chaotic environment such as the riots simulated by the CIVPOP.

The Battalion then took up residence at St Martin's Plain Camp for a tough OPTAG week in Lydd. Each company ran through two days of testing scenarios which stretched their Public Order skills to the limit, with the other companies rotating through the CIVPOP role. The following week the Battalion packed all its kit and went to South Cerney. Although it was an exercise (Exercise FIRST FLIGHT) there was a possibility that the Battalion may actually deploy from the exercise. Goodbyes were said to families and there was a real sense of excitement about going.

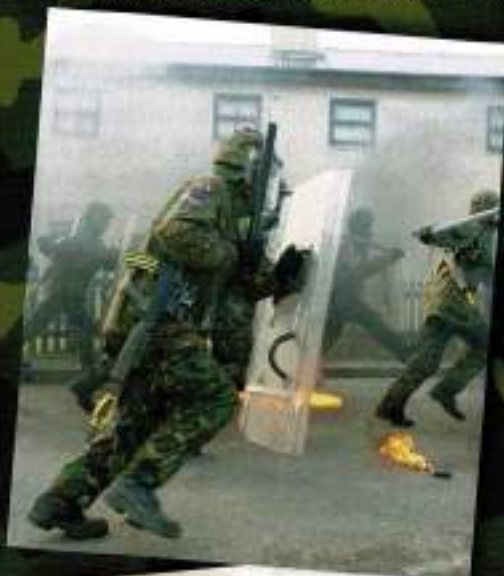
The decision was made whilst we were in South Cerney that the Battalion would not deploy that day, and would instead return to Wellington Barracks to begin a 6 week period of standby. Most of the Battalion was placed on 8 hours notice to be back in camp and 12 hours notice to move, so throughout the period the Guardsmen were able to return home so long as they had mobile phones switched on and were able to return in time. The news, particularly the Kosovan Declaration of Independence, was watched very closely by all in Wellington Barracks. Although there were several incidents of violence in Kosovo, it did not escalate to the level which would warrant the deployment. In addition, the national press reported that, with the Army so stretched, the SLE was 'the UK's final deployable reserve'. Therefore, the press reported, there was understandable reluctance for us to be committed.

On the 28th March, 2 RIFLES took over from 1 WG as the SLE. The situation in Kosovo appeared to have quietened since the Declaration of Independence; it was therefore with some surprise and slight envy that we discovered 2 RIFLES were to deploy to Kosovo in early April. By then 1 WG had switched its focus back to Public Duties and State Ceremonial in London, particularly preparation for The Queen's Birthday Parade, for which we were providing three of the six Guards, including the Escort to the Colour.

Our non-deployment to Kosovo was, in many ways, a disappointment. Having completed all



Preparing to deploy (South Cerney, Mar 08)



A baptism of fire as the Little Iron Men force the rioters to withdraw (Lydd, Feb 08)

the training, there was a great deal of confidence in our ability to do an excellent job on the operation. It would have been a very new experience for a large number of the Guardsmen, and of course an opportunity to get a medal. However, despite not being deployed the Battalion gained a huge amount from the training for Operation VALERO, not least confidence, cohesion and a welcome break from ceremonial duties. For junior commanders it was an opportunity to demonstrate their ability, and for every man there was a fantastic amount of sub-unit cohesion generated by fighting shoulder to shoulder, both in a Public Order capacity and as the CIVPOP.

There was also a huge amount of fun to be had throughout the course of the training. Whether it was hurling potatoes and chanting at your nearest rivals, or the Guardsmen's looks of amazement at the sight of the officers appearing in their CIVPOP garb looking better suited for Seaview Regatta than a riot, the good spirits coupled with huge competitiveness made it an extremely memorable experience.

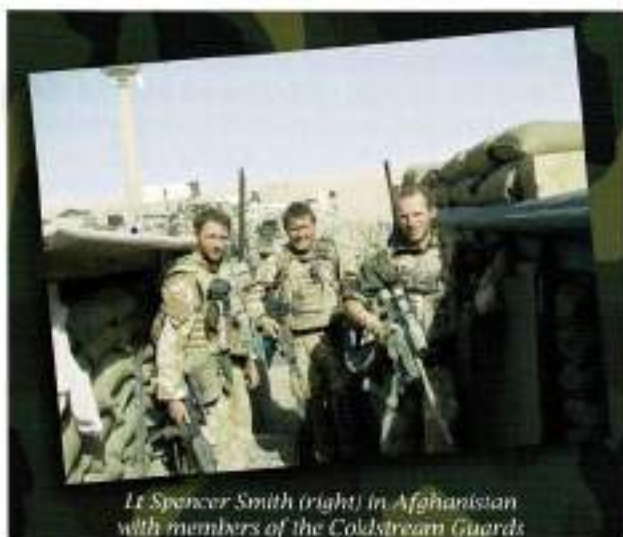
Public Order proved to be an extremely challenging command environment, with constant noise and limited visibility making seemingly simple tasks testing. It is also extremely daunting, particularly for the most junior Guardsmen, to have to literally walk through fire in the course of training, not to mention being charged by a huge Fijian soldier with only a thin plastic shield to protect yourself! The outcome was a tightly bonded and confident group of soldiers, who succeeded in demonstrating their skills in what is, despite being very different from conventional battle, an extremely high tempo and intimidating fighting environment.



LSgt Vuvvuelka terrifying some Jam Boys (Lydd, Feb 08)

SNIPING: FROM TRAINING TO OPERATIONS IN HELMAND PROVINCE

By Lieutenant Spencer Smith



Lt Spencer Smith (right) in Afghanistan with members of the Coldstream Guards

In August 2007 I was given the chance to attend the Basic Sniper Course at the Household Division Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPGCC) at Brunswick Lines, Pirbright. As a young Guardsman or Lance Corporal this is a great opportunity and one to be grabbed with both hands; as an Officer it is a rare chance to learn a skill that is much sought after. It was only a short way through the course that I was faced with the prospect of going to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 7 attached to 1 COLDM GDS as a sniper in order to prepare me for the newly re-instated Sniper Platoon Commanders Course in Brecon. Suddenly it looked like I was going to operating as a sniper for six months solid, with two months spent in the middle of a conflict which has played a lead role in bringing the art of sniping back into vogue.

THE BASIC COURSE

Sniper training in the British Army has been traditionally taught in two phases (Shooting & Fieldcraft), both at Brecon, under the Direct Fire Weapons School (DFWS) in Warminster. With the reintroduction of the Platoon Commander and Section Commander Sniper Courses at Brecon, the responsibility to the Fieldcraft phase has switched back to Battalions.

However, HDPGCC runs a course incorporating

both phases. Like Brecon, its works with direction from DFWS Warminster to ensure the course is in line with current doctrine. It has traditionally been led by a Royal Marine Colour Sergeant who acts as OIC Snipers with a number of staff from the Guards and Parachute battalions. My course was loaded with Privates and Lance Corporals from all three Parachute Regiment battalions due to 2 and 3 PARAs approaching deployment on Op HERRICK 8. The Parachute Regiment provided additional staff to help run the course, which not only ensured it ran more smoothly but allowed the platoon staff to assess the trainee snipers throughout the training before they moved into the sniper platoons on being badged.

The Basic Course still focuses on traditional warfare and subscribes to the idea of Train Hard, Fight Easy. The first week was spent on navigation, an essential core skill that was tested during both day and night over a busy five days in SENTA. During this week a basic introduction to sniping was also carried out concentrating on static map reading, observation and judging distance. On passing the Week One Test, the next three weeks introduced students to the shooting package, starting with short to mid range shooting, progressing to long range shooting before culminating in the shooting element of the Badge Test.

Once Phase One was complete, we then moved onto Fieldcraft. This four week phase consisted of skills days, a week long exercise and lessons aimed at equipping us with all the additional knowledge we would require in the field. By week eight we have been taught everything we needed to know. It was practised in a final week of aggressive training on all disciplines from dawn till dusk in preparation for the fieldcraft element of the Badge Test the following week.

All snipers are trained using the L96 rifle, which was first issued in 1986. Although the Infantry and Royal Marines are now being issued the L115A3 rifle, all training will continue to use the L96. In addition to financial constraints, the new rifle has improved accuracy and range which would make the shooting element of the Badge Test substantially easier.

The most common question I was asked before, during and after the course was 'Did I, as an Officer, have any advantage on the course?' The

immediate and I would argue natural reaction was to say, 'No' and that it was a level playing field; and actually for the vast majority of the times it was. But I had a distinct advantage when it came to the navigation, whether it was during the day or at night, due to the hours spent at Sandhurst and the Infantry Battle School (Brecon) (IBS(B)) that provide such a solid basis for the skill. As a consequence, I would say that Officers have a definite advantage over Guardsmen and Lance Corporals. In addition there were certain concepts such as Angled Shooting and Ballistics where I definitely felt that I was able grasp the subject matter more quickly and with more clarity. On balance however, there were also times when I felt not so much at a disadvantage, but that as an Officer I was over analysing a situation rather than just taking it at face value and getting on with it.

ON OPERATIONS

Towards the end of the course I was offered an opportunity few if any other Officers have had the chance to do, namely to attach myself to another Unit for a short period and use the skills I had spent 8 weeks acquiring on operations. In addition to this CSgt Pooler who was my instructor at HDPRCC would accompany me as colleague, mentor, instructor and my No2 (each Sniper Pair consists of a No1, the junior member and a No2, the senior member). We left for Afghanistan in mid November bound for 3 Company, 1 COLDM GDS. They were based at FOB Keenan in BG Centre as part of a Danish Battle Group. On arrival the Company Commander, Major Tom Charles WG, had had little chance to employ his 4 snipers during the month they had been there, due to the requirement to man three separate compounds, dominate the ground and maintain internal security; every man was being used in the rifle platoons.

During the first week I went on a number of familiarisation patrols in the local AO, always working as a Pair, but moving as an organic attachment to the patrolling platoon. My first realisation was the intense weight of kit that men are carrying on operations, even for short patrols. I had trained for 40 - 50 lbs but in reality I was regularly carrying 80 lbs; in truth I knew that it would be heavy but it was not until the kit has been laid out and stripped down for the third time that I realised that that was as

light as it was going to be. A 300 metre dash down a thigh deep stream in contact is never fun; but with all that kit on, it is another matter entirely. The weight issue was compounded by the onset of rain. Those of us who have been lucky enough to have served on HERRICK 5 and 7 will remember the extraordinary glue-like quality of the mud after the rains have arrived. With the indigenous population's tendency to irrigate their fields all year round, this additional challenge also exists for those on summer deployments albeit on a reduced scale.

Whilst there was less of a sniper requirement for the shorter, local patrols due to the over-watch provided by the sangars, we were almost always required for the longer patrols that departed in the late evening/ early morning. Initially I acted as the more junior No1 with CSgt Pooler as the No2, enabling him to continue instructing me whilst at the same time working together in an operational capacity.

As my time in-theatre progressed, 3 Company had a number of operations where the sniper capability increased to two Pairs despite the stringent restrictions on manpower. It became immediately evident to me that having mutual support between the Pairs allowed for much greater movement on the ground, thereby providing better intimate support to the rifle platoons as they moved through the fields.

The final operation I took part in highlighted just how essential the sniper role is in Afghanistan: The lead platoon of a company advance to contact had been contacted almost exactly where we had predicted they would. The Company Commander pushed the second platoon to the right and although it encountered its own TIC (Troops In Contact), it managed to manoeuvre so that it was parallel to the enemy position of the original contact. The fields were bordered by ditches and streams, hampering movement on foot. Yet the visibility was clear out to 1200m, allowing one of the Pairs attached to the second platoon to effectively engage the enemy of the first contact. Due to the proximity of friendly troops, the snipers were the only asset that could safely engage that enemy position. It was absolutely clear to me that without this weapon capability, our freedom of movement on the ground would have been stopped in its tracks. Snipers have a pivotal role to play in this theatre.

THE PLATOON COMMANDERS COURSE

Shortly afterwards I returned to Britain, to prepare myself to go to Brecon on the newly reformed Sniper Platoon Commanders Course. The old seven week long course has been replaced with one lasting just two and a half weeks, which enables Brecon to still run Phase One of the Basic Sniper Course. The new Platoon Commanders Course (aimed at Sgt - Capt) focuses very much on the Estimate and looking at the specific employment of snipers, whilst trying to give the Platoon Commanders as much exposure to sniping as possible. Most of the students were ranked Sgt or CSgt; whilst I was not the only Officer on the course, only one other had had the opportunity to do much sniping. For the other Officers, this left a distinct gap in their knowledge and experience. Had the course been longer, I am sure these training gaps would have been met.

One of the best aspects of the course was allowing the various individuals to share their experiences, from some who had been Recce for most of their careers, others who were snipers, and others who had experience of working with Special Forces. All brought their own knowledge and experiences with them, enabling us to learn from each other in addition to the course syllabus.

THE FUTURE

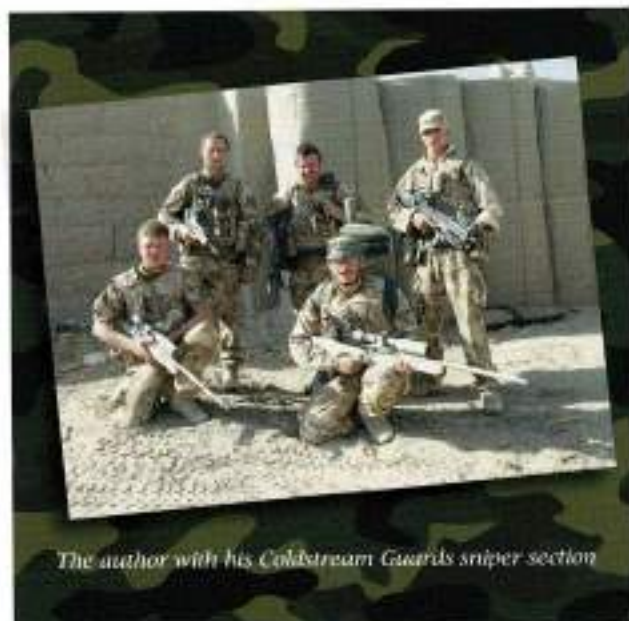
The role of Sniping should develop further within the Field Army, with the aspiration of all Battalions establishing a Platoon within their Support Company/ Patrols Company being hopefully realised. Although doctrine currently dictates that the platoon is 16 strong, a number of 18 is more flexible and provides a better real world solution with two sections of 6 plus a headquarter element that can break down into two 3 man groups for the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. There is some weight behind the argument of raise it further again to 24, but as with all doctrinal matters, every one has its own merit.

In addition to a possible increase in manning, there is scope for equipment enhancements. First, the issuing of the new L115A3 rifle from Accuracy International is a welcome development. Although at times even its improved range (1500 m for harassing fire, over the 1100 m for the L96) has been ineffectual.

American and Canadian sniper platoons are issued with a 0.50 calibre Barratt sniper rifle which has been effective up to as far 2,500m. Two of these per Sniper Platoon would further enhance the sniper effect on operations.

Second, Sniper Platoons are not scaled with any integral transport. Battalions have experimented using Pinzgauers, Vectors and Quad bikes to varying degrees of success, but until platoons have dedicated vehicles they will have to continue to borrow lifts from other sub-units/formations. A high level of integration is required between Snipers and those who provide this vehicle support, particularly when establishing/ collapsing Observation Posts or using Dead Letter Boxes. Unfamiliarity with sniper SOPs can put Sniper Sections (3 Pairs) at risk. Dedicated Drop Off/ Pick Up crews could reduce this risk, provided battalions were not constrained by manning establishments.

If we are to examine the current training on offer for Snipers in the British Army, only time will tell if the adoption of a split two phase course for the majority of the infantry will prove to be as effective as the old 7 week course run from Brecon which covered both phases. My personal feelings are that the course should be kept as one and not split up; but inevitably the financial implications of re-starting the Platoon Commanders and Section Commanders Courses have caused cutbacks that have affected the Sniper Wing as a whole.



The author with his Coldstream Guards sniper section

CONCLUSION

In a space of six months I have been lucky enough to train as a sniper at HDPRCC, and then continue my training under an instructor whilst working both as a No1 and a No2 on operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. On my return I took part in the first of the newly re-designed Sniper Platoon Commanders Course which was run in Brecon, adding yet another dimension to the training I received in-theatre. In recent years we have seen a resurgence in Sniping, reflecting the current operational climates we face. However I hope history does not repeat itself and we let the number of qualified snipers slip down again, as it really is a battle-winning asset that every battalion should have access to. I look forward to Op HERRICK 10 in March 2009 when my own battalion's snipers will deploy for the first time since Op TELIC 5, enabling them to learn from the testing environment that is Afghanistan.

Recruiting/Training

WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL RECRUITING

by Recruiting Officer Capt Robinson

Recruiting Team Nominal Role

Recruiting Officer	
Capt Robinson	Recruiting Officer
Recruiters	
Sgt Collet	Newport ACIO
Sgt McGowan	Pontipridde ACIO
LSgt Barry	Merthyr Tydfil ACIO
LSgt Cate	Cardiff ARIT
LSgt Lloyd 88	Cardiff AFCC
LSgt Adams	Cardiff AFCC
LSgt Harrison	Bridgend ACIO
LSgt Cadfan	Carmarthen ACIO
CSgt Ryan	Swansea AFCC
LSgt Phillips	Haverfordwest ACIO
LCpl Lee	Haverfordwest ACIO
LSgt Jones 51	Bangor ACIO
CSgt Singer	Rhyl ACIO
LSgt Jones 95	Wrexham AFCC
LSgt Gatrill	Shrewsbury AFCC
LSgt Fuller	Hereford ACIO
LSgt Jury	Swansea ARIT

Military Preparation Course

Sgt Williams 31 MPC Bangor

Regimental Support Teams

WO2 Price I/C RST South

LCpl Morris RST South

LCpl Thomas 86 RST South

Gdsm Harrison RST South

Gdsm Davies 77 RST South

Gdsm Meany RST South

LSgt Jones 60 I/C RST North

Gdsm Cunningham RST North

Gdsm Gregson RST North

Gdsm Harris RST North

Army Recruiting Teams

Sgt Hayes ART Crickhowel

LCpl Davies 95 ART Crickhowel

LCpl Evans 88 ART Crickhowel

LCpl Saniger ART Crickhowel

LCpl Jones 61 ART Queensferry

LCpl Griffiths 07 ART Queensferry

Gdsm Caffery ART Queensferry

Gdsm Dade ART Queensferry



RST with Berkemstead Cadets

Having handed over the role of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Support Weapons School in Warminster, commissioned in May, attended the Late Entry Officers Course the day of commissioning and taking over the position of Recruiting Officer from Capt Harman all in the space of 5 weeks my feet finally hit the floor with a bang.

Recruiting in the Army in general is difficult, with the armed forces competing against further education and civil employers for the best young

people in the UK and the Commonwealth. Closer to home and specifically recruiting in Wales and the borders, is a challenge. It is a competitive market, where we find ourselves in competition with the large Corps and the other Welsh Regiments. In the recruiting year 2007-2008 Wales was a successful region, with 929 soldiers recruited. 110 of which went to ITC Catterick, AFC Harrogate and ATR Bassingbourn to become Welshguardsmen.

2008-2009 has been even more challenging than the last few years to get men into the armed forces. This year to date, (the first 6 months) 67 potential Welshguardsmen have been enlisted to training.

Since taking over command of the RST, the team in the south has grown from 3 (WO2 Price 80, LCpl Morris 13 and Gdsm Harrison) to 6 members. Recently boosting up the numbers of the team are LCpl Thomas 86, Gdsm Davies 77 from the POW Coy and Gdsm Meany from Number 2 Coy. The team in the north virtually remains the same and is now commanded by LSgt Jones 60; Sgt Williams 31 has moved on and taken on the role of military advisor on the Bangor Military Preparation Course (MPC). Both teams are in fine spirits and strive daily to support the recruiting effort.

We currently have 15 Recruiters deployed in 13 Recruiting Offices spread in different offices from the North to the South of Wales and 2 in the border regions of Shrewsbury and Hereford. In addition to this, there are 8 Welshguardsmen who man 2 Army Recruiting Teams (ARTs), one in Queensferry commanded by LCpl Jones 61 and the other commanded by the ever ostentatious Sgt Hayes in Crickhowell. We also have 2 military advisors on MPCs LSgt Jury in Swansea and Sgt Williams 31 in Bangor.

The RSTs have been involved in a number of recruiting events this year so far, the main event was Op Dragons March which took place in May in Bodelwyddan Castle, Rhyl in the North and in Margam Park, Port Talbot in the South for a fortnight. A combination of ARTs, RSTs and recruiters put students from schools and colleges throughout Wales through their paces in terms of military command tasks and other forms of personal development activities (PDAs). During the summer the RSTs have worked continuously, assisting both the Dyfed Powys Army Cadet Force and the Welsh Guards cap



LCpl Morris 13 with Craig Quinell

badged Combined Cadet Force of Treorchy High School on their summer camps in Weymouth. They do wide-ranging activities including: shooting, fieldcraft and adventure training. Last year they also attended the first rehearsal of the Queens Birthday Parade and the battalion's families' day, which was a great success. The RSTs have also been involved in various "wet" summer shows to include the Royal Welsh, utilising the recruiting caravan, the 160 (W) Bde climbing wall and the Household Division Laser Dome which have all helped to pull in the crowds.

Both RSTs frequently visit AFC Harrogate on the Arms Information Days at and conduct monthly visits to ITC Catterick in the form of "Tafferys", lastly not forgetting ATC Bassingbourn and now Winchester, these are also visited regularly so that recruits are kept up to date with the Battalion and its activities. Now the new academic year has begun the RSTs are busy supporting local schools and colleges carrying out PDAs.

Throughout the year the RSTs and ARTs continues to be the face of the Regiment in the Principality and has assisted a number of well known charities, such a LATCH, a charity that supports children's cancer in hospitals in Wales and TENOVUS which also supports cancer relief. These charities totally appreciate the time and commitment put in by members of the team; it also puts a smile on those children that are effected with the illness at such a young age.

In all the profile of the regiment in Wales remains high, however the recruiting side of the role continues to be challenging. The Welsh Guards has always been known as a family Regiment and I would suggest that it is not only

the job of the recruiters to spread the good name of the Battalion but all its members past and present, we all have some form of responsibility to encourage a potential recruits to join the Battalion. Similarly, I would also encourage anyone who has an influence over our Guardsmen to try to advise and retain these as much as possible. If you can help us to continue supplying the regiment with first class soldiers, then please do so and don't hesitate to contact us with your thoughts and ideas.



LCpl Morris 13 (LATCH)



LCpl Morris 13, LCpl Devine, Gdsm Harrision Premier League

Lastly, all recruiters would like to wish the Battalion well and a safe tour on Op Herrick 10 in Afghanistan.

WELSH GUARDS AT SANDHURST

By Capt JCR Westropp

In W.B Yeates's 1919 Poem, *The Wild Swans at Coole*, he talks about the mystery and beauty of swans and alludes to their graceful yet powerful nature both in the air and on the water. They seem to move without effort, exuding an aura of quiet contemplation, charm, composure and polished elegance. One would be forgiven for thinking the same of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, as you look up from the manicured lawns above the lower lake at the imposing Old College frontage, and the immaculate turn out of the Officer Cadets on parade. Swans are large creatures and don't move without significant muscle power, effort and coordination, which is not often seen. At Sandhurst the same can be said for the Directing Staff, six of whom are from the Welsh Guards.

