

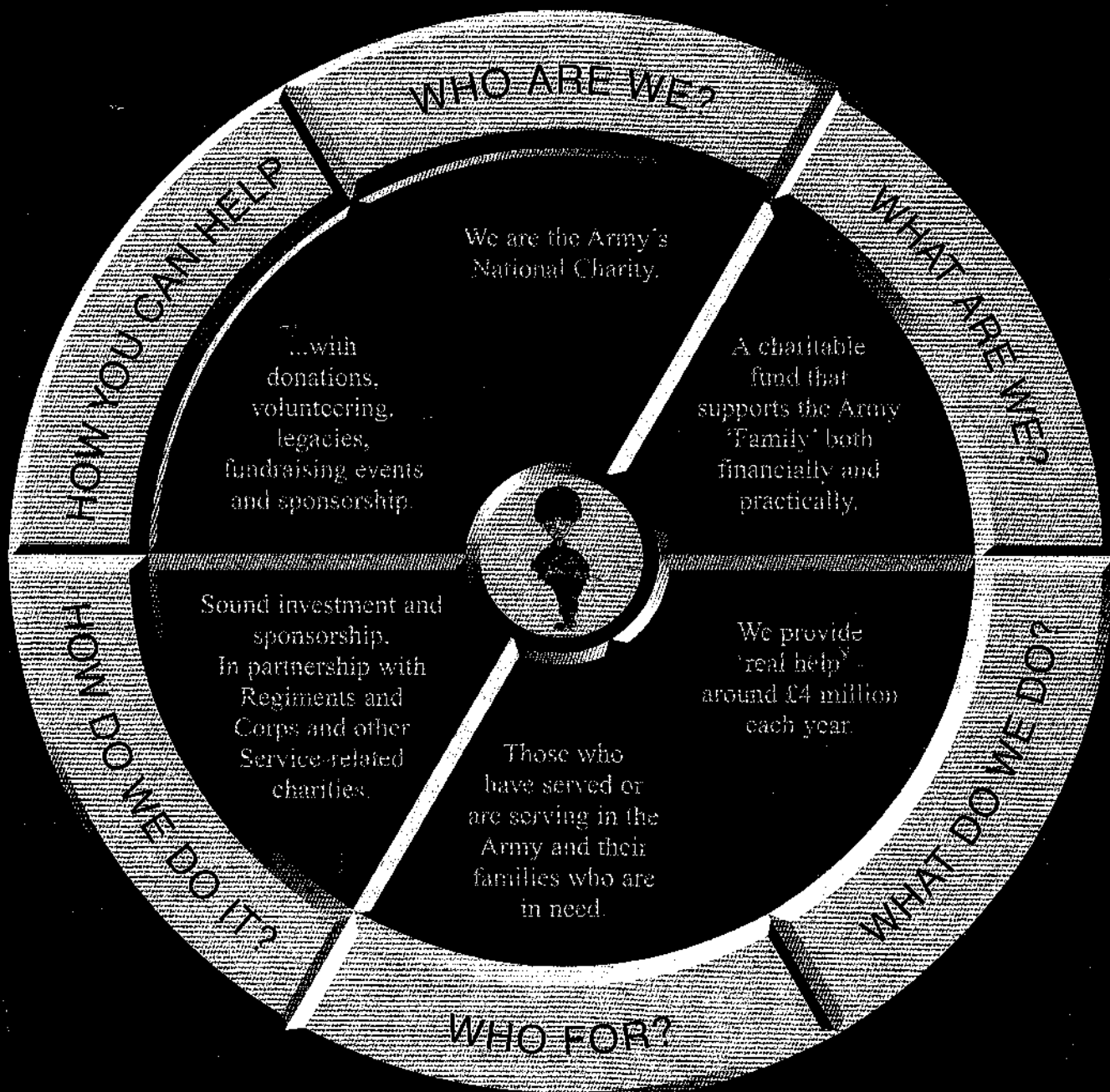


WELSH GUARDS
REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE
2007/2008





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WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

(Incorporating the Annual Report of the Welsh Guards Association for 2007)



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

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FRONT COVER: GEN WATT PRESENTING LEEKS TO THE BATTALION IN KOSOVO.

BACK COVER: GSM WDG MOTT OBE WITH HIS BROTHERS AND MEMBERS OF THE QUEENS BODYGUARD ON THE OCCASION OF GSM INVESTITURE.

Foreword

by The Commanding Officer

Lt Col R J A E Stanford MBE

The past year is one which has been characterised by variety above all else. Along with the rest of the Army, the Battalion has been kept busy but what really marks the past 12 months is the huge variety of tasks we have conducted. These have ranged from concluding Britain's major military contribution to Bosnia, conducting static covert surveillance at company level in Kosovo, providing 3 guards on the Queen's Birthday Parade with only 4 weeks to prepare, the Mortar Platoon completing a 6 month tour in the thick of operations in Afghanistan converting to the BOWMAN communication system and the Battalion about to deploy to Belize for a 5 week exercise prior to Christmas. Quite some variety and not many spare days in the programme.

The Battalion's deployment to the Balkans was one of contrasts because of the difference in the operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. The majority of the Battalion spent the 6 months tour in Banja Luka Metal Factory in Bosnia where the British Army's large scale involvement in the country was drawing to a close after 16 years of hard work. The Battalion was to be the last Battle Group based in the country which can now stand on its own two feet and not need significant support from international military organisations. Politically the country is still divided with 3 separate governments ruling one country but the likelihood of re-ignition of military conflict is very low. As a result of this situation the pace of operations was extremely slow. This could have lead to an extremely dull tour, however the training opportunities close to Banja Luka are excellent. Companies spent a lot of time on the ranges in Manjaca some 40 minutes from the camp concentrating on the basics of our craft, namely fitness, shooting and navigation. There was also a fiercely competitive inter-company competition where the Prince of Wales's and No 3 Company, joined by C Company from the Princess Irene's Guards who were Battle Grouped with us, battled it out in a variety of competitions ranging from a March and Shoot competition to indoor hockey, and from military skills to a Christmas cooking competition. The winner of the competition was decided in the final match of the final event, 5 a side football. POWs Coy narrowly beat No 3 Coy with C Coy coming very close behind. We were very fortunate to be joined by C Company Princess Irene's Guards in Bosnia as we have a close common history, which is explained in another article in the magazine.

The training in Bosnia was only limited by the commander's imagination, which resulted in some exceedingly challenging training in conditions, which do not exist in the UK. One of the highlights was the opportunity to practice Fighting in Factories. The Battalion made use of a derelict factory complex on the outskirts of Banja Luka. Some useful lessons were learnt and tactics had to be adapted to the very different conditions encountered compared to more usual training areas in the UK. The culmination of the training achieved in Bosnia was a company group live firing attack during which the company inserted by Macedonian Hip and Swiss Cougar helicopters, were supported by Lynx helicopters firing overhead and also supported by 3 Bosnian Army T55 tanks. The exercise was a very demanding test of the skills learnt during the tour.

The Battalion was extremely fortunate to be visited in Bosnia by our Colonel and the Duchess of Cornwall on St David's Day. Our Regimental day took the usual format with the Prince of Wales presenting leeks to the Officers and Warrant Officers and this year we were fortunate that The Duchess of Cornwall presented leeks to No 3, Headquarter and Support Companies while The Prince of Wales presented leeks to his Company. After the parade His Royal Highness presented Meritorious Service Medals to Regimental Sergeant Majors Bowen and Robinson, and Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to CSgt Cook, the Master Tailor and Sgt Lowdon from the Regimental Band. Their Royal Highnesses then took the opportunity to meet members of the Battalion before setting off the Iron Guardsman Team on their way back to Wellington Barracks via the carbon free route, cycling from Banja Luka to Calais, kayaking the Channel and running from Dover to Wellington Barracks. General Sir Redmond Watt, Commander in Chief LAND, was kind enough to present the leeks to No 2 Company in Kosovo. He spent his last St David's Day in uniform presenting leeks to the Company he first joined.

No 2 Company's tour to Kosovo was very different to the remainder of the Battalion in Bosnia. The Company Group comprised No 2 Company, the Recce Platoon and members of HQ Company. Their job was to provide Static Covert Surveillance across the whole of Kosovo gathering intelligence and, where appropriate, acting on it. They had some significant success during the tour; in particular with 2 major operations that had a significant effect at the strategic level in Kosovo. While in Kosovo the Company were joined by a Swedish Platoon who were an integral part of the Company throughout the tour. Many friendships were made and resulted in some of the Guardsmen spending their post operational tour leave in Sweden. Our congratulations to Major Rupert Pim for his award of a CJO's commendation following his work with No 2 Company in Kosovo.

During the tour to the Balkans, the Mortar Platoon were re-tasked to re-group and deploy to Afghanistan with the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. They had just returned from a very successful tour in the thick of the action. To give a small insight into the intensity of the operations, one of the mortar sections in one week fired the same amount of ammunition that the Battalion is allocated for training for a whole year. The Platoon has effectively completed 14 months on operations, which is a considerable achievement for the men and their families.

On return from the Balkans the Battalion re-grouped and set about preparing for the daunting task of providing 3 guards for the Queen's Birthday Parade, the most that a single Battalion has provided for many years. Following the Major General's Inspection there were only 4 weeks to reach the exacting standards required for the Parade, the least time there has ever been to prepare. This year was No 7 Company Coldstream Guards's Troop, however the majority of men on Horse Guards were Welsh Guardsmen, very unusually the Parade was not commanded by a Coldstreamer but by a Welsh Guardsman, this entailed the Commanding Officer not so much honing his riding skills but learning from scratch.

No sooner had the dust settled on Horse Guards than the Battalion went up to Bangor for the Laying up of the Old Colours in Bangor Cathedral. On a very wet June day the Company marched through Bangor, were inspected by the Mayor and then marched to the

Cathedral to lay up the Colours. The Battalion received a very warm welcome in North Wales; the Dean of Bangor Cathedral gave a most generous address as part of the Laying up of the Old Colours service. While in North Wales the Battalion took the opportunity to exercise the Freedoms of Caernarfon and Wrexham as well as having a families day in Bangor to thank all the family and friends of the Battalion for all their support to the Battalion and Guardsmen over the past few years. Without their support the past few busy years of almost continuous operations would have been all the more difficult.

In this 25th Commemoration year of the Falklands Conflict, the Battalion has taken part in a number of events. A service for the whole Battalion was held in the Guards Chapel on 8th June which was a fitting way to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Campaign and was also a useful way to impart some Regimental history to the Guardsmen, the majority of whom were not born at the time of the conflict. The Battalion was also well represented at the Wrexham Falklands Service as well as the unveiling of the Falklands Memorial Stone in Cardiff. Both events were particularly moving and it was good to see many Welsh Guardsmen from all ages with the Falklands veterans.

On the adventure and sporting front mention must be made of Capt. James Westropp and his team of Iron Guardsmen who returned from Bosnia under their own steam. They cycled 1300 miles from Banja Luka to Calais, kayaked the Channel and then ran from Dover to Calais in the month of March. They subsequently cycled from Wellington Barracks to Bangor, via Cardiff, prior to the Laying-up of Old Colours. During this very ambitious and gruelling event they raised over £34,000 for 3 charities, The Army Benevolent Fund, SAMA (82) Wales and Everyman cancer charity. Our thanks to the many people who supported the team throughout.

Mention must also be made of 3 men who have played rugby for the Combined Services, LSgt Scarff 31, LCpl Lewis 23 and Gdsm Sweeney. This is a huge credit to these men and to the Battalion as a whole. WO2 Price 80 is head coach of the Army's rugby team and had a very successful centenary year. There are a number of younger players who are waiting anxiously to see if they will be picked to play for the Army Under 23 side.

Next year looks as though it has as much variety in store for the Battalion with a number of overseas exercises planned as well as a move down to 1 Mechanized Brigade in July and the opportunities that this will entail.

There is no doubt that the busy pace of life and the excellent standard that the Battalion continues to achieve in a wide variety of tasks would not have been sustainable without the support of family, friends and members of the association, our sincere thanks and appreciation to you all.

1st Battalion Welsh Guards

The Prince of Wales's Company

Y Ddraig Goch Ddyry Cychwyn
The Red Dragon Gives a Lead

PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

Major Ramsay
Captain Corbet-Burcher
Captain Hillard
LT Storrar
2Lt Olszowski
40 WO2 Pollard
88 CSgt Topps
05 Sgt Williams
06 Sgt Jones
00 Sgt Parry
97 LSgt Canavan
83 LSgt Davies
10 LSgt Harrison
10 LSgt Morgan
75 LSgt Owen
19 LSgt Parry
31 LSgt Scarf
70 LSgt Webb
28 Cpl Staffiton
32 Cpl Hayllar
31 LCpl Adams
01 LCpl Calvert
89 LCpl Cunningham
94 LCpl Dwyer
83 LCpl Isaac
16 LCpl Jones
73 LCpl Jones
65 LCpl O'Brien
22 LCpl Qaimuri
06 LCpl Robinson
99 LCpl Rowlands
86 LCpl Thomas
65 Gdsm Barber
63 Gdsm Bebb
45 Gdsm Berry
70 Gdsm Bilton
40 Gdsm Cook
13 Gdsm Cook
51 Gdsm Cummins
86 Gdsm Dade
93 Gdsm Davies
11 Gdsm Davies
77 Gdsm Davies
99 Gdsm Delaney
74 Gdsm Elias
75 Gdsm English
11 Gdsm Evans
35 Gdsm Evans
94 Gdsm Evans
96 Gdsm Evans
21 Gdsm Fulton
61 Gdsm Garrod
36 Gdsm Gretnan
61 Gdsm Gregson
43 Gdsm Haly
87 Gdsm Hayer
02 Gdsm Hennessey

**September 2006 –
September 2007**

The Prince of Wales's Company deployed to Bosnia as part of the Multi National Battle Group (MNBG) to be based at Banja Luka (BLMF).

In what was a relatively quiet operational environment we were presented with a fantastic opportunity to conduct both military and adventurous training. With the exceptional training area of Manjaca just forty-five minutes away we had six months to perfect the Company SOPs starting with individual skills and working up to BG operations. Early in the Tour Sgt Dunn set up a fantastic bayonet assault course. With the early morning mist and the

drums playing us in it was a hugely atmospheric morning that got everybody's blood up.

Lt Moukarzel and Sgt Lewis 34 were in charge of improving the Guardsmen's navigational skills, to this day there is still some debate as to who got lost the most, the Guardsmen or Lt Moukarzel. However after a few navigation exercises the standard of navigation had improved considerably.

We conducted several weeks of training up at Manjaca covering all aspect of conventional war fighting whilst steadily improving our standard of shooting. We conducted several live firing platoon attacks, both day and night, deliberate attacks as well as some



POW's Coy March & Shoot under Capt Hillard

09 Gdsm Hughes
 75 Gdsm Hopkins
 29 Gdsm Jones
 89 Gdsm Jones
 01 Gdsm Kastein
 55 Gdsm Kelly
 58 Gdsm Koscielny
 84 Gdsm Lawrence
 76 Gdsm Leighton
 55 Gdsm Lewis
 64 Gdsm Lewis
 65 Gdsm Lewis
 12 Gdsm Lodwick
 63 Gdsm Love
 53 Gdsm Meek
 94 Gdsm Mottram
 82 Gdsm Miller
 35 Gdsm Muia
 26 Gdsm Pierce
 26 Gdsm Pugh
 52 Gdsm Safee
 40 Gdsm Salisbury
 63 Gdsm Saunders
 01 Gdsm Screen
 51 Gdsm Selby
 86 Gdsm Smith
 58 Gdsm Thomas
 99 Gdsm Vaganalau
 12 Gdsm Watkin-Bennett
 93 Gdsm Williams
 21 Gdsm Williams
 60 Gdsm Williams
 00 Gdsm Williams

ambushes. The culmination of this training was a Company live firing deliberate attack involving support from Bosnian army tanks, Macedonian support helicopters and overhead fire from our British Lynx helicopters.

On a sporting front we completed a 10 km run, several log races, stretcher carries, bike rides, hockey matches, football matches, basketball games, a half marathon not to mention the daily PT. The sporting highlight was the Battalion ski trip to Sarajevo. Skiing has always been the most sought after adventurous training, but chuck in a few

mine fields and ski lifts that were older than anyone on the slopes and it became a more adventurous ski trip than most! Guardsman Saunders and Guardsman Divers found that they had a particular gift for skiing and having successfully passed the ski proficiency test they could well be the ski instructors of the future. These sporting competitions were combined with various military skill competitions such as the march and shoot competition to form the Inter Company Bosnian Trophy, which we duly won.

The Battalion Inter Company boxing competition took place towards the end of the Tour. CQMS Topps acting as the Company boxing coach was a fantastic influence upon the inexperienced boxers. With his boxing know-how it came as no surprise that we found several promising boxers within the Company ranks. LCpl Isaac won the award for the best Boxer, Gdsm Safee had a titanic and ultimately victorious battle with Major Mellish Number Three Company Commander and Gdsm Watkin-Bennett took his opportunity to defeat the valiant efforts of Lt Moukarzel.

Halfway through the Tour Capt. Corbett Burcher left the Company to join the Grenadier Guards for their tour of Afghanistan. Happily he is now back with our Battalion and is about to take over the Recce Platoon.

Our return to England would see us return to Wellington Barracks as the proud holders of the Bosnian Inter Company Competition Cup. It would also see CSM Roberts 99 move on from the Company to take over the position of Senior Drill Sergeant (DSgt) and CSM Pollard take over as Company Sergeant Major. However with the Queens Birthday Parade looming it would not be long before we would see DSgt Roberts.

From our return in March up until Christmas we had two aims. The first being Ceremonial duties with the focus on being Number Three Guard for the Queens Birthday. The second target was Bowmanisation.

The Queens Birthday Parade required a huge amount of preparation and allowed little time for anything else in the way of 'green training' however on the day everyone performed immaculately and once again all the hard work was thoroughly worth while. It is worth noting that the parade was produced to the usual high standards even though we had less time to rehearse than for any previous parade. There were notable performances from LSgt Scarf and LSgt Owen 75 who only had one week to practice.