Life at RMA is exceptionally busy and whilst the leave periods are generous, three blocks of at least three weeks each per year, the term time is very intense. During the first five weeks for example, most CSgts are in work from 5.30am and often don't finish until late into the night. CSgt Dunn, who has been in Old College as a Platoon CSgt this term is the first to admit that life in Junior term is exhausting. Having spent nearly two years at RMA he is one of the more experienced WG representatives and whilst enjoying the experience is looking forward to getting back to the Battalion.

Three CSgts passed the last Instructor's Cadre run over the summer, with CSgt Taylor coming top of the 43 applicants. Going straight into the Intermediate Term, rather than the more normal introduction to Sandhurst through a period of

adjustment at the Skill at Arms Wing, he has been working in Falklands Company. CSgt Mills and Roberts 02 have meanwhile been working at 'The Wing'. Whilst not having a platoon to administer personally, they have supported Academy business regularly and alongside teaching various lessons in barracks are often deployed on exercise. CSgt Roberts 02 has managed to spend nine of his first fourteen weeks on exercise, a real insight into the workings of the Academy prior to taking over a Platoon next term. CSgt Mills has likewise had a busy term with more of a focus on the ceremonial side of Sandhurst rather than life in the field.

Capt Tim Badham has been busy as the New College Adjutant. This has seen him play a central part in the Sovereign's Parade, the OCdt's pass out parade from Sandhurst, as one of only two mounted officers. He has also visited Sri Lanka as part of an all arms drill team and managed a huge number of OCdt issues that crop up on an alarmingly frequent basis. Capt Westropp has been a Platoon Commander in Dettingen Company teaching on the many 'short courses'. He has also run the Canoe Club, and been training for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race which he plans to compete in With Capt Andrew Noyons (also Welsh Guards) in April 2009.

Getting a fully grown swan airborne requires significant physical exertion whilst looking effortless and dignified. The same could be said of a newly commissioned OCdt marching up the steps of Old College having spent a year at Sandhurst. A huge amount of work goes into producing the 2Lts that arrive in the Battalion, due in no small part to the commitment of their instructors, a small yet important handful being from The Welsh Guards.

GUARDS TRAINING COMPANY

Major J D Salusbury, Welsh Guards

Training methods for guardsmen is constantly changing and developing. Gone are the days when guardsmen were trained in isolation at 'The Guards Depot' at Caterham, and later, Pirbright. In recent years training has attracted much media attention. This article sets out how Welsh guardsmen are trained in the 21st Century.

All guardsmen are trained in one Company - Guards Training Company - based at Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison. The Company is part of 2nd Infantry Training Battalion (2ITB) and works alongside PARA Company, Gurkha Company and ANZIO Company (the short courses Company). Somewhat uncharitably, 2ITB is known as the 'special needs' Battalion because of the disparate nature of the courses run by the Battalion. The three distinctive ethos of the training companies give 2ITB a unique feel. For the record, 1st Infantry Training Battalion (1ITB), based across the road in Vimy Barracks, trains all Line Infantry recruits.

The Company is established for 10 training teams. Using simple maths that equates to every Regiment providing two training teams complete - 1x platoon commander, 1x platoon sergeant and 4x section commanders. Most platoons also have a Barrack Room Instructor (BRI) - a young Guardsman/LCpl. The pinch point comes as every Regiment must provide 8 SCBC trained LSgts and it is fair to say that Guards Company Commander probably has more SCBC trained LSgts under command than 1st Battalion Commanding Officers!

And the Company is making full use of this manpower. At the time of writing the Company sits at 559 permanent staff and trainee guardsmen. It is effectively Battalion sized which means that, with only a traditionally sized plus Training CSgt Company HQ, platoon commanders have significant responsibility for their platoons and freedom of action to run the prescribed training programme. Permanent staff of all ranks must therefore be high calibre, mature and responsible individuals. As has always been the case in the Foot Guards, only the

best should be sent to instruct at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC).

The Welsh Guards enjoys a fine reputation at Catterick. The instructors are excellent and this is shown by the strong pass rate on PSBC by LSgts who have spent time in the Company. Recently, the Company sent five LSgts on PSBC straight from Catterick - all five passed, two of them being LSgts Peters WG and Young WG. Sgt Williams 27 was selected to present at the Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD) Conference in front of Maj Gen Berragan. He did an excellent job and opened with the line, 'This is the first time for a while that I've given a presentation where I'm not the oldest in the room'. The rest of the presentation was in a similar vein and went down extremely well! The ITC remains an excellent developing ground. All ranks grow in stature during their time training recruits and, hopefully, the Battalion sees the benefit when officers and NCOs return after their two year assignment. It is also a useful opportunity to assess potential for further instructional posts at RMA and the Infantry Battle School (IBS).

Training guardsmen has not fundamentally changed over the years. Trainee guardsmen are still taught the Infantry basics of skill at arms, field craft, drill and PT. What has changed is the environment in which it is taught. We have to approach training intelligently and create the right environment so that trainee guardsmen are treated decently and fairly. They must be. What anyone says about the standard of today's potential recruit (and, in fairness, it is not terribly high), the fact remains that these guys have got the guts to put their head above the parapet and volunteer to be an Infantryman. That is despite the press coverage of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, despite the recent negative press about training establishments and despite 'Bad Lads Army' which probably confirms all of the uninitiated's suspicions! These young men (and not so young as one or two are over 30!) deserve to be well looked after, well trained and given every opportunity to become guardsmen. Between 60% and 65% who start will become guardsmen. The rest leave for a variety of reasons but that is another essay altogether.

Training has not gone soft. It is every bit as demanding and more than it was 20 years ago.

Trainee Guardsmen can almost guarantee that they will be required to put their training into practice soon after passing out. Reports from operational theatres suggest that newly arrived guardsmen are well trained and ready to tackle the demands of a 6 month operational deployment. What has changed is how this standard is achieved over the 28 week Combat Infantryman's Course.

The Welsh Guards have 64 trainee guardsmen in training. The Recruiting Officer will tell you that recruiting in Wales is difficult at the moment, and it is, but in the last intake the recruiters did a fantastic job of getting 22 into training. So far this year financial year, 36 Welsh guardsmen have passed out of training. With luck, recruiting will pick up when those in, say, the building trade realise that they may be better off in the stable employment that the Army offers. That is still to be seen though.

In conclusion, Guards Training Company is healthy. It is full of recruits, has some of the most outstanding NCOs in the Army and is producing trained guardsmen in quantity and, mostly, of quality. **Welsh Guardsmen assigned to Guards Training Company:**

Maj J D Salusbury

Lt G Charles-Jones

Sgt Gwilliam

Sgt Griffiths 96

LSgt Baines

LSgt Bjegovic

LSgt Cope

LSgt Jones 38

LSgt Green

LSgt Heath

LSgt Hillier

LSgt Davies 96

LCpl James

**NO5 PLATOON,
WELSH GUARDS (MAIDENHEAD)
A COMPANY (GUARDS)
ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE
ARMY CADET FORCE.**

**Detachment Commander: Sgt G Nicholls
Detachment Staff: Sgt I Hothi,
Sgt N Hussanian, Sgt G Hirst.**



Cadet CSM Craig Lewis getting a grip on the drill square.

The demise of the RGBW led to the opportunity for the reorganisation of Berkshire ACF, and the detachments in the east of the county were each affiliated to a regiment of the Foot Guards to join the existing Household Cavalry Detachment. A Company (Guards) was formed up at Victoria Barracks, Windsor on the 7th May, 2007 when the then Major General (Major General S.B.L. Roberts OBE late IG) presented the detachments with their new cap badges and cap stars and took the salute.

Since becoming part of the Welsh Guards, the detachment has gone from strength to strength. We were honoured to have two of our cadets selected for the two most prestigious roles in the county. Tom Abdilla was appointed the Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major, and Craig Lewis was both the Cadet Company Sergeant Major and the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet thus ensuring that the Welsh Guards cap badge was seen far and wide in the county. They have both now joined the regular army. Tom is undergoing training at Catterick with the Coldstream Guards, and Craig is awaiting his start date with the Life Guards. Unfortunately neither opted for the Welsh Guards, but at least they have been retained within the Household Division. Another cadet, William

Forbes, has recently started at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate.

We congratulate our detachment commander Sgt Geoff Nicholls on recently passing his ACF Commissioning course. He is now just waiting for his commission to be promulgated in the London Gazette. In addition, Greg Hirst has just passed his Initial Training Course and is now a fully-fledged Sergeant Instructor.

The detachment has had a very successful 18 months with cadets working hard towards their Army Proficiency Certificate stars and Duke of Edinburgh's awards, and several of our cadets were part of the highly successful county shooting team which won a hatful of trophies at this year's CADSAAM.

The unit meets at the Cadet Hut in St Luke's Road, Maidenhead on Monday and Wednesday evenings, any Welsh Guardsman in the area, serving or retired, is always welcome to pop in and see us.

Battlefield Tours

BATTLEFIELD TOURS 2008 PART ONE NORMANDY IN MAY

By Roy Lewis

"Remembrance, respect and fun," that is how Colonel Bonas describes Welsh Guards Battlefield Tours and the 23rd tour was a perfect example. It was particularly special for Major Jim Carson, Ray Cumbley and Arthur Bland of the 2nd Battalion and Fred Bowden of the 1st Battalion, who fought in Normandy, and also for the six serving Welsh Guardsmen in the party.

Major Oliver Warman was our guide and his expertise and humour was appreciated by everyone. He knows Normandy very well and will long be remembered, not just for his knowledge of the campaign, but for his most amusing commentaries. His step-father, Lieutenant Colonel Heber-Percy, commanded the 1st Battalion in Normandy after a series of misfortunes not long after the Battalion arrived.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Browning and other Officers were wounded and returned to the United Kingdom, and Major Fass who took command was killed. Major Heber-Percy was then promoted to command the Battalion.



*The Tour Leaders Left to Right
Major Warman, Captain Taylor, Colonel Bonas*

The serving soldiers on the tour were Second Lieutenants Christopher Davies and Mark Evison, Lance Corporals Raymond Hill and Matt Dwyer and Guardsman Lee Meaney, and of course Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant Warren Williams who, in tunic order, caused great excitement in several Norman villages.

We followed in the footsteps of huge armies and especially the Guards Armoured Division, stood where Rommel had surveyed the landscape, and came away with the most complete picture of the Normandy campaign imaginable.

We began the first full day at Pegasus Bridge where D Company 2nd Bn The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry landed in gliders in the early hours of D-Day. They were the first

Allied soldiers to land in France. The museum is excellent and we were fortunate that the curator, Mark Worthington, gave us a first-class presentation. We saw, and learned, so much it would take a full article to describe it all, and it was a great start to the tour.

Ranville is a quiet and lovely village with a war cemetery in which seven Welsh Guardsmen are buried. All were killed on the 25th July 1944 and we paid the first of our tributes with great solemnity. Wreaths were laid at the cemeteries by Major Carson, Arthur Bland, Fred Bowden and Ray Cumbley escorted by serving Guardsmen, a nice touch which brought the past and present together.

Lunch in the Avenue de Liberation at Ouistreham was a sharp reminder of occupation and the anguish it brought. Next stop was at Arromanche where we saw a film on the landings in a circular



The Tour Party in Bayeux Cemetery

theatre. It was there that the great Welsh Guardsman, Sir Alexander Stanier, commanded 231 Brigade on D-Day.

On the second full day we visited places the names of which are enshrined in the history of the invasion and subsequent fighting, Villers Bocage, Gold Beach, and Mont Pincon, a Battle Honour for the Welsh Guards and forty other Regiments such was its importance in the campaign.

In the village of Montchamp we laid two wreaths, one at the village memorial alongside a wall with the names of those shot by the enemy and deportees who did not return home. The effect on such a small village must have been devastating and it was one of many in Normandy that suffered terribly between 1940 and liberation in the summer of 1944. A few minutes drive from Montchamp is the cemetery at St. Charles de Percy where 44 Welsh Guardsmen lie at rest as well as other Welsh soldiers, including several of the 3rd Bn Monmouthshire Regiment.

A splendid lunch at Montchamp was hosted by the Mayors and people of the village and its neighbour, St. Charles de Percy. We presented both Mayors with a framed print of the Presentation of Colours ceremony of 2006 and the happy occasion ended with the serving of Normandy's famous drink, Calvados, quite an experience for the uninitiated, especially as there was no label on the bottle!

One villager thanked us for remembering them, which made us feel very humble indeed. Such a big occasion requires a major effort for a small village and we deeply appreciate the welcome we always get at such friendly places.



RQMS Williams & Veterans in Montchamp

On the final full day of the tour we travelled a short distance from our hotel to Bayeux military cemetery where 52 Welsh Guardsmen are buried. A particularly emotional ceremony took place and the silence after the Welsh Guards Collect and the Commendation was deeply moving.

It is an unusual cemetery because many German soldiers are also buried there, but the presence of Mme Marie-Ange Francoises was of great significance. Long before the present cemetery was established, there were temporary graves of British soldiers, and her father looked after them and Marie also helped, she is a delightful lady who was our guest at the group dinner.

Bayeux although in the centre of the landing area in June 1994 was hardly touched and remains a quaint, charming town famous for its tapestry, Cathedral and, as we discovered, excellent restaurants and cafes. Lunch by an old water mill was restful before a very active final afternoon.

The fighting in Cagny - twinned with Pirbright and a Regimental Battle Honour - was part of Operation Goodwood and at the nearby cemetery at Banneville La Campagne we laid a wreath for the last time on the tour. Twenty Welsh Guardsmen are buried there, including Rex Whistler who was killed aged 39. A famous artist he designed the Guards Armoured Division "Ever Open Eye".

Our final, and perhaps most sombre, visit was to Omaha Beach where the Americans suffered huge casualties. It was a most difficult landing and very few tanks, or accompanying infantry, made it ashore. Over-looking the beach is the cemetery of St. Laurent sur Mer where there are 9938 graves of American soldiers. It is a magnificent memorial,



Major Carson, Arthur Bland, Fred Bowden, Mnr Francoises, Ray Cumbley in Bayeaux Cemetery

and below is a marker of a mass grave containing many more who died on that historic day.

We returned to our hotel in quiet, reflective mood, and finished a memorable tour with a group dinner. Colonel Bonas paid tribute to many people, especially Graham Taylor who organised the tour and was already planning the next.

We headed home with a feeling of fulfilment. We had indeed shown respect, remembered and in the most wonderful company had fun too.



*Paying Tribute at the Guards Armoured Division
Left to Right - LCpl Hill, 2Lt Davies, LCpl Dwyer,
2Lt Evison, Gdsm Meaney*

BATTLEFIELD TOURS 2008 PART TWO BELGIUM & FRANCE IN SEPTEMBER

By Roy Lewis

To say the 24th Battlefield Tour in twenty years was enjoyable is the under-statement of the year; it was interesting, entertaining and socially superb. After surviving heavy rain in Britain, we were blessed with fine weather, and stayed in two excellent Novotels. The first was in Mechelen, the second in Ieper, Ypres to French speakers and Wipers to the Great War soldiers. Both were centrally situated which is a major advantage.

Led by Colonel Bonas, the tour was expertly planned by Captain Graham Taylor who organized two of them in four months, a tour de force which we all appreciated. Talks on the battles, given by Major Worman in his inimitable manner, were greatly appreciated and were the result of a great deal of research.

We spent the first full day in and around Hechtel the home of 16 year old Michiel Stinckens, a young historian, who arranged a visit to a very interesting museum in an area regarded as



The Tour Guide on the air



Beer, beer, glorious beer! Brian Keane, The Mayor of Hechtel and Graham Taylor

Belgium's Pirbright, where we were well received and shown around the exhibits by three generations of a family deeply involved in it.

Lunch at the side of a lake introduced us to an array of local beers which aroused the professional interest of Captain Berwyn Lewis of the famous Felinfoel Brewery in West Wales, and the more practical interest of 61 David Jones who is slowly working his way through the 400 or more brands the country is famous for.

In the afternoon we were conducted around Hechtel by Michiel and Major Worman who described the battle and its effect on a small town that has changed considerably in the years we have been going there. The visit to Hechtel was especially poignant for Fred Bowden, of the 1st Battalion Carrier Platoon, who recalls the order to pour all available fire-power into the village from high ground outside "in order to give the attacking companies the best chance. Shortly after the Germans gave up and the place was ours."



RQMS Warren Williams and Lcpl Adam Selby at Hechtel

We returned to Hechtel on Sunday and as usual attended Church where there was a particularly large congregation. It was a special service in many ways, the choir sang beautifully and their rendition of the Welsh National Anthem in Welsh always affects us emotionally.

Captain the Reverend Willie Pryor had toured with us before and for him Hechtel is particularly important. His uncle, Major Lister was killed in the battle and is buried at Leopoldsborg War Cemetery, along with 33 other Welsh Guardsmen. Major Lister had been a priest but had decided to serve his country in a combat role. His nephew Willie, who served in the Regiment in the late 1950s, wore Major Lister's Field Vestments at the service in which he played a significant part.

An impressive ceremony at the town cemetery reminded everyone of the 35 civilians killed in the battle who are buried there, and speeches were made by the Mayor and Colonel Bonas. The sight of scarlet and bearskins, worn by RQMS Warren Williams and L/Cpl Adam Selby added to the occasion.

After a splendid lunch we sang our goodbyes to our friends and visited Leopoldsborg War Cemetery. En route to Mechelen we visited Joe's Bridge, named after Lieutenant Colonel Joe Vandeleur who commanded the Irish Guards Group which captured and held the bridge on 10 September 1944.

We left Mechelen on Monday morning en route to Ieper where we lunched before visiting the most infamous battleground of the Great War, Passchendaele where it is estimated 250,000 British and 200,000 Germans were killed, wounded or missing. Major Worman described the battle and we saw old German blockhouses of the type Sergeant Robert Bye attacked in July 1917 resulting in him winning the Victoria Cross which was presented to him in the field by King George V.

Tyne Cot is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world and a sad reminder of the British and Empire troops who died in their thousands over a hundred days for a gain of barely eight kilometers. There are 11,954 graves of which 8367 are unidentified. The rear wall of the cemetery is a Memorial to the Missing with no known grave, bearing 35,000 names, including 35 Welsh Guardsmen. When King George V visited Tyne Cot in May 1922 he described the graves as a "massed

multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war." The visitor's centre was opened by The Queen and The King of the Belgians in 2007.

During the tour members of the party laid wreaths at several places and the presence of Willie Pryor added dignity and solemnity. It was particularly emotional at the Menin Gate in Ieper, where every evening at 8pm buglers sound the Last Post and Reveille. We were deeply moved and the following morning laid a wreath in memory of the Welsh Guardsmen whose names are borne on the Memorial to the Missing. The ceremony did not take place during four years of occupation and one can only imagine the feelings of the people when it was resumed in 1944.

On the last full day we crossed into France and after a pleasant drive arrived at Dunkirk and viewed the beaches and the Mole from which the majority of the BEF and French soldiers were evacuated. The sky was cloudless as it was in May 1940 but it was unfriendly then and one could only imagine the horror and the turmoil.

Visits to Hechtel, Passchendaele and Dunkirk will long be remembered and we owed a great deal to our coach driver. The roads were often narrow and difficult to navigate, but Peter Gullis, now an Honorary Welsh Guardsman, brought us safely to our destinations, and eventually home.

Every tour is different, characters emerge, new friends are made and old friends, some of whom have never missed a tour, meet again. The 2008 September tour will be remembered for quiet moments at wreath laying ceremonies, the joy of meeting the people of Hechtel who have become part of our family and the visits to places like Passchendaele where so many young men lost their lives in fruitless battles.

The fun on the coach, the grand finale of the group dinner and the presence of serving Welsh Guardsmen make our tours unique and they will continue. In September 2009 we will celebrate the 65th anniversary of liberation on the 25th Battlefield Tour.

We visit historic and interesting places, stay at good hotels and the social side is excellent, but there's something else. We enjoy each other's company and this is typified by comments of two loyal members of the group after the last tour - "It was really good, alas, we miss everyone so much and can't settle at all." Like many more they can't wait for September 2009!

ST DAVID'S DAY 2008

By Roy Lewis

Saint David's Day in 2008 was a great gathering of serving and non-serving Welsh Guardsmen, their families and friends. For Association members the form-up behind the Battalion brought back memories of Public Duties in battledress and Home Service Clothing while the ghosts of legendary Regimental Sergeant Majors hovered but unlike the old days no names were taken.

A war-time Grenadier once commented, "The primary purpose of a military march is to impart a feeling of pride, confidence and euphoria in those marching behind". What the late Humphrey Lyttleton, jazz musician and raconteur, said particularly applied to the Association members who were on parade.

The service in the Guards Chapel stirred the soul and reminded everyone that were there to celebrate Saint David and what followed was a great family occasion. Friends of Guardsmen also attended and were suitably impressed, especially Olwen Williams MBE an artist and native of Merthyr Tydfil who now lives in Leicestershire.

It was a new experience for her and others like her, and she felt honoured and privileged to be present. For her it was a "memorable" day and she was particularly impressed with the service in the Guards Chapel. "It began with Welsh and English prayers spoken softly and calmly and



The Association March Past



Eyes Right

ended with the National Anthem of Wales. I have heard this and the hymns we sang, countless times before, but never accompanied by a military band of such great talent and versatility; and never, ever, better".

The Leeks were presented by Colonel Sandy



GSM (WO1) M O' Driscoll receives his silver salver



WOII Rowbotham presented with his silver salver

Malcolm, a reminder that his father and grand father had once performed the same ceremony. After taking the salute at the March Past, Colonel Malcolm presented silver salvers to GSM (WO1) M O'Driscoll and WOII R Rowbotham who after 22 years service had left the Army.

Certificates signed by the HRH The Colonel for long and outstanding service to the Association were presented to Captain Benn Parry (Secretary, Montgomeryshire & Shropshire Branch), Tom Homan (Chairman, North of England Branch) and Keith Bartlett (Secretary of Midlands Branch).

The arrangements by the Battalion were excellent; the lunch was greatly enjoyed, thanks to the Quartermaster, Major Cooling, and his staff who were extremely helpful. The Regiment has celebrated Saint David's Day in many places, home and abroad, and in 1919 spent it as part of the army of occupation in Cologne. Life was a little more difficult for the first ever Welsh Guards Quartermaster 90 years ago but Captain W B Dabell MBE MC provided a special pork dinner after sending a truck to Belgium to buy some pigs!

One of several Second World War Guardsmen at Wellington Barracks on 1st March 2008, was 2738005 Bob Burman who joined the Regiment in 1941. His final comment echoes the feeling of all non-serving Welsh Guardsmen present - "when the Battalion marched past I was very proud of them, they were excellent."

IMBER COURT - 28TH JUNE 2008

By RQMS WJ Williams

On 30th June 1944, the Training Battalion Welsh Guards were stationed at Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher and were conducting an athletics meeting at Imber Court, Metropolitan Police Sports Ground when tragically a V1 German doodlebug bomb killed 20 personnel.

We gathered this year on Saturday 28th June 2008 at Imber Court to commemorate those personnel who lost their lives on that tragic day. The service was conducted by the Battalion padre Major M V Haldon-Jones CF and the reading was read by Lieutenant Colonel C F B Stephens Late Welsh Guards (also the President of the London Branch Association).

The service was attended by approximately 100 personnel from the London and East Glamorgan Association, past serving soldiers of the Training Battalion as well as a few present soldiers from the Regiment. Lt Wainwright, Frances Fox, Harry Webb (Chelsea In Pensioner), Islwyn Evans, Captain Dick Fletcher were all present on that fatal day and are all in the photograph on this page from left to right.



The names that were commemorated and are on the plaque in the garden at Imber Court were read out during the service by Mr Islwyn Evans and he also laid the wreath on behalf of the Regiment.

TRAINING BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

	LT	WF	Moss
	2LT	G A M	Baker
	2LT	J A L	Crofts
2731946	CSM	C H	Lang
2734026	SGT	T G	Griffiths
6468155	L/CPL	C	Richardson
3769857	GDSM	C W	Bristow
2739165	GDSM	A	Fernihough
2739388	GDSM	J F	Fernihough
6145541	GDSM	C C	Feld
2739223	GDSM	I G	Glen
3778234	GDSM	G H	Green
2737388	GDSM	A G	Hill
14372843	GDSM	J T	Hughes

ARMY PHYSICAL CORPS

	CSM	W	Thompson
ATS			
W/148928	PTE	J E	Jefferies



WG Association at Imber Court

The Last Post and Reveille was conducted by Drummer Luke David of the Corps of Drums, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. After the service we held a small buffet lunch with tea and coffee in the Metropolitan Police Sports bar, where we are always well looked after by the Metropolitan Police. Thanks must go to Mr Nick Hartfree the manager of the Sports Bar and also Mr Jeff Heenan (Secretary London Branch) for their support in ensuring this event went well and to all those who attended and supported this important occasion from the various parts of the country travelled from. The next Imber Court Commemoration will be held on Saturday 27th 2009.

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS RUGBY REUNION DINNER 2009 'CLARION CALL TO FORMER WELSH GUARDS RUGBY PLAYERS'

By Chris Beynon

Since the inception of our first rugby reunion dinner in 2003, it has become a growing success story.

Primarily, it was inaugurated to celebrate the

success of winning the Army Rugby Challenge Cup. Our first biennial dinner was such, that former players asked if we could increase our fraternity to include all present and former players. This committee readily acceded to.

Our last two dinners in 2005 and 2007 saw a guest list of 130 and as tickets are in high demand, we have chosen a more salubrious venue which offers a lot more than our previous hotel. By the way of a change, Friday 23rd October 2009 sees us move from the Manor Park Hotel, Swansea, to the world famous Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli. We have chosen a select menu of the finest Welsh fayre and the hotel is renowned for its food and catering.

Our honoured guest is, as always, General the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE and it is hoped he will attend, as usual. An approach has been made to Mr Garan Jenkins, the former Welsh hooker, to entertain us with his anecdotes on rugby. He is a most worthy after-dinner speaker.

We warmly welcome any one who has worn the green and white hoped jersey in a representative capacity, particularly players and captains who played between 1985 and 2000.

Tickets are to be charged at £30.00 each. This covers a three course meal, followed by cheese, biscuits, coffee and mints. In addition, there will be four bottles of wine to a table of eight.

A concessionary rate is offered on accommodation. A double/twin shared room is charged at £75.00 and a single at £62.50. Those who wish to attend should in the first instance contact Mr Chris Beynon on telephone 01554 752801. Tickets will be sent out from April 2009 onwards.

Rooms, once tickets are purchased may be booked by telephone or E mail. There are 70 rooms in total so it is advisable to purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

All cheques are to be made payable to Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion and sent to Mr Chris Beynon, Mayfield Lodge, Clochyrie, Llanelli, SA14 8EZ. Should you have any queries, please contact Mr Chris Beynon at your earliest convenience.

NEVER DONE A QUEEN'S GUARD RQMS? (YOU WILL BEFORE YOU LEAVE!)

By 23523201 EX RQMS MIKE JONES

The year is 1980 and I am in my 22nd year and approaching my Demob. The Battalion is stationed in County Armagh for what will be its last tour in the province, and the words above are spoken to me by my Quartermaster the then Major Brian Morgan (16), MBE.

So what brings this subject up? The QM and I are conducting the QM of 45 RM around our Company locations at Newry, Crossmaglen, Forkhill and Newtonhamilton in an unmarked car, yours truly driving and the 2 QMs in the rear seats. The Royal Marines are due to relieve our successors and the Kings Own Border Regiment and their QM is doing his recce.

During our recce the RM Quartermaster keeps alluding to the fact he found it out of the ordinary to see a guards Battalion on Active Service and not on Public Duties in black hats and red tunics as he put it and which he seemed to think was the norm. After a while the subject is beginning to get to me and I think of my previous experiences in the Regiment which did not include a lot of Public Duties, in fact in my 21 years I had only done a handful of Bank Piquet's, Street Lining and Ushering at the Queens Birthday Parade.

Unable to contain my cool any more after about an hour of his waffle I blurt out that I think he is talking a lot of twaddle (or words to that effect!). I then recalled some of my experiences and informed him that this indeed was my third time in the Province, I had been on Exercise in Libya, scaled Mount Kilimanjaro whilst in Kenya on an Outward Bound Course, served in Aden on Active Service for a year, earned my Parachute Wings with the Guards Para Company and with them had been on exercise at the Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia and been on Border Duties in Hong Kong. Served in Germany and Berlin with the Battalion as well as attending the Joint Services Mountain Centre, Towyn to obtain my Mountain Leadership badge and been a Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Assessor for 5 years with 60 Army Youth Team in Swansea. I thought

that this would keep him quiet and indeed it did. I missed out a few other details but I think I covered most of the relevant ones.

On our return to Bessbrook Mill and the RM Quartermaster is departing Major Morgan calls me to one side and says the immortal words above. I said we will have to see Sir as I don't have enough time left to do, or so I thought.

On our return to Pirbright I have forgotten about the incident and carrying on as normal. After a month or two I then get a message that I have to see the Regimental Sergeant Major, Em Pridham MBE. He gleefully informs me that I am indeed going to do a Queen's Guard as Sergeant of the Buckingham Palace Detachment with Company Sergeant Major Bill Evans (33) as Sergeant of the St. James Palace Detachment.

The date has been set for about a week later with Prince of Wales Company so I'm advised to get ready for it. Needless to say with my wanderings away from the Battalion I have not watched too many Guard Mountings so I set out to remedy this. I arranged to go up to Chelsea Barracks and watch the Guard Mount there before moving on to the Forecourt of Buckingham Palace. Being RQMS I have of course got a great Bearskin and my kit is in good nick, courtesy of my Clothing Storeman Chris Duggan.

As I live in the Mess I enlist help of Sgt "Jiffy" Harvery, Sgt-In-Waiting, POW Company that week, for a few evenings to enlighten me in the Drill and Orders issued in the Forecourt. I have enough confidence now to go ahead or so I thought! What I hadn't taken into consideration was the fact is I'm quite short sighted and can't see any distance without my glasses. On putting on my Bearskin without my glasses on I found myself squinting through the fur as if I'm looking through a woolly pullover and not seeing anything clearly over 30 feet away.

The day arrives and on meeting up with the personal from POW Company I find I have to stand next to a Right Hand Man who stands a good foot taller than I am in his Bearskin, the joke is beginning to dawn on me. Anyway we bus up to Chelsea Barracks and thankfully all went well and we start to march up to Buckingham Palace via Victoria. The tall Guardsman next to me is very helpful on the march, advising me where we "Change Arms" etc so all goes well until we round the Palace by the Guardroom



ALL THE QUEENS MEN. RQMS DJ JONES Right hand man in the second detachment. Lt Col Pickett is Captain of the Guard

when it becomes obvious there is as usual a huge crowd gathered outside. One part of me is saying "Don't Panic" and another saying "I really don't want to be here!"

The handover in the Forecourt went reasonably well except where I had to march out to the other Sgt of the Guard in the middle of the Ceremony. I could not pick him out against the background of a red line of Tunics and almost marched past him until I heard him say "I'm over here Sir". A quick left wheel and I got to him before negotiating my way back to my position at the right of the line.

The actual Guard went well thanks to the assistance and advice I received from L/Sgt Steve Fisher as did the Dismount the following morning. The march back to Chelsea Barracks was uneventful and so I arrived back in Pirbright thinking "I've don't it".

There was a sting in the tail however! Some 3 to 4 weeks later I had another message from the Regimental Sergeant Major to report to him. He informed me that I was on a Charge Report and was ordered to attend Commanding Officer's Memoranda. I was charged with failing to carry out my duties correctly whilst Sgt of Buckingham Palace Guard. It appeared that some member of the public was walking his dog past the Palace at about 2.30 am in the morning and observed one of our Guardsmen conversing with two young female tourists through the railings. He wrote to Horse Guards about it and through the Chain of Command it came back to the Battalion and yours truly! Suffice to say I was admonished by the Commanding Officer.

The Quartermaster of course was jubilant that he had proved to be right and that I had been at the Palace at least once. I grudgingly agreed that it was something I could look back on and agree I did in a perverse sort of way enjoyed it.

So that's how it came to pass that I did do a Queens Guard before leaving. A quick question though, any other RQMS done his one and only Queens Guard at that rank?

THE COLOURS

By L/Sgt Morgan
Regimental Headquarters

The proudest possession of a Regiment is its colours, once a rallying point in the battle when they were paraded, or trooped, through the ranks, as they still are at the Queen's Birthday Parade. The King's or Queen's Colours and Regimental Colours were introduced for all Regiments, except Rifle Regiments, in 1747, and Battle Honours were first displayed on Colours in 1768.

Members of the Regiment often visit churches where our Colours are laid up, and the following list will be helpful to them.

1st Battalion

1. Presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 3 August 1915.

Laid up at Llandaff Cathedral on 19 November 1925.

During the war the Cathedral was bombed and the Colours were removed to Regimental Headquarters for safe keeping. They were returned to Llandaff Cathedral on 3 May 1959.

2. Presented by King George V at Windsor Castle on 23 June 1925.

Laid up at St David's Cathedral on 10 June 1950.

3. Presented by King V at Buckingham Palace 25 May 1949.

Laid up at the Guards Chapel on 7 July 1965.

4. Presented by The Queen at Buckingham Palace 5 May 1965.

Laid up in St. Mary's Church, Swansea 16 September 1982.

5. Presented by The Queen at Windsor Castle 14 May 1981.

Laid up in All Saints Church, Pirbright 25 October 1990.

6. Presented by The Queen at Buckingham Palace 30 May 1990

Laid up in Bangor Cathedral 27 June 2007.

7. Presented by The Queen at Windsor Castle 4 May 2006.

2nd Battalion

1. Presented by King George VI at The Tower of London 14 February 1940, returned to His Majesty at Windsor Castle 16 June 1947 when the Battalion went into Suspended Animation. The King's Colour was transferred to the Guards Chapel 28 May 1956, the Regimental Colour to the Guards Depot Church, Caterham 23 March 1959, and then to the Guards Chapel 4 June 1965.

The 3rd Battalion had no Colours.

AN HONORARY WELSH GUARDSMAN

By D E Sturdy MB MS FRCS, Lieutenant
Colonel RAMC (Retd)
Medical Officer, 1st Battalion, 1951-1953



I joined the 1st Battalion in Germany on Christmas Eve 1951. The experiences and friendships that followed converted me into a dedicated "Guardsmen" and I retain treasured memories of my attachment to the Welsh Guards. After qualifying at Guy's Hospital in 1950, and 18 months training as a junior resident at Swansea General Hospital, I was conscripted into the Royal Army Medical Corps and was sent on Christmas Eve 1951 to join an unspecified Guards Regiment stationed at Wuppertal. It was the luckiest day of my life when it transpired the Regiment was the Welsh Guards and then began an experience I still recall with pride and pleasure.

I was welcomed to the Mess by the Adjutant, Colonel V G Wallace and Major Harold Humphries, the Quartermaster, and, on Christmas Day lunched with Majors Gerry Fowke, Luke Dimsdale, Richard Watt and their wives. On Boxing Day I was invited to a shoot, led by our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Davies-Scourfield, which was initially singularly unproductive. Sgt Gerry Greenstock concluded the German game-keeper was protecting his birds. On the pretext of sighting a "phantom" leveret, he let fly with both barrels and peppered the game-keeper's leggings with lead shot. In a flash we dived into nearby copses and the pheasant flew overhead like a cloud. It was quite an introduction to my first Regimental "outing" and a liberal supply of roast pheasant in the Mess for the ensuing week. Another great character I shall never forget is Dick Fletcher, then Officer's Mess Sergeant, who looked after me very well. A wonderful man whose company I have enjoyed immensely in recent years at Welsh Guards Club dinners.

Snow and sub-zero temperatures made outdoor sport impossible but the Boxing Team captained by Lieutenant Peter de Zulueta who himself participated, became BAOR champions. Corporal J J Macey (lightweight) and Lance Sergeant Alfie Bray (heavyweight) were leading exponents of the noble art. I was honorary Medical Officer to the boxing team and remember victory celebrations going on into the early hours at Wuppertal.

The Battalion moved to Gatow, in Berlin, on a sunny St. David's Day 1952 and to Wavell Barracks, Spandau, at the end of April when I was also appointed Surgical Specialist at the British Military Hospital (BMH). My daily routine began

with a 0630 reveille and a sick parade at 0700 which followed for the M & D punters to parade for the CO at 0800. My daily duties were full with the Battalion and the BMH but I made time for sports training in the afternoon and occasionally squash games with Captain Philip Ward and Newton Webb-Bowen, Lieutenant David Davies and Majors John Miller or Rhydian Llewellyn. In the MI Room I was ably assisted by Corporal Doughty who also deputised as driver of the blood wagon from time to time although my servant, 68 Jones, normally carried out that duty.

Our prize dodger was an auburn-haired Guardsman and barrack room lawyer whose identity I can't reveal for ethical reasons, Suffice to say his last number was 8 and he had a Welsh Surname! He was well versed in backaches, headaches, muscular spasms, chest and stomach ailments and even athletes foot, but I caught him out at one sick parade. Smartly turned out as always and carrying his small kit, which he kept permanently packed in case of hospitalisation, he complained, "For two days, Sir, everything I eats comes back." I awarded him M & D (Excused Eating).

Despite a busy workload and representing the Battalion at rugby and soccer there was an added duty at Spandau Prison where seven infamous Nazi leaders were held. The four Occupying Powers took turns to guard the Prison and, when the Battalion took over, I had to visit the inmates daily to check on their health and well-being. They were referred to by number only and I was allowed one question, "Any complaints No.X?" Grouses about their diet, the heat or cold, and the behaviour of other prisoners were recorded but never discussed and a physical examination was only necessary for medical reasons. In reply most of the time the prisoners simply turned away or said, "Nein".

Baron Konstantin von Neurath (No. 1) had been Reichsprotector of Bohemia and Moravia until he was replaced by the notorious Reinhardt Heydrich. Bed-ridden, von Neurath was undergoing treatment for cardiac failure and I simply looked in and nodded from the foot of his bed. Baldur von Schirach (no. 2) was a dyed-in-the-wool Nazi who masterminded the Hitler Youth Organisation and was responsible for deporting 60,000 Jews from Vienna to labour and concentration camps. He frequently turned his back in visiting medical officers regarded as inferior in rank and status. All in all he was a most unsavoury character.

Admirals Raeder (No. 3) and Doenitz (No. 4) disliked each other intensely and their feud carried over into captivity. If you spoke to one at any length, the other automatically turned on his heels and walked away. Raeder was jealous of Doenitz's promotion over his head in 1943 and his succession as Head of State during the last weeks of the war.

Walter Funk (No 5) was a complete misfit among the high-ranking Nazis. As President of the Reich Bank he stashed away gold bars and stolen art treasures and devised schemes to reclaim gold teeth from victims in the death camps. Often complaining, and a chronic whinger, he was shunned by his fellow prisoners. He and Rudolf Hess were the only "lifers" in Spandau and he died there in 1974.

Albert Speer (No. 6) admitted responsibility for atrocities at the Nuremberg trials, which possibly saved him from the gallows. A tall, well built man he was the most genial member of the sorry bunch of war criminals in Spandau. When he was allowed to do so by the warders he engaged us in conversation, once telling me he had mountaineered in Scotland and rowed at Henley when he was an architectural student in the 1920s. Released in 1966 he published his memoirs revealing his relationship with Hitler and the Nazi Party.

The most infamous inmate was (No. 7) Rudolf Hess, whose flight to Scotland early in the war on what he believed to be a peace mission, had ended in prisoner of war camps and, for three years, in an isolation wing of Pen-y-Fal Hospital near Abergavenny. Labelled as a depressive psychotic he believed his food was poisoned and regularly complained of stomach cramps. Hess was regarded as a deserter by the others and was the sole prisoner held in Spandau for the last 13 years of his life. Hess hung himself in his cell at the age of 91 having spent 41 years in Spandau Prison. I well remember seeing him in the exercise yard. A lonely figure, head bowed and shuffling around in a black leather flying jacket. Within 48 years of his death the prison was bulldozed to the ground to prevent it becoming a martyr's citadel.

I have fond memories of my days as MO of the Battalion and am proud to have represented the Battalion at rugby and football. I was honoured to be made an Honorary Member of the Welsh Guards

Club and Hon. Vice President of the Monmouthshire Branch of the Association. The saying "Once a Guardsman, always a Guardsman" is in my opinion truly applicable in every respect. Although I was never a "proper" Welsh Guardsman, I shall remember with pride my association with the best Regiment in the British Isles.

Eric Sturdy, a welsh speaking native of Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire, was Consultant Surgeon at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport for 31 years prior to his retirement in 1993. He is a well known and popular novelist and regularly attends Welsh Guards dinners and ceremonial occasions. His contributions in his professional life, and to the many organisations he belongs to, have been immense and the Welsh Guards are proud to call him one of their own.

"THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD"

By Roy Lewis



2040892 Guardsman Jack Johnson

On 12th August 1944 in Normandy a Bren Carrier came into contact with a pair of "Teller" mines. Of its crew of four 2736664 Lance Sergeant D J Howells, a milkman from Newport, died on the spot, the driver 2040892 Guardsman J A Johnson died four days later and 2733732 Cliff Williams of Ebbw Vale (who survived the war and died in the 1970s), was badly injured,

which left the fourth member of the crew, 2735977 Guardsman Fred Bowden to tell the tale.

Jack Johnson and Lance Sergeant Howells are buried with 50 other Welsh Guardsmen in the War Cemetery at Bayeux which Fred had visited a number of times in recent years and in 2004 noticed that poppies had been placed on Jack's grave indicating that someone was taking an interest and Fred thought he would follow it up.

Enquiries at a BBC web site and a letter to Jack's 1940 address were unsuccessful but, at the suggestion of the War Graves Commission a letter in the New Milton Advertiser struck gold, resulting in a visit to Fred's home in Wimbledon by Jack's widow, his daughter, son-in-law and grandson, then a Captain in the special Services. The story appeared under front page headlines in the 11th November 2006 issue of the Advertiser.

As a result of which Jack's name has been entered in the Royal British Legion branch Book of Remembrance and has also been inscribed on the New Milton War Memorial. He will always be remembered by his comrade Fred, and in 2007 for the first time, Jack's wife Teresa and daughter Christine were able, on Remembrance Sunday, to lay a wreath in memory of a husband and father. Fred would like to be able to achieve something similar with regard to Jack Howell's family, but has no starting point.

Fred and his son and daughter-in-law are popular members of the Welsh Guards Battlefield tour group. Visiting war graves has a special interest for him and on the 2008 Normandy tour he again visited the resting place of the two men he left behind in the Bren Carrier 64 years earlier.

Footnote. Readers from the Newport, Gwent area who might know the Howells family are asked to contact the Association office in Cardiff.

A REAL BOY'S OWN STORY



Boy's weeklies were very popular between the two World Wars and for many years after and old copies of Hotspur, Adventure, Rover and Champion are now very collectible. After the War the Victor appeared and featured illustrated war stories based on fact, always over-dramatised, but read with great interest by the post-war generation of youngsters.

On February 12th 1972 the Victor, priced two and half pence, featured a story on the 3rd Battalion's battle at Fondounk in Tunisia in April 1943 and in particular the leadership and bravery of the Adjutant, Captain G D Rhys-Williams.

He was killed by a sniper and as Major Ellis in "Welsh Guards At War" wrote, "He died, giving his life to ensure a victory which owed so much to his quick understanding of what was needed, his unhesitating acceptance of responsibility, and his selfless devotion to duty."

The main illustration of that edition of Victor is re-produced left. Note Welsh Guards Lance Corporals with one stripe!

RECRUITING IN THE GREAT WAR



On Saturday 17th April 1915 a special rugby match was played at Cardiff Arms Park between Wales and the Barbarians, the first fixture of its kind. Caps were not awarded and initially it was advertised as a "Military International" between Wales and England. Its purpose was to boost recruitment for the Welsh Guards, then only 58 days old. One thousand recruits were sought from Wales and there were "stirring" speeches at half-time.

The Barbarians beat a near full-strength Wales XV 26-10 and sixty men were enlisted on the same day. Seventeen more joined on Sunday and a hundred more on Monday. Gate money totalled £200.00 which was given to local military charities.

Recruiting in 1915 was intensified because the mounting casualties on the Western Front were stretching the Army's manpower which depended on Regulars, Territorials and volunteers who joined "Kitchener's Army". The voluntary system was finally abolished and was replaced by conscription in January 1916.

Once the Welsh Guards was formed in February 1915, Sir Francis Lloyd, a Welshman and a Grenadier who was GOC London District, made strenuous efforts to persuade Welshmen in the

Grenadier Guards to transfer to the new Regiment. He was described as "the one man Welshmen would have looked to, to carry the undertaking through and he was full of enthusiasm for the project."

Sir Francis spoke at many public meetings in London and Wales and the results were better than expected. After one successful meeting he said, "I am fully satisfied with the men we have got together today as the nucleus of the Welsh Guards. They are typical Welshmen and many of them speak the language. They are Evanses, Joneses, Davieses and Lloyds."

Hundreds of Grenadiers transferred and their 3rd Battalion had a majority of Welshmen in its ranks, a large proportion from South Wales, chiefly miners from the Rhondda Valley who all transferred.

A matter of months after its formation the 1st Battalion fought its major battle at Loos. The accompanying photograph is taken from a postcard showing a ceremony outside City Hall, Cardiff in 1915 when a German gun captured by the Regiment at Loos was presented to the City.

It was yet another way of drawing the attention of Wales to its new Regiment and of encouraging its young men to join it.

EQUITATION REMINISCENCES

By Colonel S C C Gausson
- formerly Welsh Guards

Winston Churchill wrote: "Time spent in the saddle is never wasted". I grew up in a family where we all rode and where horse activities, particularly hunting, played a large part in our lives. Our local Master of Foxhounds before the war was Cyril Heber-Percy, who had recently retired from the Regiment. In those days officers were encouraged to take long spells of hunting leave, following the example of the Colonel of the Regiment, the then Prince of Wales, who hunted from Melton Mowbray, rode in point-to-points, the military races at Hawthorn Hill and who supported the Household Brigade Drag Hounds at Windsor. Cyril rejoined the Regiment at the beginning of World War II and often stayed with us when on leave to hunt the hounds. He stayed with us again to convalesce having been wounded whilst commanding the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in Normandy and he recommended me to join the Regiment.