POW & 3 Coy insert for final attack

Following the Queens Birthday Parade the Company had a month in which to undergo its Bowman training. The Company approached it with a positive attitude and was rewarded with a good teaching programme. Some of the more memorable moments came courtesy of LSgt Scarf. LSgt Long our instructor asked, "does anyone know how to conduct a battery test with the new Bowman batteries?" LSgt Scarf answered "you find the most junior Guardsman and get him to lick it. His subsequent hang time and distance of flight will determine how charged the battery is! Two metres means it is fully charged."

The first competition in this year's Prince of Wales's trophy was the pace sticking competition. The team, CSM Pollard, CSgt Topps, Sgt Williams 205 and Sgt Parry 700 cruised to a comfortable win.

The 300 Cup, the inter Company rugby competition, was as always a fiercely contested competition which saw the Prince of Wales's Company emerge victorious for the second time in a row. Sgt Williams 205, who is also the Battalion team captain, put in a great performance as did CQMS Topps who scored two tries in the final. LCpl Dwyer an Army player and Guardsman Lodwick also took time out of their Pre-Deployment Leave before going to Afghanistan with the Coldstream Guards to help with the victory. CSM Pollard was unfortunately unable to attend after suffering a severe back strain in a warm up game of touch rugby. The side sorely missed his side step.

One of the reasons we all join the Army is to go adventure training and fortunately Sgt Williams 205 planned and conducted a fantastic Adventure Training package in North Wales. It was a two week package, the company was split in half with one half doing the training in the first week whilst the other half was on Exercise in Pirbright and then they swapped. The Activities included mountain biking, kayaking and coast steering to name but a few. As always it was a huge

success with the Guardsmen discovering a hitherto unknown fascination with jumping off cliffs – for fun! Guardsman Meek decided to wait 12 hours before casually mentioning that he thought he might have broken his arm and was sorry! The break was traced back to minor mountain biking mistake involving a steep hill, a somersault and a somewhat less than athletic landing.

LCpl Jones 16 and Cpl Isaacs hit new heights by going on and successfully completing a gliding course.

The remainder of the Company not adventurous training was on Exercise in Pirbright. The aim of the Exercise was to give the Platoon a chance to remind, revise and then practice low level skills in preparation for the Leuchars Cup. The QM (T), Capt. Mott produced his usual magic and got us more blank ammunition than I thought possible, thus we were able to conduct some superb section attacks. By the end of the Exercise both Platoons were very much back on fighting form. In addition to Section attacks, the Sections conducted some recce patrols. Considering Pirbright is a notoriously difficult area to navigate around it is a testament to the skill of the Sections that no one got lost. Indeed the only person to go slightly off track was CSM Pollard (acting as DS) who lost contact with LCpl Jones's Section whilst conducting a navigation check. It was a pure joy to be back in the field for an extended period of time and the Company is now well placed for the Leuchars Cup.

The future is looking good, with Battle Field Tour to Northern France organised by Lt Olszowski and the most exciting prospect is the Battalion Exercise to Belize. Following the Exercise the Company is looking forward to an equally busy and productive year in 2008.

Number Two Company

Gwyr Ynys Y Cedryn

The Men of the Island of the Mighty

NUMBER TWO COMPANY

Maj Bettinson
Lt Freeman
2Lt Charles-Jones
2Lt Spencer-Smith
88 WO2 Topps
30 CSgt Taylor
58 Sgt Furlong
98 Sgt R-Buckley
02 Sgt Roberts
51 LSgt Fuller
96 LSgt Griffiths
40 LSgt Maslen
38 LSgt Treharne
55 LCpl Anderson
39 LCpl Baines
39 LCpl Bartley
88 LCpl Evans
36 LCpl Evans
08 LCpl Green
34 LCpl Griffiths
66 LCpl Ngando
31 LCpl Nuku
11 LCpl Williams
57 LCpl Williams
89 Gdsm Adams
13 Gdsm Arnold
45 Gdsm Ardizzone
21 Gdsm Bailey
86 Gdsm Balderstone
87 Gdsm Barwick
85 Gdsm Beasley
02 Gdsm Bevan
97 Gdsm Bolabola
92 Gdsm Brewer
49 Gdsm Bromage
25 Gdsm Brown
95 Gdsm Brownott
32 Gdsm Buckley
82 Gdsm Buller
80 Gdsm Byfield
77 Gdsm Chambers
52 Gdsm Culley
51 Gdsm Davis
90 Gdsm Edwards
16 Gdsm Evans
00 Gdsm Fuller
94 Gdsm Francis
79 Gdsm Green
05 Gdsm Green
43 Gdsm Griffiths
04 Gdsm Hobbs
88 Gdsm Jenkins
17 Gdsm Jones
08 Gdsm Jones
88 Gdsm Jones
13 Gdsm Jones
27 Gdsm Kemp
66 Gdsm Marsh
77 Gdsm McMail
74 Gdsm Meaney

The start of any recent article on the exploits of a Rifle Company in an Infantry Battalion will always profess to how busy the reporting period has been. True to form, it is apt to say that since the last update, Number Two Company has achieved a huge amount in an extremely short period of time. As a body of men we have not only gone through an extremely arduous OPTAG package, but deployed on operations in the Static Covert Surveillance role and achieved tangible success in a volatile but relatively overlooked theatre. In addition, we tackled all of the military support tasks (now common to the overstretched Army) that were thrown at us in the resounding style of Shiny Two.

Lydd, on the South Coast of Kent, was the venue for the pre-deployment training. However, living in a dilapidated Victorian Barrack room for 7 weeks at the height of the scorching summer, with few creature comforts, a non-working sewage system and at times inedible food, combined with copious amounts of early morning PT and extremely late nights, tested the Officers and men to their limits. The 'Old Heads' that were attached from the Reconnaissance Platoon helped the relative inexperienced Two Company Guardsmen through this course and at the same time, some excellent new friendships were struck up.

Unsurprisingly, the Company was extremely glad to deploy to Slim Lines, Pristina in Kosovo, both to get away from Lydd and to start a highly

interesting role in-theatre. The deployment was as part of the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Task Force, in the NATO led mission in Kosovo. The Welsh Guards were the lead element of the Task Force, whose mission was to promote a safe and secure environment in the troubled region. A Number Two Group headed up by Major Pim, bolstered by the Reconnaissance Platoon provided the fighting troops. In addition, a Platoon of Swedish soldiers added a blend of Scandinavian class to the proceedings and worked as an integrated unit within Number Two Company. The Task Force was also ably supported by a detachment from the Quartermaster's department, headed up by Capt. Cooling.

The conditions in Kosovo were the height of luxury compared to those experienced in Lydd. A number of the Company were privileged to have a large freight container or "Corrimec" to themselves they could call home for the next 6 months, complete with TVs and DVD players. In addition, the freezing temperatures that we were expecting rarely materialised and the sun often shone.

The deployment came at a time of extreme importance for Kosovo. It fell during the period 'Final status talks' for the region, a process that had been ongoing since the end of the conflict in 1999. For many reasons, but also undoubtedly due to the hard work and determination of all members of the Company, the period

79 Gdsm Millins
 28 Gdsm Milton
 40 Gdsm Murdoch
 29 Gdsm Nadin
 74 Gdsm Pheasey
 59 Gdsm Powell
 44 Gdsm Rosser
 89 Gdsm Rowlands
 14 Gdsm Rickman-Smith
 79 Gdsm Stanfield
 22 Gdsm Thomas
 56 Gdsm Thomas
 28 Gdsm Walters
 42 Gdsm Williams
 29 Gdsm Williams-Day
 99 Gdsm Viavialvu

of final status talks passed without issue. During our six-month tour we achieved a huge amount and everyone can be justifiably proud that through their efforts a safe and secure environment became a reality for the province of Kosovo.

The high operational tempo meant that on occasions, the only people in the Company that were not deployed on the ground were the Ops room staff. The nuances associated with manning caused CSM Hughes 32 to loose all of his hair (he only pretends that he shaves it), but he coped admirably to ensure that there was always a deployable team to go at the drop of a hat. Conversely, there were times that we were not overly busy which allowed the Team Commanders to conduct vital training, including visiting a local ski-slope. It is doubtful whether the chair lifts would come anywhere near passing the lowest of safety checks, but they certainly provided all members of the Company with some much needed downtime on Sunday afternoons.

Christmas time saw the advent of the first real snow and more importantly the Company "Secret Santa" organised by CSgt Edwards Jones. The Company Commander, Major Pim, was extremely grateful for his pipe and slippers; others were less fortunate as they received nothing. Luckily this was not because they were undeserving, but because LCpl Ralph and LSgt



2 Coy enjoy BOS R&R



LSgt Trahernes patrol 2 Coy Kosovo

Broe had been asked to leave theatre in order to deploy to Afghanistan with the Mortar Platoon and had neglected to buy presents in time. Captain Lerner and Gdsm Harris were most upset, as they had nothing to open on Christmas Day!