I went to Sandhurst in 1951 and kept a horse at the Staff College stables and enjoyed whipping-in to the RMA Sandhurst and Staff College Drag Hounds on Wednesdays and Foxhounds on Saturdays. I also rode in my first point-to-point and competed in the Sandhurst Horse Show and the Army Hunter Trials. I joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin in 1952 and was delighted to find a stable of horses for hacking, polo and hunter trials under the care of Sergeant Winsor. He had learnt his horse management skills before the war as an officer's groom. John Miller had just returned to the battalion after being in the British Three Day Event team for the Helsinki Olympics but sadly a hard fall had prevented him from competing.

My first experience of the Household Brigade Saddle Club came when I returned to England for my young officer's courses and got my first chance to hunt in Leicestershire on the Club's horses. Cyril Heber-Percy was showing great sport hunting the Cottesmore hounds whilst the huntsmen of the Quorn and Belvoir were George Barker and George Tongue, both top class professional huntsmen. The country was nearly

all grass with inviting fences to jump. The Meltonians were very welcoming and many of them hunted four or five days a week. After the Coronation I moved with the Battalion to Victoria Barracks, Windsor, and was able to hack out in the Great Park on the chargers based there. In late 1953 the Battalion moved to El Ballah in the Canal Zone which was in reach of the polo stables in Moascar where I learned to play polo. I returned to the Guards Depot in 1954 and hunted as much as I could both at home and with the Saddle Club, which John Miller, who was then Regimental Adjutant and Secretary, had reorganised with Sergeant Winsor as Stud Groom.

I joined the Household Brigade Polo Club, then based at Henley on Thames, in 1955 where I kept my own pony and rode the club ponies which had been given to the Club by the great polo patron, Archie David. Later in that season the Club moved to Smith's Lawn in Windsor Great Park where two grounds had just been cleared and the only other facility was an army tent. Prince Philip, who was Colonel of the Regiment at that time, often led a successful Regimental Team although he was ineligible to compete in the Inter-Regimental Army Cup. Our principal players then were Bob Sale, Richard Watt, John Miller and Mervyn Fox-Pitt. In 1957 I became Assistant Regimental Adjutant and an Extra Equerry to Prince Philip, where I had plenty of opportunities to play polo and to hunt. I was also Secretary of the Saddle Club, responsible for allocating the eight chargers sent to Melton every winter from London and the four club horses, two of whom had been given by Henry Coombe-Tennant when he became a monk at Downside. These were fully used by serving officers and a few retired officers. Some private horses owned by serving officers were also kept in the Club stable.

The Regiment has always supported National Hunt racing and was greatly encouraged by Jim Windsor-Lewis when he was Regimental Lieutenant Colonel in the early 1950's, having himself ridden in races before the war. Two of his great friends, Peter Cazelet, a leading National Hunt trainer and Anthony Mildmay, a successful amateur rider of his day, had both served with him when he commanded the 2nd Battalion in North West Europe. During the 1950's and 1960's David Gibson had great success with his horses under National Hunt

rules, winning the Grand Military at Sandown three times on his horse Klaxton. The Household Brigade Point-to-Point was held for a few years at Crowell in Oxfordshire and later at Tweseldown. I rode several times in the race for serving officers and after several attempts, I was very proud to win in 1959 and to receive the Cup from the Duchess of Gloucester.

In the 1960's and early 1970's Charles Stephens rode his own horses, which he trained under permit at Waltham in the Wolds near Melton. He also rode in many point-to-points in Leicestershire and Wales. Graham Vere-Nicoll was riding with success at this time and included amongst his wins the Grant Military in 1968 on his own horse Ballyverine.

In more recent years Regimental support for National Hunt racing has focused on the sponsorship of a race (with a handsome trophy to the winner) at one of the jump courses in the Regimental Recruiting area at Bangor on Dee, Hereford and, currently, at Ludlow where a hundred or more members enjoy the racing from their own enclosure.

I served twice with the Battalion in Germany in 4th Guards Brigade, first in Hubbelrath in the 1960's where the Brigade stables were ably run the Hans Hasselwander, a former German cavalry soldier, and then in Munster in the 1970's. These provided plenty of opportunities for riding, hunting German style and polo.

In 1965 I went to Aden with the Battalion where our time was divided between operations in the Radfan mountains and internal security duties in Aden. Whilst in Aden I enjoyed playing polo at RAF Khormaksar where a highlight of the season was representing the Army along with Timmy Smythe-Osborne and Tom Wills of the Coldstream where we defeated a combined RN and RAF team.

I returned to England in early 1966 to be Regimental Adjutant and again became Secretary of what was now the Household Division Saddle Club. I resumed playing polo at Smith's Lawn where the Polo Club had expanded considerably under the chairmanship of Colonel Gerard-Leigh, Life Guards and later Richard Watt, and where the large string of ponies was most ably managed by Sergeant Barrett for many years. In 1975 I became Commandant of the Guards Depot at Pirbright where there was a stable of

horses used to teach junior troopers of the Household Cavalry to ride. The horses came mainly from the Household Cavalry mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge, and some from the King's Troop, RHA. This enabled me to visit the ranges and watch training from horseback, as well as riding on the Commandant's Parades. I also took up tent-pegging and was a member of a team that gave displays locally in the form of competitors on horseback against a team on motorcycles. One day I hosted a meet of Mr Goschen's Hounds to hunt the many foxes in the danger area, which we were able to close while hunting took place!

My final season of polo was in 1976 which culminated in the Regimental team winning both the Army Cup at Tidworth and the inter-Regimental Cup in Germany. I was joined in the team by Reddy Watt, who with a 5 goal handicap was the highest handicapped army player, Jamie Collins and Guardsman Joseph, one of the Club's grooms. It was the first time that the Regiment had won this prestigious competition, normally won by cavalry regiments.

I was Regimental Lieutenant Colonel from 1978-82 and also Chairman of the Saddle Club. The Prince of Wales was now Colonel of the Regiment and he used to hunt frequently in Leicestershire and there was often a brief opportunity to discuss Regimental affairs. One year he joined me in a Regimental triathlon team at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in a competition that tested our riding, clay pigeon shooting and fly-casting skills. I particularly enjoyed hosting the annual dinner for the Saddle Club grooms to which the huntsmen of the Leicestershire packs were invited. I also much enjoyed riding each year on the Queen's Birthday Parade, especially in 1981 when I was the Field Officer in Brigade Waiting. I rode a horse called Garryowen whom I had hunted and on whom Richard Bethell, Scots Guards, had won the Saddle Club Cup in the Melton Hunt Club cross country race earlier in the year.

I hope in these days when our small army is so heavily committed that members of the Household Division still get the opportunity to ride and pursue horse activities which do so much to develop leadership qualities, an eye for country and are such tremendous fun. It also makes riding on parade less of an ordeal!

THE ONLY TIME IT HAD EVER BEEN DONE

By Henry Keown-Boyd



Lt Col Templer and Major Luxmoore-Ball

So wrote Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer in his autobiographical notes when referring to his second-in-command in the 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment in 1940.

Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Richard Edmund Coryndon Luxmoore-Ball, DSO, DSM, Croix de Guerre, the son of Arthur and Maria (nee Luxmoore) Ball was born in 1883 and commissioned in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers as a Special Reserve Officer shortly after his eighteenth birthday. This Battalion did not leave the United Kingdom during the Boer War but Luxmoore-Ball transferred to the 1st Battalion (serving as Lieutenant R.E. Ball) and received the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902 with the clasps 'ORANGE FREE STATE' 'TRANSVAAL', 'SOUTH AFRICA 1901' and 'SOUTH AFRICA 1902'.

However, with the end of hostilities in South Africa he seems not to have taken up a regular commission in the British Army as in 1903 he is believed to have departed for Trinidad and served in an unrecorded capacity with the locally-raised Trinidad Light Horse.

At some point thereafter he must have returned to Southern Africa and, with the outbreak of war in 1914, we find him as a Colour-Sergeant with the 1st Rhodesian Regiment in German South-West Africa (now Namibia) where he was decorated with the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). For some reason this was not gazetted until 1918 and no citation can be found.

In August 1915 he was commissioned in the newly-formed Welsh Guards from the 'South African Forces' and served with that regiment on the Western Front for the rest of the war except for a three-month period in England recovering from a wound. A photograph, taken in 1919, shows him with three wound stripes on his sleeve.

Remarkably, as a substantive Lieutenant, he commanded the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on two occasions for a total of nearly 6 months in 1918/1919; probably a unique distinction for any Officer who had served in the ranks and it is this that Templer had served many years later as quoted above. During this period he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order to add to his DCM, probably another unique double achievement. It is almost superfluous to record that in the course of the War he was mentioned in Despatches three times and was awarded the Croix de Guerre!

We know little of his personal circumstances and we have no date for his marriage to Margaret Gibson but it is unlikely that without a substantial private income he could have supported himself and, possibly, a family as a peacetime Officer in the Brigade of Guards. Whatever the reason, he resigned his commission in 1919 and joined the Colonial Service as a district political Officer in the former German colony Tanganyika.

But his military career was by no means over and 20 years later we find him serving in France with the 9th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment - 'oldish men who had come out as aerodrome guards' - by which time Luxmoore-Ball would have been 56 years of age and involved in the



9TH Bn. Ross On Wye July/August 1940 WO's/Sgts Left to right

Back row - Sgt's Leigh, Davis, Bugden, Cosham, Gosden, Godden, Curd, Sutton, Jones, Lillywhite, Harris

Middle Row - ?, ?, ? Sgt's King, Lawrence, Newell, Humphries, Fogden, ?, ?, Coombes, ?, Beattie, Bishop, Hadlow, Bedwell, Mann

Front Row - Sgt Cain, CQMS's Gains, Shotton, CSM's Barnard, Simons, Stevens, RSM Pack, Capt. N. Selkirk, Lt.Col G. Templer, Major Luxmoore-Ball, Capt (QM) Lewis, RQMS Missoe, CSM's Brett, Bacon, CQMS's Williams, Rusby, Sgt's Gibson, Andrews, ?

fighting around Arras for the second time in two years.

Presumably evacuated from Dunkirk, his battalion was disbanded soon afterwards and Luxmoore-Ball obtains further active employment with another 9th Battalion, this time of the Royal Sussex, under no less a personage than the future Field Marshal Sir Gerard Templer who, with some reservations, is not unimpressed with the old warrior. 'He was my second-in-command', he wrote many years later, 'provided he was sober, and a very good one too.'

However, neither Templer nor his second-in-command remained very long with the Sussex, the former promoted to command of a Brigade and the latter appointed as the OC Troops on a troopship from Australia to the Middle East with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Here, in the last months of his life, we enter into the realms of speculation. We know that his date of death was 5th August 1941 but its circumstances are unclear. He is believed to have died in the Red Sea but is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery at Hargeisa, ex-British Somaliland, an improbable resting place over a hundred miles from the coast for one whose body would have been committed to the Deep - but then there is little that is predictable in the career of this most unusual soldier.

The whereabouts of his medals is unknown but the group should consist of:

Distinguished Service Order

Distinguished Conduct Medal

Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902 with four clasps

1914-1915 Star

British War Medal 1914-1920

Victory Medal 1914-1919

1939-1945 Star

War Medal 1939-1945

(possibly) Defence Medal 1939-1945

Croix de Guerre

Acknowledgements and sources

Mrs Tricia Luxmoore-Ball

Templar - Tiger of Malaya by John Cloake

Records of the Welsh Guards

Sammy's Wars - The Recollections of Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier, ed. Sir Beville Stanier

The Welsh Guards at War by LF Ellis

Records of the West Yorkshire regiment

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

South African National Archives

National Archives

**WELSH GUARDS LINK WITH AUTHOR
P.G. WODEHOUSE (1881-1975)**

By John Stone



*PG Wodehouse Society Dinner at Grays Inn on October 23
2008 Sir Edward Cazalet (left) and John Stone*

Two former Welsh Guardsmen, through a chance meeting at a P.G. Wodehouse Literary Society Dinner, recently met up for the first time since serving in the Suez Canal zone more than fifty years ago. They were brought together by their mutual enthusiasm for the works of the great humorist and novelist, P.G. Wodehouse.



A painting of the late Edward Cazalet in uniform, just before joining the Welsh Guards in France during World War I



Peter Cazalet, future Tank Commander, starting his military training on a humble motorbike rather than a racehorse.

They are Sir Edward Cazalet, step-grandson of the legendary writer, and John Stone who owns more than ninety of PGW's works. The dinner which brought them together was held at Gray's Inn in Central London, and the Wodehouse Society is one to which many illustrious actors and writers belong such as Sir John Mortimer, Richard Briers, Stephen Fry and many others.

Edward Cazalet was the third member of his family to serve in the regiment, joining in 1954. He recalls:-

"The first member of the family to join was my namesake and Uncle Edward Cazalet who was a subaltern. Just seven weeks after being sent out to join the Regiment in France he was killed at the Battle of Somme in September 1916. His youngest brother (who was later to become one of the country's leading racehorse trainers) enlisted in the Welsh Guards Armoured Division in 1941. With the rank of Major he took part in the D-Day Landings in France in 1944, thereafter fighting his way across France, Belgium and Germany.

Peter was my father, and I joined the Regiment in 1954 to complete my two years National Service. After receiving a commission I went to Suez to join the 1st Battalion and shortly afterwards was posted to Brigade Headquarters where I became LOQ (in effect ADC) to the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Jim Windsor-Lewis."

The Wodehouse connection is that Peter Cazalet



Three Welsh Guards officers! An off duty photograph at Pickering during Brigade training. (L to R) young Edward Cazalet, Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazalet and Edward's sister Sheran.

was married to Leonora, PGW's step-daughter. Leonora, with their two children Sheran and Edward, followed the Regiment during the war years renting houses at different training points before the Battalion went off to D-Day. These included Pickering in Yorkshire, Coney Weston near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, Stockton in Wiltshire and finally Lulworth Cove in Dorset, where final preparations for the D-Day landings were made. Edward, then a young boy well remembers this.

In particular he recalls Anthony Mildmay (also a Welsh Guards Officer), his father's great racing friend, who was, after the war for four consecutive years, leading amateur steeplechase jockey. The family has a school history notebook of Edward's elder sister Sheran in which Rex Whistler, also with the Battalion, drew some marvellous humorous pictures, which include Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey, to name but two.

Tragically Rex Whistler was killed shortly after the invasion of France. Another great character at the time was the same Jim Windsor-Lewis to whom Edward later was to become ADC. Sadly Leonora died in March 1944 just before Peter left for France with the D-Day landing force. Edward, after his National Service, followed a distinguished career in the law, becoming a Q.C. and then a High Court Judge.

John served with the Prince of Wales Company, including street lining on the 1953 Coronation. In Suez he joined the Battalion Orderly Room and then the headquarters of the Moascar Garrison of MELF. Returning to the UK as a L/Sgt he transferred to RHQ, contributing articles for the Household Brigade magazine. He was a chorister



PG Wodehouse with stepdaughter Leonora, (Edward's Cazalet's mother) at Hunstanton Hall, Norfolk in the mid 1920s.

at the Guards Chapel choir and was also able to indulge his enthusiasm for playing the double bass at various venues in the London area! His career since then has been as Business Editor with Daily Mail-owned evening newspapers and a spell as Press Officer for Rolls-Royce Aero Engine Division at Derby.

Edward provides an invaluable direct family link to his step-grandfather, having spent many holidays with him at his home in Long Island, America. PGW created such memorable characters as Jeeves and Wooster, Lord Emsworth, fearsome aunts and Mr Mulliner, amongst many others. He wrote more than 80 novels, 300 short stories, articles, essays and verses, and almost 300 lyrics for over 20 musicals, also writing the whole, or part of 40 plays and libretti for the theatre, collaborating with other greats such as George and Ira Gershwin and Jerome Kern.

Wodehouse, says Edward, is the only man of whom he has ever heard who, at the age of 93, was still writing best sellers and, in the course of his daily dozen at 7.00 am each morning, was also touching his toes without bending his knees. He went on to say:-

"He wrote for six hours a day, seven days a week



John Stone (left) with other Welsh Guardsmen, awaiting embarkation for the Canal Zone on a troopship

and never took a holiday. His idea of a holiday was to write a play instead of a novel. He was always known as Plum, derived from his Christian name, Pelham, being said quickly. He hated arguments and his favourite subjects were literature, theatre and sport, on all of which he was extremely knowledgeable and eloquent. He could run through crosswords at breakneck speed - but was no good at mending fuses or punctures! He also quite enjoyed playing bridge but was never much good at it. However my grandmother was something of an expert and once, after they had unsuccessfully defended a hand, she leaned across and said to him in icy tones, "Plum, why did you not lead your ace earlier?", "Oh", replied Plum, "I led it as soon as I found it."

P.G. Woodhouse was knighted just before his death in 1975. His novels, which continue to be republished - currently in a superb new Everyman hardback edition as well as a new Arrow paperback edition -, still cause hilarity worldwide. His works have been translated into no less than twenty-eight different languages, and numerous thriving Woodhouse societies exist across the globe, demonstrating his lasting popularity.

WO1 (GSM) W D G MOTT OBE

By WO2 (RQMS) W J Williams



Left to right is WO1 (GSM) W D G Mott OBE, Vivienne Francis (artist) and RSM D W Pridmore (now Capt) with the portrait at the back.

William Daran Gilduff Mott enlisted on 29th March 1979 in Chester. He served with his brothers Major Nicholas Mott (Quartermaster of the Battalion) and Jonathan Mott (formerly RSM Kneller Hall) in the Battalion and they are all mad Liverpool supporters!

"Billy" as he is known, served in many theatres from Kenya, the Falklands Campaign, Cyprus, Germany, Canada, Belize, Sri Lanka, Jamaica, Jordan, Malaysia, USA and N. Ireland. He began to make his name at Sandhurst as a C/Sgt instructor, CSM and as RSM of Old College. He also served in HQ Lisburn in N. Ireland as the Garrison Sergeant Major. He currently serves as the Garrison Sergeant Major of HQ London District in a prestigious appointment in charge of all ceremonial duties but his unofficial title is Her Majesty's Ceremonial Warrant Officer. He was awarded the OBE in June 2007 in the Queen's Birthday Parade Honours List and went to Buckingham Palace to receive his medal from Her Majesty the Queen in October 2007. It was fitting that on 1st March 2008 at Wellington Barracks, Sergeants' Mess that a portrait was unveiled of him by the artist Vivienne Francis.

Speech given by Colonel T C S Bonas Regimental Adjutant in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess on St David's Day 2008:

All aware that today is a special day for Wales and this Regiment and therefore it is hugely



Garrison Sergeant Major W D G Mott OBE
HQ London District. Appointed 7th July 2002

appropriate that we are using it also to unveil a portrait of GSM Billy Mott to hang in the Sergeants' Mess.

We are delighted to welcome him and the artist, Vivienne Francis, who is a local artist and is a painter of portraits in the classical tradition.

This portrait is the first she has done for the military and she hopes to obtain many more commissions. "As you will see in a moment she should be able to secure many", given the quality of the work which is outstanding. Vivienne says "she takes pride in her attention to composition and costume detail", and, after 150 hours on the portrait she certainly achieved this.

Many will be curious to know why Garrison Sergeant Major Mott was chosen and there are a number of reasons for this. Aside from his good looks and natural stature of course it was important for Vivienne, to break into the Military world in London, to have a subject who was well known. The rest is really history as everybody knows Billy Mott!

This portrait of him is just as important to us as a Regiment as it is to Vivienne, if not more so. He is the first Welsh Guardsman to be the GSM of London District as one of the First Warrant Officer's to receive an OBE for his outstanding work. It is very fitting, therefore that we capture his appointment for history.

RFA SIR GALAHAD – CHIU YIU NAM GM

**Lt Col AIC Gordon MVO,
formerly Scots Guards**



Some of your more senior readers will recall that at Fitzroy on the 8th June 1982 Chiu Yiu Nam, a member of the crew of the Sir Galahad, saved the lives of 8 Welsh Guardsmen. After the ship was attacked by Argentinian aircraft, while acting as a member of the fire fighting team, Chiu ran into the burning hold to rescue one Guardsmen before disappearing again into the smoke and flames to rescue seven others. He was subsequently awarded the George Medal for his brave and heroic conduct.

Having been the Inspector of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and Commandant of the HKMSC Depot from 1986-88 I am now a co-opted Trustee of the Hong Kong Locally Enlisted Personnel Trust which is a registered charity holding funds for the relief of former LEP's "who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress". At the Autumn 2007 Meeting of the Trustees it was reported that Mr Chiu had been unable to accept an invitation to attend the Falkland 25 celebrations in London and that an expatriate medical officer had concluded that his poor health was attributable to inhalation of black smoke on board the Sir Galahad. Mr Chiu is as a result unemployed. I passed this information to Headquarters Welsh Guards.

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel decided that, 25 years after the events in question, the Regiment would wish to provide support to Chiu Yiu Nam through the good offices of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal British Legion and, as a small token of the Regiment's appreciation and gratitude, also present him with a regimental plaque. It was my Privilege to present the plaque on the Lieutenant Colonel's behalf at the 11th Annual Dinner of the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association held on 28 March 2008 at the BP International Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, and attended by almost 600 former LEP members of the Royal Navy and the HKMSC.

THE SQUAD OF '58 IN A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL REUNION

By David (Spider) Webb

An amazingly rewarding piece of detective work resulted in a terrific 50th anniversary reunion for a group of former Welsh Guardsmen.

It was in August 1958 that L/Sgt Bowden came into 23 lives as Squad Instructor at the Guards Depot, Caterham.

The Superintendent Sergeant was Reg Coe and the Squad Officer was 2nd Lt O G Wynne.

Former Guardsmen 56 Evans and 'Spider' were the instigators of a reunion of the squad which had consisted of a mixture of Regulars and National Servicemen. Bob says "we came up with the idea and we then met up with Len Davies (62) at the biennial dinner at Swansea in 2007.

"Bob 56 and Len Davies had a discussion over it, and Len, a born organiser started the journey to find the squad - after much hard work no less than 13 of the original group were able to attend the get-together at the Union Jack Club in London during August this year" also he organised the lunch with the U.J. Club. Then it was letters to all of us giving details of the event and he should be commended for his dedication to the task added Bob.

He said that Lady Luck was on their side when Len and Spider attended the Jam boys review by HRH Prince of Wales at Clarence House this May. Colonel O. G. Wynne was present and accepted an invitation to be present and also when contacted Captain Reg Coe and Ivor Bowden did not hesitate to accept so the ball was now rolling.

Colonel Davies (22) invited us to pre-lunch drinks in the boardroom and he and Brigadier Ricketts had a superb silver service lunch in a reserved room prepared for us. Added Bob "We each got up in turn after lunch to say how we felt about meeting up again. Len Davies said that he had sought out National Servicemen John Millard from Wolverhampton and Bob Lloyd at Tunbridge Wells. He also made successful discoveries in Bishop Auckland as well as North, Mid and South Wales. He told us that he had never had so much fun in this rewarding result.

Captain Coe said he could not tell us just how much pleasure it was for him to attend and to be part of the 50th celebration." Col Wynne said this is a unique gathering." Ivor Bowden said he fills up with pride to think a Welsh Guards Squad invited him and found it hard to believe anyone would want to see him."

There were apologies from a further four members of the squad Barry Gittoes, Ron Stone, Mark Hopkins, Brian Morgan 70 plus we had a minute's silence for Russ Wills who passed away ten years ago.

Bob then said the group all retired to the bar where the reminiscences flowed in abundance. While some made their way home during the evening others, stayed the night and carried on until closing time! "Altogether it was a wonderful 50th anniversary experience" he said.

Report written by Prycopyn (Spider)

Welsh Guards Regimental Accessories



Item 1



Item 2



Item 3



Item 4



Item 5



Item 6



Item 7



Item 8

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Item 1 | |
| <i>Polo Shirt Blue/Red/Blue</i> | £15.00 |
| Item 2 | |
| <i>Pocket Fob Watch with Crest</i> | £48.50 |
| Item 3 | |
| <i>Cuff Links with Dragon</i> | £ 7.00 |
| Item 4 | |
| <i>Cuff Links Regimental</i> | £18.00 |
| Item 5 | |
| <i>Ice Bucket with Battle Honours</i> | £ 25.00 |
| Item 6 | |
| <i>Golf Umbrella</i> | £15.50 |
| Item 7 | |
| <i>Statuette HSC China</i> | £135.00 |
| Item 8 | |
| <i>Statuette with Crest</i> | £15.00 |

Welsh Guards Regimental Accessories



Item 9



Items 10 & 11



Items 12 & 13



Items 14, 15 & 16



Items 18



Item 18

Item 9	
<i>Hip Flask with Crest</i>	£20.70
Item 10	
<i>Leather Wallet with Crest</i>	£12.00
Item 11	
<i>Leather Credit Card Holder</i>	£ 6.50
Item 12	
<i>Plaque SA80</i>	£12.30
Item 13	
<i>Bayonet SA80</i>	£ 12.30
Item 14	
<i>Print Duty Drummer</i>	£4.30
Item 15	
<i>Print Picquet Officer Round</i>	£4.30
Item 16	
<i>Print Bank of England</i>	£4.30
Item 17	
<i>Tankard with Crest</i>	£20.50
Item 18	
<i>Tea Towel with Battle Honours</i>	£4.30

Welsh Guards Regimental Accessories



Items 19, 20 & 21



Item 22



Items 23 & 24



Items 25, 26 & 27



Items 28 & 29



Item 30

Item 19		Item 25	
<i>Brigade Tie Silk Non Crush</i>	£11.00	<i>Guardsman Label Badge</i>	£3.80
Item 20		Item 26	
<i>Brigade Tie Silk</i>	£13.70	<i>Association Badge</i>	£2.20
Item 21		Item 27	
<i>Brigade Tie Polyester</i>	£ 7.00	<i>Ladies Lapel Badge with Pin</i>	£2.00
Item 22		Item 28	
<i>Wall Plaque</i>	£17.00	<i>Blazer Buttons Large</i>	£1.70
Item 23		Item 29	
<i>Key Fob</i>	£ 12.30	<i>Blazer Buttons Small</i>	£1.63
Item 24		Item 30	
<i>Cap Badge</i>	£3.50	<i>Handkerchief with Crest</i>	£2.40

Welsh Guards Regimental Accessories



Item 31



Item 32



Items 33 & 34



Item 35



Item 36



Item 37

Item 31	
<i>Watch Strap</i>	£11.00
Item 32	
<i>Brigade Scarf</i>	£13.70
Item 33	
<i>Tie Tack Regimental</i>	£ 7.00
Item 34	
<i>Crested Tie Tack</i>	£17.00
Item 35	
<i>Greeting Card</i>	£ 12.30
Item 36	
<i>Post Card</i>	£3.50
Item 37	
<i>Multi Pack Christmas Card</i>	£3.50
Item 38	
<i>Diary</i>	£5.00



Item 38

The Regimental Diary 2009 and all Regimental accessories can now be purchased from:

Regimental Headquarters
Welsh Guards, Wellington
Barracks, Birdcage Walk,
London, SW1E 6HQ.

Cheques made payable to:
Welsh Guards Lt Col Central
Fund.

THE WELSH GUARDS COLLECTION ESTABLISHED 1995



*President: Brigadier J.F Rickett CBE
Chairman: Colonel T.C.S Bonas
Treasurer: Lt/Col B.D Morgan MBE
Secretary: RQMS W Williams 25
Curator: Mr ST Evans
Email: stanevans67@hotmail.com*

Foreword by Colonel TCS Bonas

Before my visit to the Collection in September this year I had heard a great deal about it but regret had not had the opportunity to visit before. I soon realized this was my loss and that everything I had heard was true - it is a superb collection where Stan Evans and his enthusiastic and committed band of volunteers have worked wonders. They have managed to capture our history very well and there is something for all whether it is weapons, photographs, uniforms, medals and so much else. As a Regiment I believe we are well served by this Collection and am enormously grateful to Stan and his team for all the hard work they put in. If you have not had the opportunity to visit please do not wait as long as I did - you will thoroughly enjoy it and made to feel very welcome.

Report by The Curator

Having spent thirteen weeks in hospital which culminated with me having my left leg amputated above the knee and many more weeks convalescing, I'm hardly in a position to give a report on our progress over the past twelve months other than to say the Gentlemen who make up the team here at Oswestry have worked tirelessly to maintain the high standards of display which we have become accustomed and never once failing to open for our visitors. I

thought therefore I would let two of our newest members of the team introduce themselves to the reader. Stan Evans Curator.

I am 23523212 Gerald Tilston; I joined the Welsh Guards in 1958 at Caterham and stepped off in 1961 whilst the Battalion was in Gort Barracks Germany. I was fortunate enough to take an early retirement in 1994 and move to the Lake District, then moving north to Scotland and eventually Donegal in the North West of Ireland in 2003. My decision to move back to Wales came about in the spring of 2007. The circumstances maybe of interest to all Guardsmen everywhere.

I had kept in touch with the Regiment and in particular the North of England branch of the Welsh Guards Association and made frequent visits to see my family in North Wales and Cheshire.

It was in this period of spring 2007 that in my post one morning was my annual copy of the Regimental magazine. What I found of interest was an article by Stan Evans, Curator of the Welsh Guards Collection. He had invited ex Welsh Guardsmen to come to Oswestry and join the team of volunteers who helped with the day to day running of the museum. I had visited the site in 2004. This sparked a feeling of "home sickness" and a yearning to return to my native heath. So I wrote a letter to Stan offering my services at the Museum and his subsequent telephone call to me was positive and I put my plans into operation. I set sail for "Blighty" on 26th July 2007 and a little while later I was invited to join the "squad" at Park Hall Camp in Oswestry Shropshire.

I have been at the Museum for just over a year and having currently attended the AGM of the Welsh Guards Collection it was suggested that I along with colleagues might express out thoughts, finding and experiences within the pages of the Regimental magazine.

Being an assistant at the Museum is a very interesting and important position. It is in many ways an extension of my own professional working life that of fine arts auctioneer and valuer. So I place great emphasis on the Museum its collection of valued exhibits and its prestigious position within the ranks of the British Army Museums. I suppose for me the most exciting and rewarding aspect of the day to

day museum life is meeting ex serving members of the Regiment, their families and friends. Everyone has a tale to tell and renewing old friends and making new friends is common place.

We all agree here at the Welsh Guards Collection that the way forward for the Museum and to promote the Regiment is targeting the young school children that visit us on school outings throughout the year here at the Park Hall Countryside Experience and many proud parents take away memorable photographs of youngsters dressed up in "junior" Home Service clothing including bearskin standing within the sentry box in the Museum. Importantly also is the desire and ambition for the Museum to attain full accreditation to the Museums Libraries and Archives of Great Britain and it is with this aim that the Committee are at the present time striving toward.

22831530 Tony Crisp
(1st June 1956 - 31st May 1959)

As a somewhat reluctant soldier back in the 1950's, but one who was determined to serve in a regiment with a good reputation, I volunteered to join the Welsh Guards. It was all I expected it to be, disciplined and strangely enough quite enjoyable. It was the drill and ceremonial duties that I enjoyed the most and not the real soldiering. I certainly did not intend to make the army my career and to that end I made the most of it. Towards the end of my three years service I applied to join the Metropolitan Police Force and unashamedly used the Welsh Guards to aid my application on my appearance. Within a week of "stepping off" was accepted to the Police service. My Army training even helped me there, as I was tasked with helping other recruits learn basic drill movements.

For the next twenty years or so, I can honestly say and with head hanging in shame that the only time I mentioned the Welsh Guards was to impress or influence people. It was after twenty three years of operational police duty that my army training came to my aid once again by my application and acceptance as a rifle instructor at the Police Training School Hendon where I stayed until the end of my services.

I am now back in my home town of Llanidloes and joined the local branch of the Welsh Guards Comrades Association and there learned of the existence of a fantastic Welsh Guards Collection situation 45 miles from here just outside

Oswestry and for the last year or so have joined Stan Evans and his ex Welsh Guards colleagues as an assistant at the Collection as a gesture of giving something back to the Regiment hopefully to make up for what I got out of it. I was surprising how much regimental history I had forgotten over the years but now I am enjoying myself catching up again and also talking to the general public about all sorts of military matters.

BRITISH ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS DAY 2009

A day of celebration to commemorate the service given by both past and present members of our Armed Forces is to be held on Saturday 27th June 2009 in Cardiff.

In broad out line the day will consist of the following

1. A Parade through Cardiff City Centre of serving personnel all three services and Veterans.
2. Drum Head Service
3. Reception
4. Band and Choir Concert
5. Series of military events/stands
6. In addition 160(W) is to hold a reception in the castle followed by a Beating Retreat as a finale.

To make this a memorable day for the veterans, their families and for the general public we are trying to encourage as many military units both Regular and Territorial to be part of this day.

THE INFANTRY BOYS BATTALION & INFANTRY JUNIORS LEADERS BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Memorial Dedication Weekend
6th/7th June 2009

The IBB & IJLB Association will be dedicating a memorial built from donations raised by the Infantry Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders over the weekend 6/7 June 2009 at Oswestry to commemorate the achievement of this unique Infantry Battalion which will tell future generations who we were, what we were and what we achieved. Secondly it will probably be the last time that the IBB & IJLB Association will march through what is considered its spiritual home, Oswestry exercising its right to do so having been granted to freedom of Oswestry in 1971.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders whose generosity has made this memorial possible.

The format for the weekend:

Saturday 6th June

Meet at the Rugby Club (the former Officers Mess) at Park Hall Camp at 1200 Noon for an informal get together. Sandwiches, a bar and light refreshments will be available to purchase. There will be a display of photographs and memorabilia in the Clubhouse.

Dinner at the Old Assembly Rooms at the Camp (now an entertaining suite) will be served at 1930 for 2000 hrs. A full bar will be available.

Sunday 7th June

1000 am

Assemble at Oswestry town centre for the Dedication parade and march through Oswestry. A memorial drumhead will be held at Cae Glas Park, the location of the memorial. The Band of the King's Division will be in attendance.

1300 hours

Curry lunch in the Old Assembly Rooms at Park Hall Camp, a bar will available in the Assembly Rooms.

1500 hours

The Band will beat Retreat on the Oswestry Showground which is the Old Drill Square at Park Hall Camp.

For further information about booking dinner, lunch or parade only please contact the Secretary, of the IBB & IJLB Association, Mr Ken Nicol at :

44 CEFN ROAD

WREXHAM

LL13 9NH

Email KnmthNic@aol.com

Or visit the IJLB Association website at www.ijlb.co.uk for further information.

SSAFA FORCES HELP NEEDS YOU!!!!

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help needs you.

There are over 10 million people eligible for help from SSAFA Forces Help, the leading National Charity committed to helping those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both. We provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people each year.

Volunteers can give as little or as much time as they can spare. There are positions for people interested in practical case work as well as other roles such as team leaders, treasurers and fundraisers. SSAFA Forces Help also has a network of volunteers who within serving communities.

If you would like to be part of our **important volunteer team** that cares for those who have left the Services please get in touch. Training is provided and all out of pocket expenses are paid.

Please contact: Mr Glen Smith

Branch Support Advisor-Membership

19 Queen Elizabeth Street

LONDON

SE1 2LP

Telephone: 0207 463 9273

Email: Glen.s@ssafa.org.uk

THE WELSH GUARDS 2009 CALENDAR



SUPPORTING REGIMENTAL CHARITIES

Last year saw the launch of The Welsh Guards Calendar and we are pleased to announce that we have now finalised the 2009 Calendar.

Once again, a small dedicated team at RHQ have been collating materials from the Battalion and the Association, as well as the Band and our Cadet detachments to feature in the 2009 Regimental Calendar, and our thanks go to all who have contributed images to help us produce this year's calendar.

The calendar depicts, through high quality pictures and text, an overview of the Regiment, giving an insight into the many roles and activities we perform. Our Association also feature with pictures from Association events that have taken place throughout the year.

The calendar also highlights the ceremonial duties we perform, and our regular soldiers and recruits on training exercises, as well as our sporting and adventure achievements.

It's a fascinating insight into the world of The Welsh Guards and our Association.

The calendar is in full colour, A3 size, and is extremely high quality, and lists key regimental days throughout the year.

We are pleased to announce that proceeds from the sale of this calendar will, once again, be donated to our Regimental charities, so we thank you in advance for your purchase, and we hope that you enjoy The Welsh Guards Calendar throughout 2009.

The calendar will also make a fantastic Christmas gift, and to ensure delivery in time for Christmas please place your order now by:-

- Completing the coupon below and posting back to the address listed with payment.
- Go to www.thewelshguards.com and order on-line
- Call 0845 612 6647 and place your order over the phone. Payment can be made by Debit or Credit Card.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

HOW TO ORDER YOUR CALENDAR

Each calendar is priced at £12.49. Price includes VAT & UK postage. Please add a further £3.00 per calendar for overseas postage.

You can order your chosen calendar/s by one of the following methods:

Phone: 0845 61 26647 (09:00 - 17:00, Monday to Friday)

Web Site: www.thewelshguards.com

Email: sales.desk@aonixlimited.com

Post: Complete the coupon opposite and return it in an envelope with payment to: Aonix Limited, First Floor, Cecil Court, 28-36 Cecil Road, Hale, Cheshire, WA15 9PB, United Kingdom.

Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____ _____ Postcode _____
Daytime Telephone No.	_____
Please send me _____ Welsh Guards 2009 Calendar(s) @ £12.49 each (including VAT & UK postage). Please add a further £3.00 per calendar for overseas postage.	
I wish to pay by cheque/postal order(s) made payable to Calendar Office Value _____ Number _____	
I wish to pay by credit card/Maestro please debit my account by £ _____ Card No. _____ Name on card _____ Start date _____ Expiry date _____ 3 Digit security code _____ Issue No. (Switch) _____	

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

President: Colonel T S Bonas
Vice President: Brigadier J F Rickett CBE
Vice President: R Lewis Esq.
Treasurer: Major K Oultram
Secretary General: B Keane Esq.
 Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE
 Telephone: 029 2078 1342 E-mail:
 welshguardsassociation@live.co.uk

2008 saw St David's Day being celebrated with the Regiment at Wellington Barracks, with almost 200 Association members in attendance, proving once again how important it is to have contact with serving Welsh Guardsmen. This was followed in May by a Review of the Prince of Wales's Company at Clarence House by HRH Prince Charles. Again, families and past members of the Company were invited to attend, which made it a memorable day in fantastic sunshine. Let's hope that occasions such as these will encourage Guardsmen to think of joining the Association in order to continue their ties with the Regiment when their service ends.

Next year, it is planned to celebrate St David's Day at Lille Barracks, Aldershot, the new home of the Welsh Guards. This will give the Association the opportunity of wishing the Battalion the very best of luck before they deploy to Afghanistan.

2009 also heralds the Biennial Dinner at Ludlow, on Saturday 28th March. This is a great venue which we have used in the past, and has numerous B/B and hotels in the close vicinity. Please put this date in your diary, since it is a great way of renewing old friendships, and even making new ones - you can be sure of a lot of 'Blanco and Bull...' between courses!

The Association and local Branches holds several events throughout the year, with hopefully something to suit everyone. All this takes time and effort to arrange, so please come along and show your support. We are an extremely strong family with close ties, and it would be sad to see our numbers dwindling.

My thanks go once again to all of you who make the Association what it is today, especially Branch Secretaries who work so tirelessly in keeping their members up to date with current news and events. I look forward to seeing you all in 2009.

Brian Keane
Secretary General

ABERDARE BRANCH



Members of the Branch at the Swansea Dinner October 2008

(Formed 1951)
President: Simon Rhodes Esq.
Chairman: John Coleman (22217873)
Treasurer:
Secretary: Michael Williams (23325233)
 33 Tre Gwilym, Cwmbach
 Aberdare
 Mid Glam CF44 0AA
 Tel: 01685 877786

Another year has slipped by, and very disappointedly, with no interest in any new blood taking over the helm. We are in dire need of younger members to come forward with new ideas. We know you are out there, so come along and help to keep the Association alive. There are many things already organised such as Race Days, Golf, Darts and Shooting, and Reunion Dinners, but there is also room for more at Branch level. Our meetings are casual and extremely friendly, and any suggestions, large or small will be taken on board and openly discussed.

The Branch needs new, young leadership, and every help will be given to a new committee both by members of the Branch and also from the Secretary General, who, together with Major Keith Oultram, the Assistant Regimental Adjutant, will afford any advice and guidance needed. They do not interfere, but are always there when called upon. We all belong to the same family, so let's support it as much as we can.

The Secretary with his wife Margaret had the honour to attend the Prince of Wales's Review of past and present members of his Company in the garden of Clarence House in May. It was a wonderful day and HRH made everyone feel most welcome, circulating and talking to all his

guests. The weather was perfect and the cakes delicious, making it a memorable occasion.

Some members of the Branch attended the Swansea Branch Dinner at the Red Lion Hotel on Saturday 18th October. The meal was first class, and it was great to meet up with old friends in Swansea and surrounding areas. Well done Steve on arranging such a marvellous night.

On a sadder note, the Branch lost two members during the year. In April, Ray Jones (22217924) passed away. He served from 1953-1962, and many will remember him as an instructor at the Depot in the late 50's. Ray was well respected in the village of Cwmgrach, where he lived.

In July we were all shocked to hear of the death of Paul Keeping (24263847). Paul was known as POME, and was mine host of the Mountain Ash Hotel, where he regularly organized events in aid of cancer, which he tirelessly supported for many years.

Ron Chapman, not a member of the Aberdare Branch, but a familiar figure in the Association for many years, also sadly passed away earlier in the year. He was a big man with a big heart. The crowds that attended all these three funerals were proof of the high regard they were held in, and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of our Branch meetings, which are held at the Aberdare Rugby Club on the first Tuesday of every month (Except Bank Holidays) at 1930 hrs. It's a chance to have a chat and a pint, and meet up with old friends, so come along, we want to see you.

My thanks go to the Association office at Maindy Barracks for all the help and guidance over the past year.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Formed (1919)

President: Colonel C J Dawney

Chairman: David W Parry (22831847)

Treasurer: Alex H Webb (22370877)

Secretary: Bill Morris (22217619)

39 Gareth Close

Thornhill,

Cardiff CF14 9AF

Tel: 029 20611241

E-mail: bill.morris8@btinternet.com

mmorris237@btinternet.com



*Members of the Cardiff Branch at the Yeoman Warders Mess
September 2008*

We now have a few changes to the Committee, namely David Parry as Chairman, since Brian Elliott, stepped down due to increased work commitments. Brian has agreed to remain as Vice Chairman in place of Walter O'Sullivan, who has resigned after ten years of service. We thank Walter for good guidance and help throughout these last ten years.

The new Chairman, as you can see from above, is Mr David W Parry. David served from November 1957 for three years in the Prince of Wales's Company and in the M.T. Platoon. He was a member of the Guard of Honour at the 1958 Empire Games in Cardiff. Two other additions to the Committee are Mr David Bishop (22831919) and Mr Terry O'Shea (2407142). At this point I would like to thank all the Committee for their work and support throughout the past year.

On a rather sad note, the Reverend Fred Mudge, who has been our Chaplain in excess of thirty eight years, has, due to ill health, been forced to resign his post. He has been a loyal friend to the Branch, and will be sadly missed. We send him

and his wife our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future.

In December we held our Annual Ladies Night Christmas Dinner / Dance at St Peter's Hall, Cardiff. It was well attended, and a good night was had by everyone present.

On Sunday 6th July, by popular demand, the Branch held a 'Families Lunch' at St Peter's Hall, which was well supported by members and their families.

A visit to the Tower of London was arranged for Wednesday September 24th, and we were extremely well looked after by Yeoman Mitch Jones. His tour of the Tower, along with the relevant history was first class, and this, coupled with the excellent hospitality extended to us at the Yeoman Warders Mess ensured a memorable visit, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended - despite not arriving back in Cardiff until 3.00 am!

The Branch held its 89th Annual Dinner on Saturday October 17th at our usual venue, St Peter's Hall. We were honoured to have as our Guest of Honour, the President of the Association, Colonel TCS Bonas, who filled us in with Regimental affairs.

As a Branch, we continue to meet on the first Monday of every month at the United Services Mess. However, we are becoming increasingly aware that a Monday evening is not a convenient time for those members who are working, so recently we introduced a further meeting on a Friday night. This was organised by Martin Williams (24685316) and found to be well attended. It has now been agreed that the Branch will hold two meetings a month, namely the first Monday and second Friday, giving members the opportunity to attend either or both meetings. I believe that by doing this we are going some way to ensure the longevity of the Branch.

On the welfare front, we extend our best wishes to those members of the Branch who have not enjoyed good health.

Finally, on behalf of the President and members of the Cardiff Branch, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Brian and the team at Maindy Barracks for their help and assistance throughout the year.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

CARDIGANSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1947)

President: Lt.Col. R E H David OBE

Caretaker/

Secretary: Nigel Owen (24513423)

Station Chambers

Alexandra Road

Aberystwyth SY23 1LH

Tel: 07712 883927

E-mail: nigel@dilwens.freemove.co.uk



Nigel Owen laying the Welsh Guards wreath November 2007

"All quiet on the western front" - That is how I will describe the sadness of what our Cardiganshire Branch Association has suffered. Nothing to do with the current recession or the Credit crunch affecting our country but sadness and disappointment of how our membership has slipped to a ground level, low. Unfortunately I can't see a recovery as we have not had a single new member or a glimmer of interest for the last three years!!

We held a memorial lunch on Palm Sunday, the 16th of March, 2008 at 1230hrs at the Richmond Hotel, near the Bandstand on the Promenade at Aberystwyth, to the Memory of one of our dearest and most respected, long serving members; George Chapman. (Late Irish Guards) Our Association received a financial donation of £500 from Mde Ellane Yovanovitch, George's common law wife - this generosity given as a donation was on behalf of George, after his death and we felt and jointly decided to have a lunch to his memory.

Last May 2008, another long serving member passed away at his home of Guildford, Surrey - Rhidian Llewellyn, A dear friend to the older members of this Association who will also be very much missed but will always be remembered.

EAST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

President: Lt. Col. D C Macdonald-Milner

Chairman: Howard Main (23577106)

Treasurer: G R Grant (23523127)

Secretary: Ken Haines (23523287)

Trevone, Duffryn Road

Rhydfelin

Pontypridd CF39 5RU

Tel: 01443 662248

E-mail: marianne.haines@ntlworld.com



The zoners at Ystrad Mynach.

Left to Right: George Grant, Ron Hambery and Ken Haines

2008 began with our first Branch trip being to Wellington Barracks on March 1st to celebrate St David's Day with the Regiment, and we thank 01 Mike Jones and members of the Ogmore Branch for inviting us to share their coach on the day. It was good to be able to march behind the Welsh Guards Band once again on the Parade Ground, and the Association members did us proud.