As with many Eastern European Countries, copyright laws are not particularly stringent. This meant that members of Number Two Company were able to become a walking catalogue for the outdoor clothing company, North Face. They thought that this gear would be perfect for the ski slopes. Unfortunately, Gdsm Bola Bola took a tumble one-day in his newly purchased saloppettes. As he hauled his snow clad body from the deep powder, he realised that the North Face trousers weren't up to much and that he was now wearing cut off shorts – not ideal for a Fijian at minus 10 degrees celsius...

Operating in small teams enabled the LSgt Team Commanders to have great command experience, which served them all very well. Similarly, the responsibilities of the LCpls and Gdsm were huge and this encouraged them to substantially develop their soldering skills to a level beyond their peers in Bosnia. To further help develop the skills of the Gdsm and LCpls, the Company Commander staged a Public Speaking Competition. We were treated to a variety of talks (and a variety of standards!) on a wide range of issues, some topical, some comical but all put real effort into this tasking and eventually produced well planned and well executed speeches. Those of particular note were LCpl Davis 29 on Henry VIII and LCpl Jones 14 (aka Posh) on "My mate Dave" – incredible!

The Company was also fortunate that General Watt spent his last St David's Day in the Army with us in Kosovo. He presented our leeks, much to the amazement of the Multi-Nationals on camp as they marvelled at the Officers' drill movements (although they were not quite as bad as Gdsm Jones 88's efforts!)

After handing over to 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles (1 RGR) in record time, the Company went on a period of well-deserved leave. Thereafter, on return to London an entirely new challenge was facing us – Public Duties, including a Guard of Honour and The Queen's Birthday Parade. A far cry from the rolling hills of Kosovo, but in indomitable fashion Number Two Company rose to the challenge with alacrity. This challenge was made harder by the fact that we received a huge influx of new Gdsm who had never donned a bearskin, let alone conducted a Queen's Guard. Luckily none were fazed and the Troop was a resounding success with the Company finding Number Two Guard. Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter commented, 'It doesn't get any better than this'.

Since the Queen's Birthday Parade, Number 2 have been no less busy. Aside from the demands of providing detachments for Queen's Guard, the Tower of London and Windsor Castle, North Walian Company members took part in the laying up of the Old Colours at Bangor Cathedral.

We have also completed a number of Regular Army Assistance Tasks (RAAT). At the end of June, the Company provided range staff for 1 RGR's live firing package in Lydd, before their Afghanistan deployment. In addition, Lt Spencer Smith spent a week in Thetford, Norfolk assisting their final live firing exercise. In August, Lt Charles Jones spent a month platoon commanding on a cadet leadership course at Frimley Park.

We have bid farewell to Major Pim after his two years in command, as he moves on to the MOD in London. He received a CJO's commendation for his work in Kosovo. He is replaced by Major Bettinson who returns after a good stint in Northern Ireland. CSM Hughes has also left, to become a CSM at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He was replaced by CSM Fade, who returned from instructing at the Infantry Battle



2 Coy in Kosovo

School Senior Division in Brecon. He in turn has just moved on, after seizing a lifetime chance to work in Kenya. We warmly welcome our third CSM in a year, WO2 Topps. Captain Lamer has left the company after nearly three years, to be employed in the Prince of Wales's office as the Temporary Equerry. On a separate note, congratulations must go to Sgt Kennedy who has become the Guards Parachute Platoon Sergeant, based in Colchester with 3 Para. We wish him the best of luck for his forthcoming tour to Afghanistan.

Number Two Company has an exciting next 12 months to look forward to: a Battalion Exercise in Belize, a Company Exercise overseas, our final Queen's Birthday Parade for some years to come and an Arms Plot move back to Aldershot. All will be embraced by the Men of the Island of the Mighty with their customary professionalism, diligence and good humour.



Bosnian Static Covert Surveillance Platoon on March & Shoot

Number Three Company

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

NUMBER THREE COMPANY

Maj Stone
Capt Jones
2Lt Harvie
2Lt Noyons
2Lt Richards
63 WO2 Baldwin
98 CSgt Ryan
20 Sgt Mills
03 Sgt Pullen
57 Sgt Gwilliam
07 LSgt Evans
59 LSgt Geen
54 LSgt Lewis
76 LSgt Long
75 LSgt Mathias
54 LSgt Vucvucika
47 LCpl Adams
79 LCpl Braithwaite
87 LCpl Crombie
31 LCpl Evans
75 LCpl Haines
66 LCpl Harry
73 LCpl Hiscock
33 LCpl McEvoy
03 LCpl Peck
03 LCpl Soko
74 Gdsm Ashworth
86 Gdsm Brooks
21 Gdsm Broome
20 Gdsm Browning
16 Gdsm Cavender
82 Gdsm Caffrey
10 Gdsm Canning
17 Gdsm Chard
49 Gdsm Clarke
16 Gdsm Davies
38 Gdsm Doyle
97 Gdsm Edwards
28 Gdsm Evans
95 Gdsm Evans
74 Gdsm Evans
64 Gdsm Gray
87 Gdsm Griffiths
83 Gdsm Hedges
24 Gdsm Huish
62 Gdsm James
64 Gdsm Jones
43 Gdsm Jones
94 Gdsm Jones
10 Gdsm Jones
97 Gdsm Kemp
62 Gdsm Langley
27 Gdsm Lewis
91 Gdsm Malley
27 Gdsm Matthews
27 Gdsm Meadows
95 Gdsm Moce
30 Gdsm Morrell
02 Gdsm Moss
16 Gdsm Mundy

As soon as tunics had been put back in wardrobes and bearskins been put back in tins after the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2006, the Little Iron Men were onto the next task, that of training for their next Operational Tour in the Balkans. Number Three Company, embellished by the Corps of Drums, were to be one of three manoeuvre rifle companies based in Banja Luka Metal Factory (BLMF) on the outskirts of Bosnia's second city. The training delivered by the Operational Training Advisory Group covered a diverse range of subjects, from searching for and handling illegally held weapons and munitions to mentoring and guiding local police authorities. There was the inevitable crowd and riot control training which would ultimately form a crucial part of our capability in theatre and it was during one of these riot training serials that Major R E A Loriman suffered a recurrence of his knee ligament injury that would render him unfit to deploy to Bosnia as the Company Commander. Major E J T Mellish was plucked from his staff job in Wiltshire to fill his shoes and took over the Company on 7th October after they had been in Bosnia for around ten days.

It very quickly became apparent that there would be limited operational activity during our six-month tenure and this was no bad thing. This gave the Company the

chance to conduct a wide range of conventional training over a sustained duration and to a high standard, an opportunity that few infantry sub units have in the current climate of operational commitment. Number Three Company took full advantage of this and the road to Manjaca, the Bosnian Army training area about thirty miles away in the hills south west of Banja Luka, became a well trodden path. Once the CQMS Brown 89 had moved the Company into its 'corrimec' accommodation and they had seen all that the Metal Factory had to offer it wasn't long before they began to get itchy feet. Within three weeks we were up at Manjaca at the first of several forward-operating bases. This was very much a home from home with heated tents and showers (we would need this as the tour went on!), Sky television and home cinema, a gym and even satellite phones that could be used to phone home. Although this sounds like a somewhat soft exercise for front line infantry soldiers, these facilities were in place so that in the event of being deployed in the AO (the same size as South Wales) we could operate for a sustained period of time in isolation. Even though we were in training mode we were still required to adhere to move time, especially when acting as the Divisional Crowd and Riot Control Tactical Reserve which could also be deployed to Kosovo in the event of civil or ethnic unrest.

36 Gdsm O'Sullivan
 35 Gdsm Owen
 01 Gdsm Owen
 56 Gdsm Purnell
 89 Gdsm Preece
 25 Gdsm Roberts
 34 Gdsm Roberts
 95 Gdsm Roberts
 65 Gdsm Robinson
 39 Gdsm Rowlands
 69 Gdsm Rowlands
 44 Gdsm Sinclair
 52 Gdsm Simons
 77 Gdsm Thomas
 83 Gdsm Williams
 01 Gdsm Williams

Much like our "rivals", The Prince of Wales's Company, the Company Commander took a 'back to basics' approach and aimed to flush out the green soldering cobwebs that had undoubtedly built up over a long and busy summer of Public Duties, and although the under ground jungle drums talked of Infantry Training Centre

Banja Luka, for the most part the Company was happy to take the advantage to get some decent training under the belt as operations were so thin on the ground. Physical fitness improved particularly rapidly with the somewhat uneven landscape around Manjaca and the Mctal Factory providing "engaging" running and marching routes for all under the firm but fair tutelage of LSgt Evans 07 and Gdsm Dummer!

The one operational opportunity that the Company had to deploy from the gates of BLMF was Op EMBURY, a "harvest" operation, aimed at searching for and confiscating weapons held illegally in the local area, generated by specific intelligence. The Company found a substantial amount of weapons, including hand grenades, automatic rifles and pistols, as well as small arms ammunition and magazines.