Our buffet lunch at the Institute was a great success, with first class food. Among our guests were 'Big' Len Davies, and his wife. Len gave an interesting talk on his functions as a Yeoman of the Guard, and an insight on working for Her Majesty the Queen, which was extremely interesting.

Within the first three months of the year we lost three Branch members, namely, Ron Chapman, George Gribble and Kevin Hammond. All will be sorely missed, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families.

Member Ken Phillips and his family attended the First Rehearsal of Trooping the Colour, and reported back on a brilliant day. After the Troop, they were allowed to mingle with the Guardsmen

on Horse Guards in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, which of course is impossible on the Queen's Birthday Parade.

At the end of June, 30 members attended Imber Court. We all enjoyed one of those rare hot and sunny days, and noticed the attendance larger than in previous years. Since this is now a regular event, we look forward again to next year. During the afternoon, a visit to Windsor Castle was arranged, and we sincerely thank Alan Denman for meeting us and escorting us around. It was the icing on the cake, and ended a brilliant day. A big THANK YOU Alan, from everyone in the Branch.

Three members of the Branch were invited by the Not Forgotten Association to spend three days in London, together with Norman Jones from the Merthyr Branch. It was a very successful trip and we were all looked after exceptionally well. A 'certain fella' from Gilfach Goch keeps pestering me for Norman's telephone number - but is still waiting Norman !!

We are now looking forward to the Darts and Shooting competition at Llanelli, but think the Swansea Branch should be handicapped in some way in order to give the rest of us a chance i.e. blindfolded, with a gag for Roy Bennett - anything will do!

Our meetings are still being held at the Institute Club, Geliwasted Road, (which is approximately only 100 yards from the Pontypridd Bus Station) on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-7.30 pm, and you are all welcome to come along



Laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph at Ywysybwel.

LLANELLI BRANCH

(Formed 1974)

President: Sir David Mansel Lewis

Chairman: Alan Davies (22217919)

Treasurer: Vernon Jones (22217890)

Secretary: Alan Cunningham (24125105)

197 Cockett Road

Cockett

Swansea SA2 0FH

Tel: 01792 554151 (Home)

(Work: 07976971336)

E-mail: alan.cunningham1@ntlworld.com



Llanelli B Team with Colonel Bonas

It has been a very bad year for the Branch in many senses, firstly having to cancel the Annual Branch Dinner. This was due too many of our members either sick or on holidays. We then suffered a great shock when our Chairman, Julian Fuller (2740928) passed away. Julian had given loyal service to the Branch, the Regiment and also the local community of Llanelli. He will be sorely missed by us all.

You will see from above that Alan Davies (22217919) has taken the position of Chairman; we all wish Alan a long and happy time in the hot seat!!

Sadly we lost another member Keith Littler (22831250) so to both families we offer our sincere condolences and hope their happy memories sustain them through the coming months and years.

I just received the sad news of the passing of Lance Benson's wife, Kath - what a stalwart she has been. We send Lance and family our deepest condolences. I have often mentioned in my newsletter thanks to all the ladies, and I reiterate that again - ladies, you are very much appreciated by every one of us.

On a brighter note I attended the Prince of Wales Review at Clarence House with other past members of the Prince of Wales's Company within the Association, and what a glorious day that was, must be the only day it hasn't rained this year!

Several members of the Branch attended Llanelli Town Hall for a presentation made to Guardsman Darren English (25178775) of his Iraq medal: Darren served from 2003 to 2007. Congratulations Darren from all your comrades young and old.

The Branch was represented at the Darts and Shooting Competition at Llanelli on 11th October, and we thank Brian and Major Evans for arranging such a great day. It was made even sweeter when the Llanelli B team was presented with the Runners - up trophies. Well done men, next year it will be the Leatham Trophy!

As always as the years roll along we try our best to attend funerals of members of other Branches, but each year it becomes more difficult. I hope that will not stop us from contacting each other with the relevant information especially by E-Mail so that we can pass on our condolences to the families. Also we have as usual, our sick list, and at this time of writing may I on behalf of the Branch wish all those who are experiencing ill health a speedy recovery.

New faces are always welcome at our Branch meetings, which take place on the last Tuesday of the month at the White Horse Public House, Llanelli. Please come along, and keep in touch with old mates.

On behalf of the President and members of the Llanelli Branch, I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year

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

Tel: 01423 879326

E-mail: jeffheenan-wgalb@hotmail.co.uk



Lt to Rt: Doug Wilcox (2739697), Richard Doughty (2741552),
Jeff Heenan (23523251)

Welcome to the New Year, our best wishes go to our serving, as well as our retired comrades, we hope you all have a prosperous, healthy and wealthy New Year.

Our meetings continue to be held at London District WO's & Sgt's Mess Wellington Barracks, by kind permission of the Garrison Sergeant Major W D G Mott, OBE. Welsh Guards.

Our meetings in 2009 will be:

Friday 6 February 2009 Annual General Meeting
London Branch

Friday 3 April 2009 First Friday Meeting

Saturday 9 May 2009 Ladies Lunchtime Party

Friday 12 June 2009 Eve of Troop meeting

Friday 4 September 2009 First Friday meeting

Friday 2 October 2009 First Friday Meeting

Saturday 5 December 2009 Lunchtime
Christmas Party

Again our thanks to all our Committee Members, and of course our Chairman and Treasurer Richard Doughty and Doug Wilcox, for all their hard work, as well as all our Associate Members and their wives for their continued support over the years. It is much appreciated.

We held a Commemoration service at Imber Court Metropolitan Sports Club on 28th June 2008, on a beautiful sunny day. Our thanks to RQMS Warren Williams who organised the event as well as members of East Glamorgan Branch who also attended.

2008 saw the Welsh Guards Troop yet again, they were excellent - just like in our day!

Our 2008 April Lunch was again well attended, but unfortunately we will have to restrict numbers to 80 in future. Our Christmas party will take place in the Garrison Mess, on the afternoon of 6th December to allow our members to enjoy themselves dining, dancing and cavorting and be home before lights out.

Due to your support we have been able to sponsor and assist various charities over the year once again. I 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 at various events that take place around the country. We really need younger members in the 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.

Our sub meetings continue in Bristol /Bath, the contact for the meetings is Alan Ridgewell, (22217347), Bridge View, Nettle Bridge, Oakhill Nr Bath BA3 5AA. Tel No: 01749 840538. They now meet at the Royal British Legion in Staple Hill. Thanks to Alan for organising the meetings.

Ron Perrin (2741152) can be contacted on 01323 840754 for details of meetings of The Guardsmen's Club in Eastbourne. Many thanks to Ron for his hard work.

We had another very beautiful Race Day at Ludlow in 2008, and encourage more members to attend. Our thanks go to Captain David Davies for all the hard work in organising what is now an established excellent event. There is no date

available as yet for 2009.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Over the years we have always had Associate Members, for which we are very grateful for the support, friendship and company, and earlier this year I asked them if they would like to give a "pen picture" of themselves. Several of them decided to take part. We are very proud and pleased to welcome them all to our meetings, lunches, our parades, and our 'remembrances'.

Betty and John Tipton

John's father, George Harry Tipton was in the 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards, and John was in the RAF. As you can tell from John's beautiful head of hair, he was obviously a model for Brylcreem during his days with the RAF. He has always been supported by his wife Betty and they attend all of our outings and meetings. John is our resident bookie's agent at our Ludlow race meeting!

Sylvia and Joe Waitimass

Joe served with the Coldstream Guards, and he and Sylvia have supported London Branch for many years at our 'First Fridays', and lunches in the Garrison Mess, so much so that they now have their own "Coldstream table" They and their friends are excellent company.

Tony Price

Tony was recently introduced by Tim Plowden into London Branch. He formerly served with the RASC from 1948 to 1950, and was also a part time member of the Royal Observer Corps from 1981 to stand-down in 1991. He has been involved as a voluntary worker with the British Legion, and Missions to Seamen, and serves as an area officer of the South Downs Society.

Roy Card

Roy served with the Scots Guards 1953-1957 in Egypt, Germany, and of course on public duties in London. He started coming to our meetings several years ago, and has also enjoyed our lunches.

David Lehec

Another one of our main supporters, a retired Coldstreamer, David is always the perfect guest and a man of knowledge, who is extremely polite to all and sundry. He is very good company to be with, and has been on several Battlefield tours with the Association. He says it has been a living history, being friends with the "old and the bold".

Edna and Roland Lee-Davies

Another lovely couple, Roland served with The Welch Regiment, but did play for the Welsh Guards Rugby team at one time as scrum half - they lost!! Edna is always off to ATS re-unions, leaving Roland to cope, which he does very well, with the bar in the Garrison Mess (well, he is Welsh!) They are both involved assisting charities, raising money for others, and collect for the Army Benevolent Fund. Roland is a volunteer at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Gill and John Weeden

John joined the REME in 1952 as a National Serviceman, then signed on for another 3 years, and served in Korea, Japan and Egypt. John has been married to Gill for 51 years, and is very much involved with the British Korean Veterans Association. He is also Chairman of the 'Invicta Branch' in Kent.

Betty and Fred Hawkins

Both have been members since 1966. Fred joined the Royal Navy on the last day of hostilities call ups, and Betty and Fred have been married for 59 years - must be the sea air!!

Fred worked with the late Dave Rees at Trans World Airlines, and they are great friends with Joan and Bob Burman and have been on many Association Battlefield Tours.

Our yearly thanks to Brian Keane and Major Keith Oultram at Maindy Barracks for all the help and assistance during the year.

And finally: Sadly, during the past year several of our comrades have passed to the parade ground in the sky, and our thoughts and condolences go to their loved ones. Their names are entered in the Memoriam section of the Magazine.

MERTHYR TYDFIL BRANCH

(Formed 1953)

President: Captain Harry Legge-Bourke

Chairman: Grant Harper (2734772)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Jimmy Manning (2741804)

Flat 5,

108 Haydn Terrace

Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9UX

Tel: 01685 383567



Errold Jones (Far right) and two members of SAMA with the Merthyr Tydfil Standard in the Falklands

Our year began with one of our Falkland members, Errold Jones, flying out to the Falklands to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the campaign. It was therefore decided by the Branch committee to allow Errold to take the Branch Standard with him for this special occasion. It seems that a Branch Standard has never been taken to the island before, so we are proud that Merthyr was the first Branch to do so.

In November the Branch held a Buffet / Dance at the Merthyr Conservative Club. It was an excellent night and a great success with 76 people attending, and having a marvellous time.

During the year the Branch has lost 5 members. This is a great loss to us since, as with other Branches, we are finding it difficult to attract younger men to join.

Our Branch meetings continue to be held on the first Monday of every month at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, and all Welsh Guardsmen are assured of a great welcome.

We also hold our 'Social Dance Evening' on the third Saturday of every month at the Railway Club, Merthyr, when again everyone will be made most welcome.

MIDLANDS BRANCH

(Formed 1953)

President: Colonel S C C Gaussen

Chairman: R C Jaynes (2739272)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Keith Bartlett (23523202)

6 Athelstan Road

Battenhall

Worcester WR5 2BW

Tel: 01905 355233



2 Long lost pals: Keith Bartlett (23523202) and Jon Bayliss (23523208)

Twelve months pass by before one realizes, and it is time again to write a report on Branch news.

It is often difficult to write an article for the Midlands Branch since we cover such a large area. We are unable to meet on a regular basis due to the distances members have to travel. However, we do manage to meet up twice a year, at our Christmas Lunch and the official Annual Branch Lunch in April.

St David's Day at Wellington Barracks was again a very successful day. The weather was extremely kind to us, and there was a good turnout of Branch members. The Sergeants Mess, as usual, looked after us very well, and the meal deserved the highest praise. The Secretary actually met up with someone he hadn't seen in 49 years, namely Jon Bayliss. Both served in the same squad at the Guards Depot, Caterham.

Our Christmas Lunch at the Fownes Hotel, Worcester, was well attended, although unfortunately the meal was not up to the usual high standard we have come to expect from them.

The Fownes Hotel was again the venue for our Branch Lunch on Sunday 4th May 2008, and was very successful. We continue to have quite a reasonable turnout, but still have to rely on other

Branches to swell our ranks. We were extremely well looked after by the hotel staff who ensured we had a wonderful day.

The next Branch Lunch is arranged for Sunday 28th April 2009, at the Whitehouse Hotel, Worcester, so please put this date in your diaries now and come along to support us. We will also be arranging a Christmas Lunch at the same venue, with a time and date to be announced.

We take this opportunity to thank members of the Branch for their continual support and our thanks also go to the Secretary General Brian Keane and all the staff at Maindy Barracks for their help throughout the year.

MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1920)

President: Captain W de B Prichard

Chairman: Alan Mountjoy (23929747)

Secretary:

*Treasurer: Neil Chamberlain (24184149)
11 Cae Collen, Coed Duon Rise
Blackwood, Gwent NP12 1FF
Tel: 01495 220436*

E-mail: chamberlain_neil49@hotmail.co.uk



*Branch GHQ. Left to right: Neil Chamberlain,
Captain David Davies & Alan Mountjoy*

Members of the Association have the best of two worlds, their own Branch functions and gatherings and major events organised nationally by the Association itself. Since 1992 these have increased, for example golf and racing days, the latter organised by Captain David Davies, Vice President of the Branch.

The most important event of all is the Biennial Dinner which was first suggested by our Branch. At the time there were misgivings by the "old school" but the majority supported it and the first Dinner was held in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on March 17th 1962. The next will be at Ludlow Racecourse, on March 28th 2009. Apart from the pleasure of meeting fellow Guardsmen from all points of the compass, we should support this Dinner if only because we proposed it.

St. David's Day is a great Regimental occasion, especially if the Battalion are in the country and we share it with them. Sunday March 1st 2009 at Aldershot will be even more significant and emotional than usual because the Battalion will be leaving for Afghanistan shortly afterwards. The Branch will arrange transport for this major occasion as well as the Ludlow Dinner.

The Branch Annual Dinner was held as usual at the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny, and we were pleased to welcome a Serving Officer affiliated to the Branch, Lt. Christopher Davies of Crickhowell, who responded to the toast of the Regiment. The Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year is also a local man, Lance Corporal Matthew Dwyer, a hooker who has played for the army, and turns out for Pontypool when he can. A lot of work goes into organising major Dinners, and it is gratefully appreciated by everyone.

Too many social events can strain resources, and as our catchment area is very wide members cannot be expected to support every one, although some do. We now have two lunches which everyone enjoys, at the Maes Manor Hotel in Blackwood in May and a pre-Christmas Lunch at various venues. Our neighbours, Midlands Branch, also have two lunches in Worcester, and members of both Branches support them all.

In 1974 the Branch linked up with the West Flanders Branch of the Brigade Piron Association whose members formed a Belgian Brigade in Tenby in 1940. They included Abergavenny resident Armand Poupaert, a stalwart of the Branch. In the 1980's we often visited Belgium and attended Dinners in Ostend where their Association President, Hubert Baete was our guide, interpreter and friend. Sadly Hubert passed away in July 2008.

The Battlefield tours as we know them today began in 1989 and the 25th was last September when visits were made to important towns and

battlefields in Belgium and France.

In May 2008 the tour went to Normandy, and one of our most loyal exiles, Ray Cumbley, who lives in Cornwall was in his element. The title "Battlefield Tour" might put some off, but they can be assured that not only is the tour interesting and the hotels are of high standard, but socially it is great fun.

Members like Ray support us from afar, but there are others who live nearer, just across the Severn. Len Brooks is in his 90s and will remember 2008 with great pleasure. He was in Prince of Wales's Company in 1933 and attended the Review of the present Prince of Wales's Company at Clarence House. Two other loyal exiles, Mervyn and Gill Delve took him to London and Len was presented to the Colonel.

Our links with the Ancient Borough of Abergavenny continue and we start our 2009 programme by holding our AGM at the Town Hall on Thursday 12th February, followed by a civic reception. Monthly meetings are held every second Thursday and are enjoyable gatherings in which business is efficiently and quickly dealt with. They take place at The Angel Hotel in Abergavenny, except the AGM, and in the months of May and October when we meet at The Capel Hotel, Bargoed.

The work our officers do is greatly appreciated and they get practical support from everyone, especially Ron Oliver of Abergavenny. Another native of the town, Ken Seed, was our Standard Bearer for very many years and retired last year. He is still active of course as are others who held Branch office. Their experience is invaluable.

Our key task is to attract new members to the Branch, and we will arrange special meetings in their home areas if asked to do so. The future of the Branch, and indeed the Association, is in the hands of the younger generation especially those serving at the moment. We have great pride in the serving Regiment and wish them good fortune when they deploy to Afghanistan.

No-one needs to be reminded of the cost of things these days, and the running of an active organisation like the Monmouthshire Branch relies on funding by the members and local sponsorship. Income from raffles at meetings and functions keeps us afloat, but those who cannot attend gatherings can help keep their

Branch going by sending donations which will be gratefully accepted.

The Association is busier than ever and the credit for its success lies with those who organise it all, not just the well known events but the day-to-day administration. The hub is the Welsh Guards office at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff where Major Keith Oultram is Assistant Regimental Adjutant.

The work of Brian Keane, the Secretary General of the Association increases annually. In March 2009 for example he will be heavily involved in two major events, St. David's Day at Aldershot and the Biennial Dinner at Ludlow. We appreciate all he does and look forward to a busy, but exciting, year.

MONTGOMERY/SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1950)

President: Captain Sir Beville Stanier Bt

Chairman: J O Williams (23860183)

Treasurer: Lt Col B D Morgan MBE

Secretary: Captain R J D Parry
10 Grangefields
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY3 9DE
Tel: 01743 244189



Capt Ben Parry (Lt) and Colonel Brian Morgan (Rt) with Colonel Bonas after being presented with their gifts from their Branch members

Another year has just flown by, and will undoubtedly be remembered for the lack of sunshine and more than enough rain. The river in Shrewsbury is still high and overflowing, and the local farmers are unable to harvest their crops. However, enough doom and gloom - the Branch has once more had a most enjoyable year

with many happy and pleasurable occasions organized.

We returned to Oswestry and the Wynstay Hotel for our Christmas lunch last year, which was followed by a St David's Day lunch at the Hellan, a few miles out of Welshpool. We were very well catered for at both venues, and the attendance outstanding.

At St David's Day in London, we had the two eldest members of the Branch attending the church service and Parade, namely, Vice President Pryce Davies and the Branch Standard Bearer Norman Edwards, both 2nd World War veterans (although it was noted they were missing from the 'March Past'). I am sure you will agree they had a legitimate excuse!

During the summer, on one of the few hot days we had, the Branch organized a trip to the National Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire. This Memorial was opened by HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh last October, and while we were there a Service of Remembrance to all who had served in Palestine was taking place. On the following day a large parade for the Light Division was planned, so it is a very busy location. With us was Clare Owen, daughter of the late Captain Colin Owen, ex Superintending Clerk during the 80's and Families Officer in 1987, who was killed whilst training with the Army Cadet Force. Colin's name is engraved on the Memorial. It was an excellent day and everyone had an extremely interesting time.

The Branch held its Annual Lunch in July, again at the Wroxeter Hotel near Atcham, Shrewsbury. It was a superb day, with many compliments passed on what a splendid lunch it was! We used this occasion to welcome Colonel and Mrs Bonas, and Major Keith Oultram to the fold, and were also delighted to see other members from both North and South Wales enjoying the occasion with us.

The Branch very kindly made a 'secret' presentation to the present Secretary, Captain Ben Parry and Treasurer Colonel Brian Morgan MBE to mark their fifteen years of hard work and dedication to the Branch. This was extremely kind and generous of them to consider us for this, however, they should know by now that we do it because we love it!

NORTH AMERICA BRANCH

(Formed 1986)

President /

Caretaker: P (Dai) Tilley Esq.

15703 SW Whetstone Way

Sherwood

Oregon USA 97140

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E-mail: wg2taffy@verizon.net

Life in these 'ere Yewnited States' meanders quietly and idyllically along like the Taff at Ynysyored Park in Pontypridd. I live in Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest and we have not circled the wagons since the last General Custer Memorial Day.

The North America Branch of the Welsh Guards Association is in suspended animation, which is a high-falluting way of saying that we are 'anging about waiting for something to happen'. We still keep in touch with one another through telephone calls, emails and, if the wind is in the right direction, smoke signals. The Branch is scattered all over the North America continent from Florida, New York, the Bahamas, Ontario and British Columbia in Canada and the Pacific Northwest. We attend functions of the Grenadiers and Coldstream Guards Association (Canada) that are still fighting about who is the senior Regiment. Some years ago, at a Welsh Guards anniversary Dinner, the Coldstream President rose to give a speech, during which he reminded us that the Coldstream Guards were formed in 1650 in the village of Coldstream, near the Scottish borders, and marched to London to support the King. Like a flash, Bill Elliott (Scots Guards) was on his feet, and shouted, 'when you marched to London to defend the King, we lined the route!' And so, to the amusement of the 'Taffs, Micks and Jocks, the comic opera carries on

I live in the Willamette valley in Oregon. It is where all the nuts come from. We have our share of fruits too - hence, the Cadbury's fruit and nut bar. Our main industries are hazel nuts and vineyards. There are 141 vineyards in the valley and they all have a 'tasting-room'. The British evening 'pub crawl' is replaced here with a 'vineyard crawl' - only, over here, the crawl lasts a week!

Apart from nuts and grapes, we are a horse country. Both Western and English style of riding



Dai Tilley with granddaughter Michelle

is seen in rodeos and gymkhanas. My granddaughter Michelle, who is fourteen, together with her girl friends, all ride. One day I may have the pleasure of seeing one of them in a dress, since their favourite attire is wrangler jeans, shirt, Stetson, mucking out boots, short stirrup boots, long stirrup boots and fancy belts, and their favourite perfume, Eau de Manure.

They all munch carrots, and don't mind drinking straight from the hosepipe - what's good enough for Michelle's Appaloosa, Jessie, is good enough for her. It is a joy taking them to the barn, about eight miles away, and listening to them discussing their horse faults and compliments - hardly a word about city stuff.

We cannot leave these 'ere Yewnited States' without a few words about 'old salt' John McCane and Barack 'damages' Obama, who, for the past ten years it seems, have been campaigning for the Presidency. Like politicians the world over, they have made their promises to make a better world for us to exist. Barack (damages) Obama is going to open a second White House in Kenya in return for cheaper coffee beans, and (old salt) McCain is going to replace all the steps in the White House and Senate Buildings with wheelchair ramps to make it easier for him and his cabinet to attend meetings on time.

It is my intention to visit y'all at the next Biennial Dinner in March next year. For me right now, it's time for me to hitch my wagon and ride into the sunset.

Adios amigos

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH

(Formed 1946)

President: Major K Oultram

Chairman: Tom Homan (2739289)

Treasurer: Alan Simcox (23908718)

Secretary: Bill Elliott (23908639)

Maycot, School Road

Little Neston

Neston CH64 4DQ

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Bill Elliott (23908639), David Head (23908637), John Harding (23879339) at the oak bench dedicated to Alan Salmon (23879469)

The year 2007 ended with the Branch Christmas Luncheon in December held once again at Cheshire View Christleton. The guests of honour were the Association Treasurer and Assistant Regimental Adjutant Major Keith Oultram and the Secretary General and his wife Mr Brian and Mrs Sandra Keane. The Branch was also delighted to receive Captain William Elcock and his wife Betty. With nearly ninety members, family and friends, the occasion was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. An excellent meal was served and the service was first class which is something that the Branch has come to expect from the excellent staff at Cheshire View, and we thank them sincerely for their hard work. The entertainment was again provided by the Scots Guards Association Pipe Band, the Stockport Corps of Drums and 23866392 Billy Thomas. We feel very fortunate that we can call on our entertainers for these events as they always provide us with wonderful entertainment. The extra bonus this year being that Billy was called on to handle the draw for the many raffle prizes

on display and his panache for the funnies and off the cuff remarks made everyone feel sorry that the raffle had to end - and that's a first!