As well as the gradual build up of tactical training, including extensive live firing, there was also the Inter Company Competition. While the Prince of Wales's Company made a flying start to the raft of different events there was a strong rear guard action fought by the Iron Men to the point where the teams were neck and neck going into the final event, the five a side football tournament. Surely enough, in keeping with the entire competition, the Company team faced the Jam Boys in the final, and, despite a valiant effort lost by a narrow margin and finished second in the Inter-Company Competition by one point only. Throughout there had been many performances worthy of note. LSgt Long the Company RSDC, despite his ample frame proved especially lithe and athletic on the indoor

hockey pitch, while LSgt Bjegovic won the Battalion PFT Competition. Sgt O'Brien won the 'Pop Idol' contest and was ably backed by the rest of the Corps of Drums in his rendition of 'I Predict a Riot'.

Also particularly worthy of note is the huge effort undertaken by the Company Second in Command Capt. J C R Westropp who dreamt up and organised the Iron Guardsman Challenge, despite significant barriers being placed in his way. While he headed the team that would tackle this gargantuan task he was accompanied by three other members of the Company, Sgt Mills, Gdsm Caffrey and Gdsm Williams 83 all of which lasted the duration of this gruelling course.

The return to London was eagerly awaited, especially so as the Company formed the 'rear guard' and was the last British manoeuvre sub-unit to leave Bosnia. The expected shake out for public duties including tunic fittings and bringing kit up to speed was achieved in good time, under the watchful eye of the new Company Sergeant Major, WO2 (CSM) Baldwin. The four weeks POTL were gratefully received. On our return to work the margins for error were small, with the Major General inspecting the Battalion at the end of the first week back from leave. The standard was achieved and almost as soon as this had taken place then preparations for the Queen's Birthday Parade began in earnest. The Company, with some embellishments from Support Company, formed Number Five Guard and embarked on a hectic four-week daily rehearsal programme, the shortest period for preparation for this high profile event in recent memory.

Nevertheless, the preparations went extremely well and after the Major General's Review there was genuine concern across the Company that we were in danger of peaking too early! Thankfully the high standards on parade were maintained for the next fortnight and the day itself went extremely well. For the majority of the Company on parade this was their second consecutive Troop and this was evident in their mature approach, polished performance and obvious pride in what they were doing. All in all it was a memorable day.

With the Troop under the belt the mid summer period was just as busy. Manpower that had been 'untouchable' until that point was now fair game and the RAAT tasks descended with force from London District. In the background to all this was still the base level public duty commitment to fulfil and again the Company approached this demanding and diverse spread of tasks with professionalism and a balanced approach. On top of this the Company also provided a fire team to re-enforce 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards for their forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan, including No 7 Pl. Comd, Lt A H E Noyons, LCpl Crombie, Gdsm Griffiths 87, Gdsm Jones 10 and Gdsm Caffrey. We wish them the very best of luck for their tour.

In conclusion this has been a hugely busy period for Number Three Company and when you examine what has been achieved in a year it is in many ways fairly remarkable. This includes pre-deployment training followed by a

six-month tour to the Balkans during which we assisted in closing down that theatre of operations, a Major Generals Inspection and a Queen's Birthday Parade with a public duties 'silly season' thrown in for good measure. Throughout the Little Iron Men have continued to show that renowned fighting spirit, coupled with a large dose of banter and humour.

There have been a number of farewells from the Company over the period. Major E H T Mellish hands over to Major G C G R Stone who now takes over the Company for what promises to be another hugely busy and interesting year. WO2 (CSM) Thomas 53 moved on to become the junior Drill Sergeant on the return from the Balkans and WO2 (CSM) Baldwin took his place. CQMS Brown 89 hands over to CQMS Ryan in the stores, while LSgt Davies 96, LSgt Green and LSgt Bjegovic have all gone to Infantry Training Centre as section commander instructors. The Company wishes them all well.

Support Company

*Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth
Fear Nothing but Disgrace*

SUPPORT COMPANY

Major Lorrinan
Captain Anderson
Captain Badham
Captain Broughton
16 WO2 Roberts
54 WO2 Scholes
44 CSgt Evans
64 CSgt Hooson
14 CSgt Jenkinson
37 CSgt Lewis
90 Sgt Davies
76 Sgt Davis
68 Sgt Hayward
53 Sgt Jones
99 Sgt Thomas
03 LSgt Boika
81 LSgt Broe
25 LSgt Cope
89 LSgt De-Wit
50 LSgt Doyle
53 LSgt Evans
62 LSgt Evans
44 LSgt Heath
99 LSgt Hemmings
87 LSgt Hughes
97 LSgt Jefferies
62 LSgt Martin
56 LSgt Paddock

2007 has been an extremely busy year for Support Company. We have served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan, trained in Brecon, and soon in Belize and fulfilled public duties over the 'silly season' in London. Almost the full spectrum of soldering! The beginning of the year saw the Company split between Bosnia and Kosovo, with the Reconnaissance Platoon, and elements of the anti-tanks attached to No 2 Company in the Static Covert Surveillance role. The remainder of the Company deployed to Bosnia with the Battlegroup, familiar territory for many, in a variety of roles. Upon

return we were quickly back into Public duties, but Troop over, we have managed to squeeze some excellent training. Otterburn provided a week of live contact drills and Brecon allowed the Reconnaissance Platoon to stretch their legs whilst training for the forthcoming Cambrian Patrol. Furthermore the whole Company got to experience the delights of marching up Pen Y Fan, a first for many of our newer members. However the credit must go to the mortar men who have served this summer in Helmand province, having volunteered for back to back tours whilst in the Balkans on Tour.

70 LSgt Saveall
 90 LSgt Thomas
 47 LCpl Ahearne
 32 LCpl Bick
 79 LCpl Burnett
 21 LCpl Collins
 56 LCpl Cunningham
 29 LCpl Davies
 84 LCpl Davies
 96 LCpl Deren
 76 LCpl Dryland
 18 LCpl Duffy
 71 LCpl Evans
 37 LCpl Fasfous
 53 LCpl George
 17 LCpl Hillier
 83 LCpl Johnson
 09 LCpl Jones
 78 LCpl Jones
 13 LCpl Lcc
 29 LCpl Lewis
 51 LCpl Lewis
 04 LCpl Marquardt
 30 LCpl McPherson
 09 LCpl O'Brien
 05 LCpl Parker
 34 LCpl Parry
 28 LCpl Pearce
 35 LCpl Ralph
 51 LCpl Roberts
 52 LCpl Shapland
 68 LCpl Stevens
 65 Gdsm Barber
 29 Gdsm Bazzard
 32 Gdsm Beattie
 81 Gdsm Biggs
 17 Gdsm Bond
 42 Gdsm Booker
 13 Gdsm Buffin
 69 Gdsm Bunce
 03 Gdsm Carter
 45 Gdsm Carter
 98 Gdsm Clark
 04 Gdsm Comeston
 56 Gdsm Cook
 35 Dmr Cooke
 53 Gdsm Cousins
 30 Dmr David
 11 Gdsm Davies
 23 Dmr Davies
 33 Dmr Davies
 37 Gdsm Davies
 36 Gdsm Doran
 09 Gdsm Elson
 11 Gdsm Evans
 15 Gdsm Evans
 23 Gdsm Evans
 35 Gdsm Evans
 84 Gdsm Evans
 94 Gdsm Evans
 86 Gdsm Fullman
 12 Gdsm Gardner-Allen
 22 Gdsm Gillard
 21 Gdsm Griffiths
 13 Gdsm Guest
 06 Gdsm Hammans
 55 Gdsm Harries
 87 Gdsm Hayer
 67 Gdsm Illiard
 71 Gdsm Hinkin
 75 Gdsm Hopkins
 28 Gdsm Howells
 68 Gdsm John
 29 Gdsm Jones
 84 Gdsm Jones
 79 Gdsm Jones
 98 Gdsm Jones
 95 Gdsm Leach
 20 Gdsm Liversey

For the duration of Op Herrick 6 a Welsh Guards Mortar Section has been supporting B Coy 2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Worcester and Sherwood Foresters), and a Danish Company from the Royal Danish Lifeguards. In total, over 30,000 rounds of mortar ammunition have been fired by the Battlegroup, the majority being High Explosive. As a comparison, 3 Commando Brigade fired around 20,000, which gives some indication of the intensity of the fighting that has occurred over the summer of 2007 in Helmand province.

For the first half of the tour, under the command of Colour Sergeant Lewis 37 and Sergeant Evans 62, the section was based in Patrol Base Sandford. The camp sustained repeated indirect fire attacks during its time there, usually from Taliban 120mm mortars. The enemy has an efficient mortar team who were quickly able to adjust onto the Welsh Guards mortars, despite counter-battery fire from us. Watching and listening to heavy 120mm mortars inexorably adjusting onto you is a fairly nerve-wracking experience, only surpassed by the ground shaking as they managed to land two of their bombs in the small mortar compound. As soon as the 'all-clear' was sounded, the mortar detachments rushed through the dust and smoke to adjust onto the enemy and start firing, whilst trying to put out the ammunition that had been set on fire by the blasts. It was particularly impressive to see the new members of the Platoon quickly learning the intricacies of mortaring especially Lance Corporals Parry 34 and O'Brien.

Our rapid fire seemed to have had an effect after that and the enemy fire was reduced to sporadic bursts that seemingly became less accurate, with most enemy bombs landing a healthy 150-200m away.

While this was going on up in Patrol Base Sandford, Lance Sergeant Thomas 90 was supporting 2 Mercian Platoons in 'Alpha X-ray' – a small compound deep in the Green Zone – which was contacted regularly, leading to tracer and mortar rounds lighting up the night sky in a most morbid fireworks display.

With the Danes taking over Patrol Base Sandford in October, the Mortar Fire Controlling (MFC) was left in the tender (novice) hands of Capt. Anderson, who took over from Lance Sergeant Thomas in Alpha Ray. The Danes brought down an impressive array of heavy weapons, including the .50 cal Browning and the venerable Karl Gustav rocket launcher. These were tested on his first night there, and he can testify to the fact that the 'Big Karl' is deafening when fired from only 1 metre away, especially when combined with mortar and .50 cal firing.

Particular mention must go to Sergeant Broc, who provided sterling service as an MFC throughout the tour, at one point calling in mortar fire to only 70m away as Taliban closed in on three sides, allowing the otherwise trapped British troops to extract. Incidents such as these lead to various individuals and groups actively seeking the Welsh Guards Mortars to show their appreciation for being vital battle-winners in the short, sharp contacts that the 2nd Mercian Battlegroup faced.

29 Gdsm Martin
66 Gdsm McGhan
16 Gdsm Nicholas
39 Gdsm Niuyagoyago
70 Gdsm Potts
26 Gdsm Pugh
28 Gdsm Ralph
56 Gdsm Rawson
08 Gdsm Richards
08 Dmr Rogers
58 Gdsm Rogers
11 Gdsm Rowlands
82 Gdsm Scaife
01 Gdsm Screen
43 Gdsm Sheppard
41 Gdsm Smith
77 Gdsm Smith
28 Gdsm Smoldon
21 Gdsm Taylor
40 Gdsm Taylor
08 Gdsm Thomas
18 Gdsm Thomas
58 Gdsm Thomas
67 Dmr Tinsley

99 Gdsm Vaganalau
71 Gdsm Waddell
08 Gdsm Watts
21 Gdsm Williams
63 Gdsm Williams
81 Gdsm Wyer
32 Gdsm Beattie
42 Gdsm Booker
45 Gdsm Carter
03 Gdsm Carter
98 Gdsm Clark
04 Gdsm Comctson
35 Gdsm Cooke
30 Gdsm David
23 Gdsm Davies
33 Gdsm Davies
76 Gdsm Dryland
09 Gdsm Elson
84 Gdsm Evans
71 Gdsm Evans
23 Gdsm Evans
86 Gdsm Fullman
12 Gdsm Gardner-Allen
22 Gdsm Gillard

07 Gdsm Griffiths
67 Gdsm Hillard
71 Gdsm Hinkin
28 Gdsm Howells
68 Gdsm John
83 Gdsm Johnson
98 Gdsm Jones
41 Gdsm Jones
95 Gdsm Leach
13 Gdsm Lee
66 Gdsm McGhan
05 Gdsm Parker
34 Gdsm Parry
28 Gdsm Pearce
08 Gdsm Richards
08 Gdsm Rogers
11 Gdsm Rowlands
77 Gdsm Smith
53 Gdsm Sweeney
67 Gdsm Tinsley
99 Gdsm Viavalevu
71 Gdsm Waddell
63 Gdsm Williams

As the Welsh Guards Mortars prepared to leave theatre, the Comd. Officer 2nd Mercians spoke of the exemplary standards and complete integration of the Guardsmen within his Battlegroup, and the close friendships that have been forged. He could not emphasise enough the absolute professionalism of all the mortarmen, and how much all troops had relied on their accurate fire, under arduous circumstances.

Headquarter Company

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

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Lt Colonel Standford
MBE
Major Cooling
Major Milcs
Major Speed
Captain Abidge
Captain Bowen
Captain Evans 86
Captain Lewis 18
Captain Livesey
Captain Mott
Captain Plewa
Captain Thomson
09 WO1 Pridmore
97 WO2 Campbell
33 WO2 Davies
67 WO2 McKeon
24 WO2 Monaghan
05 WO2 Nicholls
99 WO2 Roberts
53 WO2 Thomas
16 CSgt Edwards-Jones
34 CSgt Griffiths
55 CSgt McCabe
90 CSgt Myers
99 CSgt Roberts
92 CSgt Sanger
75 CSgt Williams
82 Sgt Harries
02 Sgt Hawkins
41 Sgt Jones
13 Sgt McGowan
64 Sgt Parry
92 Sgt Prosser



HRH The Duchess Cornwall on St. David's Day

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Under Command of Maj. Ulvert, the Coy prepared for the forthcoming deployment to the

Balkans, not an easy challenge as the Coy had to be prepared to deploy to two locations, Bosnia and Kosovo and leave a rear party to man, and support Wellington

78 Sgt Savage
 01 Sgt Shield
 17 Sgt Stephens
 81 Sgt Turner
 06 Sgt Whalling
 36 Sgt Williams
 59 LSgt Brandon
 43 LSgt Evans
 73 LSgt Farr
 70 LSgt Grant
 58 LSgt Harris
 21 LSgt Jones
 25 LSgt Jones
 15 LSgt Plewa
 19 LSgt Smith
 43 LSgt Threadgold
 25 LSgt Todd
 23 LSgt Warchol
 00 LCpl Allen
 62 LCpl Buller
 90 LCpl Clowes
 04 LCpl Davies
 44 LCpl Davies
 38 LCpl Davies
 84 LCpl Davies
 83 LCpl Davies
 37 LCpl Hannan
 75 LCpl Hayman
 39 LCpl Hayton
 68 LCpl Hill
 23 LCpl Lewis
 65 LCpl Morgan
 35 LCpl Murray
 58 LCpl Ratcliffe
 18 LCpl Smith
 25 LCpl Sullivan
 61 LCpl Stirling
 27 LCpl Thrustle
 05 LCpl Williams
 58 Gdsm Abraham
 78 Gdsm Allen
 42 Gdsm Barnes
 34 Gdsm Bowen
 85 Gdsm Butler
 83 Gdsm Cullen
 20 Gdsm Davies
 80 Gdsm Divers
 98 Gdsm Florence
 97 Gdsm Glanville
 65 Gdsm Griffiths
 21 Gdsm Gwilym
 00 Gdsm Horrell
 75 Gdsm Hughes
 16 Gdsm Jenkins
 92 Gdsm Jenkins
 11 Gdsm Jones
 29 Gdsm Johnson
 50 Gdsm Lee
 66 Gdsm Llewellyn
 68 Gdsm Leonard
 73 Gdsm Livock
 04 Gdsm Mills
 99 Gdsm Munn
 06 Gdsm Mathews
 27 Gdsm O'Neill
 56 Gdsm Payne
 36 Gdsm Pike
 30 Gdsm Rowe
 82 Gdsm Walters
 00 Gdsm Wilks

Barracks. It began in Sep 06 with the deployment to CAST North in Catterick in support to the Command element of the Battalion, and then moving to Wales from Catterick to carry out an OPTAG led field exercise. On our return, the Coy went into full swing; finalising details for the tour and trying to fit in some well deserved leave. The main G4 element i.e. the Quartermasters department, CIS Platoon, MT Platoon and the Admin Office deployed on the advance parties to prepare for the arrival of the Battalion. The both Quartermasters Maj. Martyn Miles and Capt. Mark Cooling said their good byes to each other, and promised to keep in touch. The Unit Welfare Officer under the command of CSgt Myers remained behind on rear party, ensuring that the families no matter where they lived were looked after and entertained when necessary.

On St David's Day the Company Seniors were presented locks by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who made time to visit the Battalion accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall. In the meantime the Commander in Chief General Watts presented locks to those in the Company in Kosovo.

Both areas of deployment gave HQ Coy personnel challenges daily, and depending who you speak to depends who had the most difficult time, no matter what is said, the Battalion in both theatres had very good support throughout.

The Coy reformed in Wellington Barracks in Mar 07 and prepared

for a very well deserved Post Operational Leave. On our return from leave, the Coy went straight back into supporting the Duty Coy's on exercise, and supplying personnel on Queens Guards so that the Duty Coy's could prepare for the Queen's Birthday Parade, as well as carrying out the Barracks Guards. A very busy period throughout, remembering that HQ Coy personnel are employed and that the daily work routine still needed to be completed.

Many of the Coy have now been converted to BOWMAN, and we look forward in putting those skills into practice on the Battalion's Bowman Conversion Exercise in Salisbury.

The Coy welcomes back Capt. Nicky Mott who has taken over the appointment of Quartermaster Tech from Maj. Cooling who has moved to the Quartermasters Position, Capt. James Aldridge who became RSO, and Capt. Andy Plewa who now holds the appointment of the RCMO. We have said good bye to Maj. Ulvert who is posted to Cyprus as the SO3 Media Ops and Capt. Terry Harman who takes over the Recruiting Officers role. Maj. Martyn Miles has now taken over Command of the Coy, and looks forward to all its challenges that the appointment brings with it.