The Scots Guards Association Pipe Band was formed forty-nine years ago by 2628107 John Bowen and in May of this year John was presented with a certificate of commendation in recognition of outstanding service to the Pipe Band. The certificate signed by HRH the Duke of Kent was presented to John by Brigadier Kin Ross at the home of the Brigadier when a 50th celebration of the Manchester Branch of the Scots Guards Association took place. There have only been 130 of these certificates presented since World War Two and John is the first Welsh Guardsman to receive this prestigious award. Our congratulations are afforded to John and our grateful thanks are extended to the Pipe Band, the Cadets of Stockport and Billy.

On the Monday following the Christleton Dinner, the Secretary, 23908639 Bill Elliott, 23523060 Tom Morris and 23866379 Ray Smith and their wives Margaret, Carole and Pauline respectively, enjoyed a Christmas luncheon trip with the 'Not Forgotten Association', cruising the River Mersey. It was a lovely trip and the Secretary was pleased to meet Mrs Rosie Thompson the event's organiser, Mr Bob Wilton the Secretary of the Household Division at Warrington and Mr Frank Pennington Secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association. With good food and good company the day was enjoyed by everyone and our grateful thanks again are extended to Rosie and her Association who work incredibly hard to make sure that those ex service men and women who have not been as fortunate as some of us, will never be forgotten.

St. David's Day is a day that the Stockport Branch always celebrates with a luncheon at the Davenport Park Hotel in Stockport which is usually held on the nearest Sunday to St. David's Day. It was unfortunate that this year the luncheon fell on the Sunday before which coincided with a North of England Branch meeting. This could not be avoided as it was the only day that was available. With Louise Thompson, a harpist from the Royal College of Music in Manchester, delightfully playing the harp while lunch is being enjoyed, the occasion is always well attended. It is indeed an excellent event, and despite their shortage in numbers Stockport is to be congratulated on their

continued successes in arranging their functions. Much of this success is due to the hard work of their committee and in particular to the Treasurer 22831953 Mel Ackroyd and his wife Rita, and the Secretary 23877267 Dave Evans. One of the most striking features of the Stockport event is the way the tables are presented, with the printing of the menus and cards being done to a very high professional standard by 23877270 David Burton. Their next occasion is the Annual Dinner /Dance held at the same venue in October. This event is held every October with overnight accommodation available at the hotel, so it is well worth a note in your diaries. Well done to everyone at the Stockport Branch.

Some of our members attended the St. David's Day celebrations at Wellington Barracks and have reported back on another excellent St. David's Day occasion.

In April of this year the Secretary and his wife Margaret, along with 23908637 David Head and 23879339 John Harding and their wives Liz and Pat respectively, attended a memorial service held at Llangwnadl church in memory of 23879469 Alan Salmon. Alan's Widow Margaret and daughter Nina decided on an oak bench seat to be installed in the grounds of the church, and after discussions were held with the various authorities, permission was gladly given. On a very changeable weather day which was cool to say the least, the service was held and it was rather fitting as the bench was blessed by the Reverend Nick Hawkins, the sun appeared from behind the clouds and shone brightly.

The inscription on the bench reads 'Eglwys Sant Gwynhoedl er cof am Alan Salmon 1946 - 2007 Cymru Am Byth', meaning The Church of Saint Gwynhoedl in memory of Alan Salmon. You will all know the meaning of Cymru Am Byth. The Secretary was delighted to be asked by Margaret to say a few words about Alan and this honour and privilege was shared with Mr Harry Warwick, a good friend and neighbour of the family from the time that they lived in Llangwnadl. Before the dedication was over there was a moments silence for private thoughts and then the many friends and neighbours who had gathered retired to the home of Tom and Lynne Prichard who made us feel so welcome. A super buffet lunch which was all prepared by Lynne was provided. Margaret stressed from the beginning that this was not to

be a sombre affair and from the letter the Secretary has since received from Margaret thanking the Branch for their involvement, the day for the family and for many of Alan's friends was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone. So those who remember Alan and are visiting the Lleyn Peninsular, be sure to call in to the grounds of Llangwnadl Church. The Branch regularly keeps in touch with Margaret.

At the June meeting the Branch was saddened to learn of the impending retirement of Mr E. L. Williams who had been our President for twenty years. A lovely gentleman and a very popular person, he served the Branch with honour and distinction in his role as President and always had time for everyone. Thankfully Mr Williams is not going to relinquish all ties with the Branch and is intending to be at our meetings as often as he can. Mr Williams addressed the meeting in June and after he announced that he was standing down he introduced Major Keith Oultram, and told the members present that Major Oultram would be the President of the Branch at the end of the meeting. Major Oultram was welcomed by everyone, and as the Assistant Regimental Adjutant and the Treasurer of the Association Mr Williams said in his introduction that the Branch could feel very fortunate indeed to have such a prominent person within the organisation as their new President. These sentiments were echoed by all present, with a toast to the outgoing and incoming Presidents given by 22831397 Leslie Thompson. The Secretary thanked Major Oultram for volunteering his services as President to the Branch.

At the July meeting the first task the Branch asked Major Oultram to perform was to present Mr Williams with a gift of a welsh slate clock: the Branch had commissioned Bacchante Crafts in Powys to make. Depicted on the clock face are the Regimental Badge and an inscription marking the occasion. A bouquet of flowers for Mrs Williams was also presented and we wish Mr and Mrs Williams well for the future.



Retiring President Ted Williams Esq. being presented with a clock by our new President, Major Keith Oultram.

The Branch is going on strongly and still meeting at the Cheshire Regiments Mess at the Chester Castle. It is a relief to us all that nothing has changed since the Cheshire Regiments amalgamation in September 2007 to form The Mercian Regiment and hopefully that will be the case for some time to come. It is an excellent meeting place and we thank the retired Cheshire Personnel, in particular Major Eddie Pickering for allowing us the use of the mess, and Alan Jones who runs the mess and keeps his beer consistently good. We still meet on the last Sunday of every month starting at 12.30pm except for the months of December, and now August. This is the first year the Branch has decided to cancel its August meetings due to the Bank Holiday weekend, but the invitation to everyone to come and join us on the other ten months of the year is always open. We saw 3 new members join us this year, 23277673 John Heaton, 24076179 Terry Evans and 22426672 Jim Lyon from the Irish Guards as an Associate member, and we welcome them all aboard. The

tremendous work of our ladies on our behalf often goes unmentioned but is never taken for granted as they are a very important part of the Branch. My sincere thanks and the thanks of the men go to them all. Mrs Viv Hill, Mrs Theresa Homan and Mrs Barbara Roberts who supply the buffet are very well supported by Mrs June Davies, Mrs Maureen Woodfinden, Mrs Jean Monteith, Mrs Bette Jones, Mrs Ethel Worsley, Mrs Marion Peet, Mrs Betty Agaphonoff and Mrs J Richards. Viv and Theresa also run the raffle. Another of our ladies who does tremendous work for and on behalf of the Branch is Mrs Jan Kenyon our Widows Welfare and Support Officer. Jan as many will know is the widow of 22831529 Tony Kenyon and is a constant source of support comfort and understanding to our widows. Jan kindly offered to take up this position when the idea was put forward by Mr Dave (Flintstone) Roberts and is a link to the Branch and Association that is being enjoyed by the widows. Jan is only too keen to acknowledge how much the contact helps her as well and points out that the Welsh Guards having been a big part of their lives can carry on in this way. The Branch would not be as successful as it is without the ladies and we thank them once again.

Some members have sadly left us and this is always a poignant part of any report. The Branch paid their respects to four departed members, 2741609 Malcolm Hooson who passed away in December 2007, 2739558 Richard Cox who passed away in April of this year, 22217217 Tom Edwards MM who passed away in March 2008 and to 2740681 Fred Brown who passed away September 2008. RIP. The Branch also paid their respects to other departed comrades from other Branches. Our condolences and thoughts go out to all their families.

At our AGM in October 2007 four committee members stood down after many years of devoted and loyal service to the Branch and our grateful thanks go to 2741648 Ken Hill, 2738660 Bill Jones and 22831834 Barry Peet for their time and efforts that they put in for our benefit over

those years as our Entertainments team, and to 22217306 Alan Edwards for his hard work and contribution to the Welfare side of the Branch.

We welcomed to the committee 23523212 Gerald Tilston and installed him with the new title of Social Secretary. Gerald also keeps himself occupied at the Welsh Guards Collection in Oswestry so all in all he works very hard doing 'busy busy things' - his words not mine!

The congratulations of the Branch went to 2739289 Tom Homan who has now completed 17 years as Chairman of the Branch and received a certificate this year in recognition of his loyal service to both Branch and Association, and our congratulations were also extended to Mr Ken and Mrs Viv Hill who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July 2008, which also had Ken celebrating his birthday when he became 80 years young.

Some of our members unfortunately are going through difficult times of sickness and ill health but are fighting on regardless and it is to them that we send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery; we also send those very same wishes to other comrades elsewhere that are facing similar difficult problems.

My grateful and sincere thanks are owed to many people who have given me such tremendous support and assistance throughout the past year particularly to the members and the committee of the Branch whose support is deeply appreciated, to Mr Brian Keane and his wife Sandra and Major Oultram at Association HQ, and to RQMS Warren Williams and Sergeant Morgan and the staff at Wellington Barracks.

Finally I cannot close this report without extending the best wishes of the Branch to our comrades who will be facing difficult times on their tour of duty in Afghanistan and we wish them a safe and speedy return and a successful tour of duty. We send those best wishes to all serving personnel everywhere. The best wishes from the North of England Branch are extended to everyone for a happy and healthy 2009.

NORTH WALES BRANCH

(Formed 1936)

President: J Harrop Esq. MBE

Chairman: G. Binnie (24060777)

Treasurer: M Mears (2740728)

Secretary: Dave Webb (23523061)

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Rhyl

North Wales LL18 2NS

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Well another year passed away and time once again to do my report. After the events in 2007 such as Laying up of the Old Colours and our New Standard being blessed, we were expecting a lull in events during this year. This of course did not happen! 17 of us boarded the Mini Bus for a weekend in London to celebrate St. David's Day with the Battalion and were joined by a further 10 Branch members on the Day. Friday night we jumped on the Tube bound for Wellington Barracks to visit Regimental Sergeant Major D Pridmore's Mess. He was on top form asking to meet the Branch Members in two's for a chat, and was impressed to meet Hugh Griffiths and Davy Arthur who served together in the Guards Para Company. We all left the Mess with a 'warm glow' and headed back to the hotel for a nightcap, with 92 and Andy our Standard Bearer ending up in 'Leder Hosen', the pub next door. Saturday morning, a few sore heads had us heading back to Wellington Barracks for St David's Day which started with a Service in the Guards Chapel followed by presentation of Leeks and the customary March Past with the Battalion. Captain Ben Parry led the 'wrinklies' - God bless him - it was a truly wonderful experience.

Our 72nd Annual Dinner took place in April at Deganwy Castle Hotel. The Garrison Sergeant Major W.G. Mott O.B.E. was unable to attend due to a military commitment he could not get out of. (He also had to tell his mother the bad news and send an extra large bouquet of flowers since it was her birthday on the same day!) Our President welcomed Sir Richard and Lady Williams Bulkeley, Sgt A. Williams and Gdsm Stuart Harris to our Dinner, and how nice it was to have serving members join us. He also brought up how healthy the Branch is and thanked the committee for all their efforts organising the events and attending various functions.



Branch Dinner 2008. Sir Richard and Lady Williams Bulkeley, President J. Harrop MBE Chairman G. Binnie & Mrs C. Binnie, Mrs S. Harrop, H. Hughes and Mrs R. Hughes

May was the Jam Boys Review at Clarence House. The Branch was well represented with a full Mini Bus from Caernarfon leaving at 05.30 for the journey South. It was a long day for the ones who made the effort. A massive thank you to Terry Jones 71, owner of Menyns Coaches, Llanrwst for supplying the transport and being our official Branch Coach Supplier. Sir Richard Williams Bulkeley accompanied by his son Major Richard Williams Bulkeley was also in attendance representing the Branch. The weather was perfect, and HRH Prince Charles was on form, mingling with everyone, chatting and keeping it informal.

Falklands June 8th was again well supported this year, at the Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl. Our thanks to Jim and Gill mine hosts for the excellent buffet they laid on for us. Gdsm Stuart Harris and Gdsm Cory Hannam turned up to support the lads, and Peter Edwards's sister from Llandyrnog also came along. We all retired for the customary 'minute's silence' outside, with Tom Homan doing the honours with the exaltation.

The Branch once again attended North East Wales Vets Day parade, at The Ffrith, where we were supported by the Welsh Guards Recruiting Team, who brought along their Caravan. Thanks to Captain Harman and Sgt Williams for organising the visit which was appreciated by the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Trefor Jones, who has a close relationship with the Branch.

(24558754) Andy Roberts has very kindly taken up the post of Standard Bearer for the Branch. We also have back up for Andy, since I and Marcus Townley (24438007) have just finished

the Royal British Legion Standard Bearers course.

We attended the Darts and Shoot at Llanelli in October, and with kind permission of Major Malcolm Evans, stayed for 2 nights at the TA Centre. It was an early start on Friday so we could follow the Colonel's footsteps to take in Penderyn Distillery, and sample a few swift whiskeys to warm us up for the competition on Saturday. As usual, we returned home without Silverware but plenty of enthusiasm for next year's competition - with training sessions pencilled in! Thanks to the staff of the T.A. Centre Llanelli for their first class service to all of us during the proceedings.

The President, Chairman, Secretary, and committee would like to thank all members (there are 836 of you out there somewhere) for your support throughout the year and wish you and all your families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Thanks also to all the Team in Cardiff and R.H.Q. for their support to this Branch.

Branch Meetings:

Bangor Cricket Club

Last Wednesday of the month 2000hrs.

Rhyl Ffordd Derwen Pub

First Thursday of the month 2100hrs.

OGMORE BRANCH

(Formed 1982)

President: Lieutenant-Colonel R.L. Traherne

Chairman: Ray Gorringe (23585533)

Treasurer: Mike Jones TD (23523201)

Secretary: 40 Garfield Avenue

Litchard

Bridgend. CF31 1QA

Tel: 01656-650367

E-mail: mike_jones928@msn.com

Our January Meeting is traditionally our AGM and so it was with great pleasure we accepted a "volunteer" namely Brian Layton (23036081) onto the Committee. He took the place of John Anderson MBE (21010015) who has been elevated to the post of Vice President. John has not been in the best of health lately but his enthusiasm for the Regiment and the Branch still burns brightly, and he is strongly supported by his wife Pat.



Members of the Branch at the Arboretum, Staffordshire



Cross laid by the Branch

With the blessing of the Management we still meet at "The Highwayman" Public House and we are much indebted to them for allowing us to use their facilities every month.

St. David's Day provided an excuse to go up to the "Smoke" and despite the early start, with a comfortable coach and an 'All Day Breakfast' at the Reading Services, we arrived in good time and in good spirits only to find we were locked out at the Front Gate, with the Entrance barred by a line of Bollards. After a few circuits round Birdcage Walk, Westminster and Victoria, negotiating road works and traffic signs, we were eventually let in by one of the Regimental Provost who defied Westminster Council and moved the Bollards to one side and allowed us entry.

A good day was enjoyed by all and it proved once again that when the Battalion is in attendance this traditional day is always greatly appreciated. Of course much "lamp swinging" and quaffing of

drinks took place.

Our Annual Dinner Dance on 26th April 2008 once again proved to be a great success. Our attendance still holding out in the nineties, and the table settings arranged by our Ladies Section and Committee, outstanding. Our usual Musician was in great form, and to show our appreciation of his services over a number of years we presented with him with a WG Sgt Bust, which he gratefully accepted.

Some of our Ex POW members were able to attend the Review at Clarence House on 22nd May 2008 and much enjoyed the spectacle. Albert Burd (2741097) was certainly well chuffed, and informed us HRH circulated and spoke to everyone present.

Our Chairman Ray Gorrings took the Borough Veterans Parade as Parade Marshall in June 2008, and also carried the Branch Standard on parade when the Royal Welsh Regiment were presented with the Freedom of the Borough - it was a pity of course that it was not us!!

The President once again kindly invited us to his home on Sunday 29th June 2008. We thank him and Mrs Traherne together with their daughter for a wonderful day out: the setting is superb and the welcome is always warm.

We paid a visit to the National Arboretum, Lichfield on Saturday 6th September 2008, and despite a very early start and atrocious weather, a good day was enjoyed by all. If you have not visited, it really is a worthy place of pilgrimage and we look forward to the placing of the Guards Memorial which is supposed to be sometime next year.

The Branch was represented at the Darts and Shooting Competition which took place in Llanelli on Saturday October 11th. Unfortunately we did not come away with any silver, and it is obvious we need more 'right arm' exercise! Congratulations to all the winners.

We also look forward to the Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch Dinner on Saturday October 18th, and to date, ten of us have stated we are attending.

Our Annual Service of Remembrance in our local church will take place on Sunday 26th October 2008 and hope there will be a good turnout in order to pay our respects to our Comrades, represented by the large Memorial Stone on the main church wall.

Regrettably we inevitably have lost some of our members during the year, they are:-

22217233 Bill Holcombe, 2738258 Glyn Richards and 22497790 Robin Greenslade. They shall not be forgotten, and our sincerest condolences go out to their families.

The Chairman, Secretary and Committee would like to thank all the members for their attendance throughout the year and also the Ladies Section, who do us proud.

All are welcome to our Monthly Meetings at "The Highwayman" Caefatri, Bridgend on the 2nd Monday of the month.

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

(Formed 1957)

President: Major I B Ramsden MBE

Chairman: Bill Lloyd (2740198)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Trevor Warr (2740352)

11 Shakespeare Close

Haverfordwest

Pembrokeshire SA61 1TL

Tel: 01437 766400

The Branch has had a fairly quiet year, and like many other Branches, have problems recruiting new members. Nevertheless, we are, as they say, 'in good order' and carry on as best we can.

Our last Christmas draw was very successful, which helps to keep the Branch in funds for the year and also brings the members together for an enjoyable few hours together.

This year, for the first time, a lunch was organised for the committee and their wives, consisting of approximately 18 people. We had a lovely meal in a pub situated under the Cleddau Bridge, which was something new and most enjoyable. Hopefully we can do the same again in the future.

In July, Branch members met up with Steve Fisher and members of the Swansea Branch to enjoy a visit to Pembroke Castle. The Swansea contingent arrived in a double-decker bus, which caused some heads to turn! We did our best to give them a warm Pembrokeshire welcome, and hope they all enjoyed a good day out.

This year it was decided to hold a Reunion Lunch rather than a Dinner, since members are getting older, and do not relish the thought of driving

home late at night. Hence, our 51st Reunion was held at the Plas Hyfred Hotel in Narberth on September 25th. We had forty members and guests attending, which included nineteen retired Guardsmen and their wives on parade – great news.

Our guest of honour was Colonel Tom Bonas, who brought us up to date with news of the Regiment, and we were also pleased to see L/Sergeant Mark (Mogsy) Morgan, a Pembrokeshire man, who acted as the Colonel's driver. The lunch proved to be a great success, and will probably be repeated in 2009.

The Darts and Shooting Competition held at Llanelli in October, was supported by members of the Branch, who did their very best, and won the Abertawe Shield as runners-up in the Darts competition.

Well done, and with a little more practice could walk away with first prize next year!

Every year it becomes more difficult to come up with ideas that would interest readers, so after some discussion within the Branch, we have come up with the following:

"We wonder how many readers sailed with the Battalion to Palestine on the SS Volendam in 1945? (probably not many, but we could be mistaken).

The Battalion was part of the 1st British Infantry Division, and wore a white triangle on their sleeves. The transport showed the white triangle on one side of the front mudguards whilst the other sported the blue/red/blue (with 57 printed over the stripes) in recognition they were the 1st Guards Brigade. They first landed at Haifa, with the first posting in Tiberias, on the shores of Lake Galilee, and 1 Brigade Headquarters in Nazareth – all very biblical!



Hotel Tiberias, the new home of HQ Company – very posh.

Two more photographs were taken at Sarafand Camp in 1946-7.

1. This shows L/Cpl Jim Hansen (2739150), on the left, who is still a member of the Branch, and serving on the committee, and Gdsm Anderson, the Battalion butcher. He became a policeman in Whitland, but has now sadly passed away.



L/Cpl Jim Hansen (2739150) and Gdsm Anderson



2. This photograph is of Gdsm Bob Ridley leaning against his '3 tonner' ration truck, and Sgt Gillard, the Battalion Ration Sgt (who was a genius with figures). He became a dentist in Cardiff, and now retired and living in Scotland.

If any reader wishes to contact Bob or Jim, they would be more than happy to hear from you."

Finally, on a sad note, the Branch lost two members this year, namely Peter Griffiths (2740429) age 81 and Roy Banner (22694977) age 73. Peter was an excellent supporter, and served on the committee for as long as anyone can remember, and Roy was a more recent member of the Branch. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their families.

The President and committee send their best wishes to you all.

SWANSEA & WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

(Formed 1927)

President: Major G White MBE.

Chairman: Roy Bennett (22214147)

Sec/

Treasurer: Steve Fisher (24242691)

436 Llangyfelach Road, Brynhyfryd,

Swansea SA5 9LN

Tel: 01792 413344

Email: s.fisher1@nthworld.com



Standard Bearer Derek Williams at St Mary's Church

Hi. I am writing this Branch report on my laptop sitting in my caravan awning. Earlier on, on the laptop's webcam, we were seeing and talking to our son Jason & Arwen-Mae our first grand daughter, who was born in February in Australia. How do voices and images travel through the air to the other side of the world? Technology is a marvellous thing and something that we take for granted. Even our Chairman, Roy Bennett, has gone 'online' as a silver surfer. Roy's email address is;

wrbennett1@yahoo.co.uk. and phone number, 01792 794142

My highlight of the year was when Peter Williams 300 and our wives, Pauline and Vee, were selected to attend the Prince of Wales's Review at Clarence House. We were also part of the

select few that were presented to HRH Prince Charles. What a fantastic day! The other Branch members who were obviously not 'tall, extremely smart' and good looking POW's Company must have been a bit envious. (Only joking boys).

In July we had a family 'fun day' where we visited Pembroke Castle. As in past years we travelled there in a restored vintage double-decker London bus. We had a fantastic day out where we had a guided tour around the Castle - it was an eye opener to see how they lived, fought and died in that era. We must thank the Pembrokeshire Branch for their support and help in organising this social event. It was great to meet up with them: they are a great bunch of boys and a credit to their Branch. Next year we will revisit the Gurkha's at their Durba at Dering Lines, Brecon.

The Darts and Shooting Competition took place at Llanelli TA Centre 11th of Oct. As you are aware we are the reigning champions from last year. First the bad news: we lost the Darts in the first round but well done the boys for trying your best.

Now, the really fantastic news!!!!!! Swansea A won the 'Leatham Challenge' trophy as the team winners. Well done to Karl Trenchard, John Lott, Steve Radford and myself. I also won the 'William Burman' Cup for the 'best shot' out of the Swansea Branch. The good news doesn't stop there as I also won the 'Aberdare Cup' for the best individual shot in the Association. What a fantastic day and something to be really proud of.

On the 18th October we held our 81st Branch Anniversary Dinner at the Red Lion Hotel in Morriston. We were extremely honoured and privileged to have as guests Captain Peter Robinson who is the Regimental Recruiting Officer representing the Regiment, and GSM Bill Mott OBE. We also had in attendance courtesy of Captain Peter Robinson, two serving L/Cpls in tunic order which really set it all off very nicely. They were later able to change out of tunics and join in for the meal and mingle with the 'old soldiers'.

In memory of our fallen heroes, in November wreaths were laid at the Morriston and Swansea Cenotaphs, St Mary's Church which included a wreath for the Falklands Memorial and at the Memorial Park in Port Talbot.

On Saturday the 29th November we held a very successful and enjoyable Christmas social at the (Turkish) La Turca Restaurant.

As I have mentioned in my last Branch newsletter we are planning a trip to Hechtel in Belgium. The planned dates are the 10th to the 16th of September 2009. This is to coincide with the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Hechtel by the Welsh Guards.

In my summer newsletter I said that the two Welsh Guards Colours were to be re-hanged either side of the Falklands Memorial Window in St Mary's Church. This has now taken place and the Reverend Andrew Vessey has said that during the Remembrance Service on the 9th November at 1430hrs he will dedicate part of that Service to the Colours. Please see photograph of these Colours with our long serving & dedicated Standard Bearer Derek Williams.

Please join us at one of our meetings which are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the RWF Club on Walters Road at 1930hrs as it would be great to see you.

Take care, and I wish you good health & happiness.

MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH TROPHY - WELSH GUARDS

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



L/Cpl Mark Dyer with Chairman Alan Mountjoy

The Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year, 2008, is rugby player 25210694 L Cpl Matthew Dyer, aged 23, of the Prince of Wales's Company.

He is a hooker for the Battalion and has played for successful Army XV in the Inter-Services Tournament. He has also played for the Combined Services and Pontypool RFC.

In September 2008 he was selected to play in the "Help for Heroes" charity game at Twickenham.

WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION DARTS & SHOOTING COMPETITIONS 2008

By Brian Keane

The 2008 competitions took place at the TA Centre, Llanelli on Saturday October 11th 2008, by kind permission of Major Malcolm Evans.

Most Branches were represented, and for the first time, a team from the internet site, 'Welsh Guards Reunited' competed in both the Darts and Shooting competitions. It was refreshing to see new faces, and look forward to seeing them again in future Association events.

Overnight accommodation was made available to us for both the Friday and Saturday night, enabling members from North Wales and others to relax and recuperate from their arduous journey before the 'big event'.

The Darts was highly competitive, with loud cheers and very sporting 'jeers' from opposing sides - which helped lift performances.

Results

Darts Competition

Welsh Guards Association Cup
Monmouthshire Branch

Winner of the Abertawe Shield
Pembrokeshire Branch

Highest Individual Score
Robert Cox, Monmouthshire Branch



Winners of the Welsh Guards Association Cup



Winners of the Abertawe Shield



Highest Individual Score

Shooting Competition

Winner of the Leatham Trophy
Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch (A)

Runner-Up
Llanelli Branch (B)

Winner of the Aberdare Cup
Steve Fisher,
Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch

Winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup
Alex Webb, Cardiff Branch

Winner of the William Burman Cup
Steve Fisher,
Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch



Winners of the Leatham Trophy



Runners - Up



*Winner of the Aberdare &
William Burman Cup*



Winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup

**MINUTES OF THE 80TH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION**

**Held at
Wellington Barracks London at 1230 hrs
Friday 13th June 2008**

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: Captain H Legge-Bourke, President Merthyr Tydfil Branch; Mr M Williams, Secretary Aberdare Branch; Mr W Morris, Secretary Cardiff Branch; Mr K Haines, Secretary East Glamorgan Branch; Mr A Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch; Mr J Heenan, Secretary London Branch; Mr J Manning, Secretary Merthyr Tydfil Branch; Mr N Chamberlain, Secretary Monmouthshire Branch; J Williams, representing Montgomery/Shropshire Branch; Mr W Elliott, Secretary North of England Branch; Mr D Webb, Secretary North Wales Branch; Mr M Jones, Secretary Ogmore Branch; Mr M Davies, representing Pembrokeshire Branch; Mr S Fisher, Secretary Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch.

There were also 20 other members present.

In Attendance: WO2 W J Williams, Headquarters Welsh Guards; L/Sgt M Morgan Headquarters Welsh Guards.

Apologies for Absence: Brigadier J F Rickett, Vice President; Lieutenant Colonel R E H David OBE, President Cardiganshire Branch; Sir David Mansel-Lewis, President Llanelli Branch; Colonel S C C Gaussen, President Midlands Branch; Captain Sir Beville Stanier Bt, President Montgomery & Shropshire Branch; P (Dai) Tilley Esq, President North America Branch; E L Williams Esq, President North of England Branch; J M Harrop Esq MBE, President North Wales Branch; Lieutenant Colonel R L Traherne, President Ogmore Branch; Major I B Ramsden MBE, President Pembrokeshire Branch; Major G White, MBE, President Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch;

Mr K Bartlett, Secretary Midlands Branch; Capt. R J D Parry, Secretary Montgomery & Shropshire Branch; Mr T Warr, Secretary Pembrokeshire Branch;

Item 1 - President's Address and Apologies for absence.

The President began the meeting by welcoming the only Branch President present, Captain Harry Legge-Bourke, who has taken over from Major S D Stephenson at the Merthyr Tydfil Branch. Ted Williams of the North of England Branch has also decided to stand down, and Major Keith Oultram has very kindly agreed to take over his position as Branch President. The recent death of Julian Fuller, Chairman of the Llanelli Branch was acknowledged, and sympathies extended to his family. The President took this opportunity to thank the Headquarter Committee, his staff at RHQ and also all Branch Secretaries for their continuing hard work in order to make the Association the success it is today.

In his address, the President wished to discuss a) the Association and b) the Regiment.

A The Association

The list of items available for sale to the Association has not been revamped for many years, so it has been agreed to get new items aboard, giving a far larger choice of goods, thus increasing profits for the Welfare Fund. A Calendar was made available for 2008, and the new issue for 2009 will be on sale from the autumn at a cost of approximately £10. A Regimental pocket diary will also be available for 2009, which will include many interesting facts of the Regiment together with Battle Honours etc.

The Regimental Magazine will be revamped, to include more photographs, more colour and more articles from individuals. The President will be sending a letter to all Branches asking for their support and to encourage members to write items of interest for inclusion. Obviously this will increase the cost of the magazine, and details will be circulated in due course.

The web sites are a good source of communication for both the Association and Regiment, but it was thought the Regimental site needed a dedicated person to run it and keep it up to date.

The Prince of Wales's Review on 22nd May was an excellent day with the Prince of Wales in superb form. There are over 600 photographs on the web site, but the cost of ordering is extremely expensive.

The Regiment has purchased the rights to the photographs at a cost of £2000, and copies of the disc may be obtained from RHQ. The Secretary General will be sending out information in due course.

A revised list of Officers affiliated to Branches will be circulated in the near future to all Branch Secretaries, and Officers will be reminded of their obligations to support their relevant Branch in attending functions etc. It is the duty of the Secretary to remind their Branch President to invite their affiliated Officers to their functions.

Major Oultram has to run the office at Maindy without the help of a clerk, since Kirsty has been on sick leave since January, so please be patient when telephoning. He has now got a Welsh Guards e-mail account which will be published in the summer Newsletter - this should allow contact to be made a lot easier.

Colonel Malcolm is to visit the Falklands for a week in October, and has expressed a wish to take some Falklands veterans with him. Obviously they have to be people who have never been, and the President has a list of about 10 suitable names, who will be contacted closer to the time.

B. The Regiment

The Battalion is in fantastic shape, and Lord Guthrie could not praise them enough in a recent visit. The Officers are of exceptional standard, recruiting is going well, and they are achieving the best retention rate.

They have had a very busy year, and at one stage, on standby for Kosovo, which was cancelled at the very last minute (when they were actually at the airport).

No 3 Coy took on some 'initiative training' around London, and got access to some unusual places, such as having a picture taken in the Major General's chair!

After a refreshing rest skiing in France, preparations began in earnest at Pirbright for the Queen's Birthday Parade, where the Battalion will be Trooping their Colour for the second time in three years.

The Regiment will deploy to Aldershot in July, then to Germany in August to begin training alongside the Americans in readiness for Afghanistan, which will probably be March /

April 2009.

They will form Battle Group North West, and will be at the 'sharp end' of the conflict.

After 5 years as President, the Regimental Adjutant has seen the Association to be very strong, but membership is of the older generation, and in order to survive, younger members must be encouraged. He will therefore send a questionnaire to all Branch Secretaries, asking their views and ideas of the way forward. The President of the Merthyr Branch is already instigating changes at his Branch by setting up a Welsh Guards Employment/Business list. Welsh Guardsmen in business or having a Trade, places his name on a list, which can then be accessed by Guardsmen leaving the Regiment looking for employment. This works extremely well for Officers, thus should also work for Guardsmen. The President fully endorsed the idea which should strengthen the ties.

At this point, W Morris, Secretary of the Cardiff Branch, reminded the meeting that in the past, Branches were informed directly by RHQ when a Guardsman was leaving the Regiment, giving his full details and address, and asked if this could be re-instigated, since it allowed the Branch Secretary to make direct contact. The President thought this a good idea, as long as they had permission off that Guardsman.

D Webb, Secretary of the North Wales Branch, suggested Branches send parcels to the Regiment when they are in Afghanistan. M Jones, Secretary of the Ogmore Branch said the Para. Regiment already did this and found it highly successful. It was agreed that this should be definitely looked at.

Item 2 - Minutes of previous meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 15th June 2007 was proposed by Mr Jeff Heenan, (Secretary London Branch) and seconded by Mr Neil Chamberlain, (Secretary Monmouthshire Branch). This was carried and the minutes signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Item 3 - 2008 Events

a) Battlefield Tours

Thirty five people joined the tour to Normandy in May, which was arranged at the request of five veterans, who thought that time was running out

for them to pay their last respects. Major Oliver Warman agreed to be the tour guide, and through his expertise, wealth of information and humour, made the trip memorable. The town of Bayeux was our base, and from there visited beaches and areas suggested by the veterans.

Hechtel will again be on our itinerary for September, and we will be concentrating on the battle for the town. Visits to Ypres and the Battle of Passchendaele, as well as the Battle of Dunkirk are also planned, and Major Oliver Warman has agreed to join us once more as our guide.

The cost of the tour with 2 sharing is £290 and there are a limited amount of places still available.

Next year, for the 65th Commemoration, Swansea Branch will be joining the Association tour at Hechtel.

b) Darts & Shooting Competition

This is arranged for Saturday October 11th at Llanelli T A Centre. There will be overnight accommodation available for Friday and Saturday night at a nominal charge of £5 per night, and the cost of lunch and refreshments for the day will also be £5. Due to the Secretary General being on 'delayed leave' until Thursday October 9th, it is requested that all returns be made as soon as possible in order that Major Malcolm Evans has sufficient time to arrange sleeping accommodation and to order food and refreshments. (Returns would be appreciated before September 19th please)

c) Remembrance Day

Since the Battalion will be stationed at Aldershot, RHQ will arrange the church service at the Guards Chapel followed by the Laying of the Wreath at the Guards Memorial. Further details will follow in due course.

Item 4 - 2009 Events

a) St David's Day

The President, in his role as Regimental Adjutant, plans to use this event as a 'send off' to the Regiment on their deployment to Afghanistan. It will take place at Aldershot, and details will be announced when plans are finalised. It is hoped that Association members will give it their full support.

b) Biennial Dinner

This takes place on Saturday March 28th 2009 at Ludlow Racecourse with the cost approximately £20. It does not coincide with Easter (April 12th) or an International Rugby Match, so a good turnout is expected. There is ample B/B and hotel accommodation in the area and lists of accommodation are available from the Secretary General.

c) Race Day

Ludlow will again be the probable venue, but the date has not yet been finalised. It will also revert back to a Thursday. Further details will be announced in due course.

d) Golf
Captain Davies continues to run this competition, and dates for 2009 will be published later in the year.

Item 5 - Troop Tickets

Troop tickets are always in short supply and this year was no exception. Priority Branches were satisfied for the Queen's Birthday Parade, but Montgomery/Shropshire was unlucky with their request for the Major General's Review. L/Sgt Morgan, as usual, did his very best, and came up with their needs at very short notice. Next year the 'priority' Branches are: East Glamorgan, Cardiff, North Wales, Montgomery/Shropshire.

Item 6 - Telegrams for Branch Dinners

If a Branch wishes to receive a telegram from the Queen and Prince Charles for their annual Dinner or Luncheon, they should inform the Secretary General as soon as possible, and no later than 4 months before the event. Time is needed to write letters to request these telegrams, and to allow for receipt of them.

Item 7 - Reorganization of Newsletters/Magazines

At the moment, the Newsletters are mailed twice a year, i.e. July and January, and this costs the Association in excess of £2000 per mail shot. The President suggested whether the winter edition was justified, since the Regimental Magazine is published in January, but the opinion of the meeting was that the Newsletters remain the same since not every member buys a copy of the magazine.

(N.B. Magazine already discussed in President's Address)

Item 8 – Association Web Site

(Already discussed).

Item 9 – Christmas Cards

The Christmas card chosen for 2008 depicts the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London. A new Printer has been used, and the reproduction is greatly improved. The cost of the card has increased to 50 pence, with the mixed packs still available at the existing price.

Every year, on behalf of the Association, the President sends Christmas Cards to Freedom Cities and Towns, and 'people important to the Welsh Guards', but would be more than happy to include other suggestions from the Secretaries.

Item 10 – Imber Court

A Service of Remembrance, to remember all those who died as a result of enemy bombing on 30th June 1944, takes place at Imber Court, Esher, on Saturday June 28th. Plans are in place and turnout is expected to be good. One of the original Officers, a Captain in 1944, is hoping to attend on the day.

Item 11 – Association Accounts

The Treasurer presented the entire Regimental Accounts for perusal, from 30th March 2000 to 31st March 2007, and informed the meeting they would be available throughout the afternoon.

The Regiment is in good shape financially, but as with everyone else, the value of their investments has decreased due to problems in the financial market.

Item 12 – Branch Secretaries Honorariums

At the previous Secretaries Meeting, the topic of honorariums for Secretaries was discussed, and the President agreed to give it some thought. On reflection he feels that the position of Branch Secretary is a purely voluntary effort, and therefore honorariums should not be paid. Nevertheless, he also feels that no-one should be out-of-pocket, and expenses will be paid when attending the AGM when accompanied by a receipt. Some members stated they had difficulty showing receipts on the day if they paid by credit card, and the President reassured them he would trust their word, and the £20 'out-of-pocket' expenses for the day will also be honoured. The meeting was in full agreement.

Item 13 – Rules

There have been two slight amendments to the rules:

- a) Rule D para.2 - A member cannot serve on the committee of more than one Branch.
- b) The term 'General Secretary has been changed to 'Secretary General'.

This was passed by the meeting and the Rules will now be re-issued.

At this juncture, D Webb, Secretary North Wales Branch, requested more wreaths for Remembrance Day for North Wales. Last year he had to go begging for extra wreaths to cover all the major towns in North Wales. The Secretary General stated it was not practicable to supply a wreath for every Memorial, and the Association already provides wreaths free of charge for all Freedom cities and towns. Major Oultram has kindly agreed to lay a wreath on behalf of the Association at the National Memorial Arboretum in Stafford on Remembrance Day. N Chamberlain, Secretary Monmouthshire Branch stated that his Branch receive two wreaths free of charge from the Association, and pays for any extra they require.

The President stated that he was quite happy if someone from a Branch lays a wreath in a principal city or town, and if a Branch needs assistance to obtain extra wreaths then he will treat each request individually.

Support for the Regiment whilst in Afghanistan was another issue discussed, and suggestions of ways the Association could help financially. This is ongoing, and the President will keep the members informed in due course of the best way forward.

A Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch thanked the President for his kind words on the death of Julian Fuller, late Chairman of his Branch, and brought to the attention of RHQ that a Welsh Guardsman was to be presented with a medal at Llanelli on 27th June. He then enquired whether it was possible to present a Long Service Certificate to one of his members who have done sterling work for the Branch for many years. The Secretary General pointed out that these certificates were for the Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary of the Branch who have served for at least 15 years, and to start presenting them to others would only degrade the honour. He also

pointed out that this issue was discussed at an AGM some years ago, and the above was agreed. Some Branches present their own certificates to their members, and this was quite acceptable. The President asked if a letter of appreciation from him would suffice, since he would be extremely happy to write one if details were forwarded to him.

N.B. It was noted that certificates presented this year were of a very poor standard, and it is planned to replace them in due course.

Item 14 - AGM 2009

Before the President announced the date for the next AGM he proposed that the venue be changed to Cardiff or somewhere in Wales to reduce travelling by the Secretaries. This was rejected by the majority of those present, who wished it to remain in London.

The date of the next AGM is Friday June 12th 2009 at Wellington Barracks.

As there was 'no other business' the President closed the meeting, thanking everyone for attending, and wishing them a good weekend.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2009

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

- 6 London Branch AGM, Wellington Barracks, London
12 Monmouthshire Branch AGM, Town Hall, Abergavenny

MARCH

- 1 ASSOCIATION ST DAVID'S DAY, MERTHYR TYDFIL
28 ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL DINNER LUDLOW

APRIL

- 11 North Wales 73rd Annual Reunion Dinner, Bod Erw, St Asaph.
18 Ogmore Branch Annual Dinner/Dance, Masonic Hall, Bridgend
26 ASSOCIATION RACE DAY LUDLOW

MAY

- 9 London Branch Ladies Lunchtime Party
10 Monmouthshire Branch 'mixed' Sunday Lunch, Maes Manor, Blackwood.
30 Trooping The Colour - Major General's Review

JUNE

- 6 Trooping The Colour - Colonel's Review
12 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
13 THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- 11-16 ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR (Belgium and France)
26 ASSOCIATION DARTS AND SHOOTING COMPETITION (Nesscliffe Barracks)

OCTOBER

- 16 Cardiff Branch 90th Annual Dinner, St Peter's Hall, Cardiff
31 Monmouthshire Branch Reunion Dinner, The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny

NOVEMBER

- 8 Remembrance Day

DECEMBER

- 5 London Branch Lunchtime Christmas Party
11 Cardiff Branch Annual Ladies Night, St Peter's Hall, Cardiff

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths of the following

22694977 Gdsm R Banner
Died 22 February 2008 aged 73
Served 17 July 1952 - 16 January 1958

23879445 Gdsm R Bell
Died 25th June 2007 aged 63
Served 1963-1975

397813 Major CLL Bonn
Died 11 December 2008 aged 80
Served 18 January 1949 - 31 December 1958

2737353 Gdsm W Boyt
Died 8 January 2008 aged 87
Served 22 July 1940 - 20 September 1946

2740681 Frederick Brown
Died September 2008 aged 86
Served 1947-1952.

22499806 Sgt R Chapman
Died 6 February 2008 aged 74
Served 29 September 1951 - 28 September 1963

23561481 Gdsm A Clifford
Died 21 February 2008 aged 70
Served 14 January 1935 - 8 August 1945

2738222 Gdsm R Cooper
Died 30th July 2008
Served 23rd April 1942-29th Jan 1947

2739558 Gdsm R L Cox
Died 15 April 2008 aged 85
Served 18 May 1944 - 10 November 1947

22217659 Tom Edwards MM
Died March 2008 aged 76
Served 1952-1974

2735335 Gdsm D Francis
Died 20 July 2007 aged 88
Served from 29 December 1939 - 13 December 1945

22831393 Gdsm G Gribble
Died 7 March 2008 aged 72
Served 12 October 1955 - 10 October 1958

22831489 D W Griffiths
Died 19th July 2008 aged 73
Served 1956-1959

2740429 Gdsm H D Griffiths
Died 30 January 2008 aged 81
Served 14 December 1944 - 6 April 1948

24505427 Gdsm K Hammond
Died 18 February 2008 aged 48
Served 19 September 1978 - 4 January

2735281 Gdsm T C Harding
Died 23 October 2007 aged 89
Served 22 December 1939 - 20 April 1946

22217820 E Hayes
Died 08th August 2008 72
Served 22nd June 1953 - 23rd May 1956

2739606 Gdsm W Hibbert
Died 3rd August 2008 Aged 82
Served 1944-1947.

6085950 LCpl F Hilton
Died 5 March 2008 aged 91
Served 11 September 1934 - 14 August 1960

2741609 Gdsm M Hooson
Died December 2007 aged 80
Served 1946-1956.

2733947 Gdsm W K M Hughes
Died 15 December 2007 aged 91
Served 8 May 1958 - 7 November 1963

22217924 Sgt R James
Died 23 April 2008 aged 72
Served 24 November 1953-23 November 1962

24141941 CSgt G H Jenkins
Died 11 December 2007 aged 53
Served 28 April 1970 - 27 April 1994

300853 Col HJ Johnson OBE
Died 20 July 2008 Aged 83
Served 15 January 1943 - 8 June 1948.

95231 Major W H R Llewellyn MC
Died 29 May 2008 aged 88
Served 1 July 1939 - 28 April 1958

22831250 Gdsm K Littler
Died 12 August 2008 aged 72
Served 1935-1958.

1136528 Gdsm F Maddocks
Died December 2007 aged 85
Served 1939-1945.

23523367 LSgt N Mathias
Died February 2008 aged 68
Served 12 October 1959 - 24 November

2741107 LSgt R G Morgan
Died 1 November 2007 aged 81
Served 10 May 1945 - 5 April 1948

23879310 Gdsm R T Owen
Died 9 May 2008 aged 62
Served 27 August 1962 - 8 April 1976

23523504 WOII B Pritchard
Died 8 December 2007 aged 65
Served 28 July 1960 - 27 September 1982

27400343 Sgt R Richards
Died 28 January 2008 aged 81
Served 23 November 1944 - 25 March 1948

2741372 Gdsm Roberts
Died 23 July 2008 aged 81
Served 1945-1947.

22217437 Gdsm G Roberts
Died 25th June 2008 aged 74
Served 1951-1953.

23879469 Gdsm A Salmon
Died 20th October 2007 aged 61
Served 1964-1970.

2740258 Gdsm H A Standen
Died 20 November 2007 aged 80
Served 26 October 1994 - 11 March 1948

2733589 Gdsm H J Stroud
Died 22 March 2008 aged 93
Served 1 March 1933 - 21 November 1940

487439 Major D N Taylor
Died 16 March 2008 aged 79
Served 1 September 1974 - 20 February 1986

24428396 T K Walker
Died 8 February 2008 aged 48

22217401 Gdsm G Williams
Died 21st August 2008 aged 74
Served 1951 - 1968.

23523175 Gdsm K E Wolley
Died 27th February 2008 aged 68
Served 1959 - 1965.





WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2008