REGIMENTAL POLICE STAFF

It's been a very busy year for the RP Staff. After many staff changes to the department, the RP Staff are now three permanent staff, the Provost Sgt, Sgt Hawkins, LCpl Davies 38 and

Attached

Major Hazard
Major Jones 17
Captain Jordan
Lt Thickett
25 WO2 Bullivant
46 WO2 Stubberfield
28 SSgt Kelsey
98 SSgt Kirk
92 SSgt Wheeler
04 Sgt Forse
64 Sgt Gordon
71 Sgt Hirst
42 Sgt Shannon
43 Sgt Spencer
12 Sgt Whiteley
01 Sgt Whitby
07 LSgt Goble
40 LSgt Harris
28 LSgt McCann
17 LSgt Pegg
09 LSgt Petit
17 LSgt Sharples
19 LSgt Sussex
14 LSgt Irwin
09 LSgt Woodard
32 Cpl Hayler
39 Cpl Hulme
52 Cpl Messenger
67 LCpl Elder
20 J.Cpl George
74 LCpl Hewitt
30 LCpl Murindagomo
01 LCpl Picnaar
03 LCpl Pintel
36 J.Cpl Serradimigni
10 LCpl Smith
32 LCpl Spurway
52 LCpl Williams
38 Pte Aduaka
57 Cfn Bhooarsingh
80 Cfn Bridgman
55 Pte Constable
87 Cfn Greenough
72 Cfn Till
15 Pte Hylton
66 Pte Limbu
96 Pte Pun
94 Pte Rai
70 Cfn Salako
99 Pte Thompson
93 Pte Wakefield
88 Pte Welcilakeba
79 Pte Williams

LCpl Morgan 65. In the last year we have lost Sgt Prosser to the training wing, LSgt Jones 25 and LSgt Lloyd 88 both posted to the recruiting offices in South Wales, and LCpl Lewis has moved to the Javelin Platoon in Support Coy, with LCpl Watts leaving the Army where we wish him all the good fortune. The RP Staff haven't had the easiest task in controlling the never ending demand for car parking on camp, and running of the famously busy guardroom and keeping up with the fire regulations.

The recent Operational tour to the Balkans found the RP Staff in unfamiliar water in working under the Garrison Sgt Major and not the Battalion. Sgt Hawkins settled in quite nicely as the new RP Sgt and stamped out his authority early, much to the dismay of the Guardsmen and those serving in the Metal Factory. The main effort during the six-month tour was discipline of the whole camp; this

included a large amount of detached personnel. The welfare facilities, EFI, Dutch Bar etc come under the discipline control of the RP Staff, and they soon came very unpopular, however a job that had to be done and was carried out with professionalism.

On returning to the UK, the RP Staff joined the Battalion in preparation for the Queen's Birthday Parade. LCpl Davies took the role as the Regimental Video Cameraman with great enthusiasm and did an excellent job. The RP Staff have now settled back into the routine of Wellington Barracks, and looks forward to it's next challenge which will be the Battalion Exercise in Oct.

MEDICAL CENTRE

The Medical Centre continues to take a full active role in the Battalion. Aiming to sustain Coy's in training and deployment.



The Colonel presenting the JSGC to Master Tailor



Comd Officer, Capt Stockwell and Capt Evans 24
on March & Shoot in Bosnia

Preparing the Battalion for deployment was the usual drag of persuading people to attend for vaccinations, but we finally hit 100% the week prior to deployment to the Balkans.

In Bosnia, the RAP supported exercises and physical training alike, until it lost a third of it's manning to Exercise Iron Guardsman. Gdsm Butler and the RMO, Major Hazard, both took part in the endurance charity triathlon from Bosnia back to Wellington Barracks. Gdsm Butler damaged his knee in the early stages of cycling and Maj. Hazard broke a foot 70 miles short of Calais, a good hit rate for the medical contingent and not much sympathy. "Heal thyself".

The medics provided a formidable basketball team for Coy PT and only banned 5 a side football due to the notorious injury rate, not, as many commented, because they were losing.

LSgt Evans 43 proved to have phenomenal skills not as a CMT, but as a photographer and soon became the official photographer for all events. The photos produced were remarkable and many were used in the Welsh Guards Calendar that was put together for 2007, and

can be seen lurking in nearly every office in Camp.

Many remedial and rehabilitation problems were sorted out whilst we had luxury of on site physiotherapy in Bosnia. We are now looking forward to welcoming the remedial instructor to Wellington Barracks to continue the progress made.

During the deployment, the Medical Centre was given a new lease of life with a make-over and a new part time civilian doctor. This should help to get pullheems up to date and keep waiting times down.

The next few months become challenging again as the Battalion prepares itself to deploy on exercise in our preparation to convert to BOWMAN.

CIS PLATOON

At the beginning of Sep 06 the CIS Platoon completed their preparation for the forthcoming tour to the Balkans. Early Sep saw the Platoon completing a CAST exercise at Catterick followed by a field exercise in Wales. It was at this stage that the Platoon said farewell to the RSO Capt. Launder.

The Platoon was split for the Balkans tour with Sgt McGowan, Gdsm Hughes 75 deploying to Kosovo, whilst LSgt Todd and LCpl Hanan deploying to Bosnia with the Task Force Support Platoon. The remainder of the Platoon deployed with RSWO Davies 33 and CSgt Williams 75. The Platoon soon settled down into its' duties for the next six month tour. These duties included the manning of the Multinational Task Force Operations Room, the maintenance of the Battalions radio equipment and running of four RRU Cadres to enable the Battalion to get signals qualified personnel in preparation for our BOWMAN Conversion. In addition to these tasks, the Platoon had personnel on permanent standby to deploy on the ground as radio operators as part of the Commanding Officers Rover Group.

The Platoon reformed back in Wellington Barracks in Mar 07, in addition to our detached personnel returning we welcomed new members to the Platoon. We welcomed back Sgt Turner, and LCpl's Clowes, Hayman, Buller, Davies 83, Ratcliffe and many others.

During May 07 the RSWO and Sgt Savage attended BOWMAN instructor's courses, whilst the remainder were busy in Wellington Barracks carrying out transponder duties and helping out with Queens Parade.

QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT

The Quartermasters Dept. has had a very busy time within the last 12 months supporting the Battalion for training and deployment to the Balkans whilst maintaining the support to all lodger units in Wellington Barracks London.

The deployment to the Balkans saw the Dept. covering three separate locations with the QM (T) Capt. Cooling, and RQMS (T) McKoon deployed to Kosovo in support of Number 2 Coys tasking, and also bolstered by CSgt Squires from the Javelin Pl. covering the accommodation supporting a Battalion of Portuguese ably assisted by Gdsm Wilkes. As part of the United Kingdom National Support Element in Kosovo they were based just outside Pristina in Slim lines and covered all G4 briefs liaising with all Multi National Forces within theatre. Being away from the remainder of the Battalion meant that the odd Friday night out at a local restaurant was something encouraged by the QM (T) all in the spirit of team bonding. The team worked well with the other various cap badges and Gdsm Walters was renowned for his diplomacy skills with the Portuguese. Sgt Parry managed a MT of 99 vehicles of green fleet and covert operations vehicles and showed his true potential in his man management skills with the local Kosovans that were part of the MT staff. The highlight of the tour was St David's Day when General Watt visited to present the leeks – his last St David's Day in Military uniform.

Up North in Bosnia the QM, Major Miles had deployed with a larger team to support the remainder of the Battalion's G4 requirements along with his RQMS (M) Robinson. The Dept. was split with Sgt Harries working for United Kingdom National Support Element Bosnia responsible for all accommodation issues at the Metal Factory, a task he handed over to LSgt Farr in Jan 07. The remainder of the QMs Dept. was directed by the QM with Sgt McCabe covering G1098, LSgt Williams 36 covering ammunition and not issuing any used Baton rounds.

LCpl Davies 44 managed to ensure that the Expense account was consistently 100%. Sgt Shields and Sgt Whatling were allegedly running the MSA and Ration accounts quite often mixing up a menu B with a DVD?. The Depts. Physical fitness improved over the 6-month period, what started as a Sunday afternoon jog turned into a more serious affair on the regular appearance of the Comd Offr.

The Dept. had some challenging experiences in Bosnia having to close down accounts after 15 years of operations; a novel idea for the British Army to close rather than open them! During our tour on Ops we have managed to see 2 RQMS' come and go with RQMS Robinson moving as RSM Support Weapons Wing at Warminster, and RQMS Pridmore now the Bn RSM.

Back in London the rear party was initially fronted by RQMS Pridmore ensuring support to the bands and Nijmegen Coy was maintained. LSgt (Lamsy) Threadgold stayed to ensure that the property management and repairs around barracks continued. However, at the 3 month point he was deployed to Bosnia to cover MSA/Rations. The usual cohorts remained with LCpl Sullivan covering most of the Tech side and did better than most expected, but he did not seem to shrink under the pressure. CSgt Griffiths was the mainstay ensuring ammunition was issued and checked on a weekly basis and LCpl George had the unenviable task of keeping the clothing store open for all those who seemed to pass. All

those that remained carried out their tasks in the most professional manner and were an integral part of an Ops deployment. During the tour, due to RQMS Robinson being posted, the team was joined by RQMS Pridmore from the rear party to assist in the handover of the Metal Factory.

Since returning from Operations the Dept. has configured to it's original Tech and Maint Depts with the usual banter of who worked the hardest and what a lousy job those on rear party did. There have been movements with Major Miles moving to OC HQ Coy and Capt. Cooling moving to QM on promotion. We welcome back Capt. Mott from Catterick who seems to have more energy than the rest of the Dept. put together-give him 6 months.

Excellent news across the Dept. and for their hard work on Ops there have been a number of promotions with LSgt Williams 36 and Parry promoted to Sgt and Sgt McCabe to CSgt.

The Dept. have managed to support three separate locations, a task that has stretched the Dept. however all locations have been fully supported and all balls have been juggled with none dropped.

MOTORISED TRANSPORT PLATOON

During the Bosnia tour the MT Platoon was under guidance of Capt. Harman, where they carried out all duties with the normal professionalism. They supported the Battalion well, ensuring that all the Vehicles were road worthy and safe. The only thing that they could do was to teach the locals how to drive, you had to be there to realise that the UK driving system is way better than anything in the Balkans.

After the return from Bosnia the MT Pl. under the watchful eye of Sgt Stevens' 'Stench' have been busy getting the fleet back into good order. Not an easy task when the Battalion was providing three Guards on the QBP and the added pressure of an imminent ECI. Capt. Terry Harman moved onto Recruiting Officer

to be replaced by Capt. Mark Evans 86 as MTO. LSgt Thomas 60 has moved onto an external post in Buckingham Palace, he has been replaced by LSgt Harris 58 as the Fuel & Lubs NCO.

LSgt Smith 19 is the nerve centre as the details clerk, and his hair line retreats a little more each day: he has developed a knack of never being to blame when a ball gets dropped! Gdsm Jenkins 92 is pretending to be working hard but we're onto him, with Gdsm Florence looks like he's generally busy, but no one can understand what he's saying, we're hoping that the BOWMAN training might help us out. Gdsm Horrell and Pike are merrily servicing the Bn's vehicles, closely monitored by LCpl Pienaar. All are happy as long as they are covered in oil, we think they are all budding 'Del Crisps'.

LCpl Hayton is rarely seen outside his stores, we're not sure what is going on in there, but LCpl Hayton and Gdsm Livock are starting to turn yellow from the lack of sunlight. LSgt Jones 21 and LCpl Murray are probably the busiest members of the Platoon and continue to deliver the Battalion driver training; they are either on the roads of the Capital, or on the cross country driver circuit in Pirbright. With the ECI safely passed due in no small part to the efforts of Sgt Stevens, the Platoon are now focussed on getting the fleet ready for the forthcoming BOWMAN training in Oct/Nov. 13, 07.

REGIMENTAL ADMIN OFFICE

The AGC (SPS) Detachment, like the rest of the Battalion, has seen a period of non-stop activity. The success of the MFPI was short lived and the following week we deployed on Operation OCULUS. Aside from concentrating on our operational role there was the added challenge of getting to grips with training for the arrival of JPA; not only the detachment but the Battalion as a whole. This was tackled mostly with enthusiasm, utilising the Force Admin Office JPA Cell and the knowledge of the RAF and Navy counterparts, however there was a certain

element of bewilderment at the deluge of new information and Tri-Service terminology.

There was opportunity to get involved with some of the more exciting Infantry activities and most of the female members of the detachment managed to assist the Rifle Companies as female searches during Harvest Operations.

The Detachment has had to say goodbye to Pte Rachel G-Grant who has moved to 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment; her knowledge and honesty is sorely missed. The detachment has also gained a new mentor in the guise of Capt. Hayley Jordan, RAO. Her arrival heralded the departure of Maj. Kath Gould who has taken her golf clubs to Upavon for some well-deserved peace and quiet.

At the end of this period we have come full circle and are now in the midst of MFPI preparation yet again... hasn't the year flown by?!!



"LE MAFIA"

L-R Capt Evans, Capt Harman and Maj Miles

REGIMENTAL CATERING PLATOON

This year has been a particularly hectic one for the catering department. There were of course the Kosovo and Bosnia deployments where the department was split between the two locations. During these operations, the plucky chefs on OP OCULUS were introduced to the new Operational Field Catering Systems (OFCS). This was an interesting time being thrown in at the deep end and having to provide 3 meals per day under challenging, almost arctic conditions.

Summer time was not a relaxing one, what with Trooping of the Colour and everything that comes with it, all the Summer Balls and

all four corners of London district wanting a party. As always, we were happy to oblige. "Always a pleasure, never a chore".

Of course it's not all work and no play. There was a department paintball activity organised with all department personnel invited including military and civilians, plus their partners. This was a hugely successful event.

LCpl Delana represented our department when he displayed his talents at the 300 Inter Coy Rugby Competitions for HQ Company, whilst his colleagues created a culinary delight in the form of a BBQ for all the participants.

Two of our chefs Sgt "Steve" Whitby and Cpl "Phil" Goble had the honour of working at the infamous "Fifteen" restaurants. They are keen to test their newly acquired skills on the Guardsmen and Senior NCO's alike.

OFFICER AND SERGEANTS MESS

During the Battalion's training in Wales, all of the mess staff was split into a number of jobs to enhance the manpower within other departments. On the Companies deployment to the Balkans, CSgt Sangar supported the Ops room as an extra watch keeper, Gdsm Jones 11 was attached to the CIS Pl with Gdsm Glanville running the post room, where he came most popular especially around the Christmas time as welcomed parcels began to arrive, leaving LSgt McFall running the Messes on rear party to ensure that all those left behind were supported, and that the decoration of the living accommodation in the Officers Mess was complete before the Battalion's return.

On their return, both Messes went into full swing providing Regimental Dinners, Charity events and the normal day to day running of both establishments, and supplying ceremonial duties during the Queen's Birthday Parade. Sgt Plewa has now been appointed the Sgt's Mess Manager.

EXERCISE WAGS WARRIORS 2007

The Unit Welfare Office ran a hugely successful Wives and Girlfriends (WAGS) Warriors Exercise over the weekend 1st/2nd September 2007, at Pirbright. The aim of the weekend was to provide fun, information and a challenge; all those who took part agreed that the event achieved all three.

The weekend commenced with a period of drill, which tested the diplomacy skills of the author, especially as a certain Michelle Bowen was in the squad! Top driller was Catrina Campbell who executed a very smart halt and salute, which would not have been out of place on Horse Guards. Following a short

insertion march complete with bergens, the WAGS received instruction in cooking and health and hygiene. This was followed by the delights of shell scrape construction and after 90 minutes of rigorous digging, shell scrapes were judged and the WAGS took a short rest in the form of navigation instruction.

Fully refreshed and raring to go to the highlight of the weekend came next in the form of a stalk. This tested the WAGS to the limit and it has to be said they would have made some soldiers hang their heads with a very impressive standard. The winner was Hilary Pavelin, who actually managed to stalk all the way to the observer without being seen; a superb performance from our eventual "Private Benjamin" award winner. Following a quick night navigation exercise the WAGS settled down for a relaxed evening, only to be surprised with the gruelling "Bush Tucker Trail". Served up by our two fantastic volunteer Section Commanders, Lieutenant Angie Thickett and Sergeant Shona Forse, the WAGS were blindfolded and subjected to a feast of delicious concoctions which would have made Ant and Dec proud!

After a thoroughly comfortable nights sleep under the stars, gaining the full experience of sleeping on the ground, the WAGS awoke cheerfully and full of the joys of summer!! A six kilometre march and shoot style finale, complete with bergens, was served up to whoops of delight, especially when informed that the infamous "Pirbright Four Sisters" would form part of the route. All WAGS completed the march in remarkably good order and cheery faces all round especially from Vicky Heath, Justine Monaghan, Leigh Smith and Judy Wilson. Following a range brief from WO2 (RQMS) Mike Monaghan, a firepower demonstration of Platoon and Company weapons was viewed and the exercise culminated in a shooting competition with Fiona Standford as the clear winner.

The trip back to London was remarkably quiet with all the WAGS clearly contemplating their

experiences, or was it the gentle rocking of the mini bus! A delicious BBQ was served up courtesy of our fantastic chefs and after a short certificate presentation everyone dispersed with promises of attending the next WAGS outdoor adventure sometime next year.

The final word is reserved for Guardsman Gareth Jenkins 16, as the exercise could not have gone ahead without his significant efforts. Well done to him and well done to all who attended and received the accolade of being "Tough Enough". WAGS 2008 here we come.....

The Corps of Drums / Machine Gun Platoon

Since deploying to Bosnia in September '06, the Corps of Drums has been on a whirlwind whistlestop tour. The pace of operational life in the Balkans slowed to a snail's pace and so the Platoon (attached to No. 3 Coy for the duration of the tour) saw few operational taskings coming their way. All was not lost though as this provided an ideal opportunity to go back to basics and remind ourselves of what it is to be an infantry soldier by implementing low level training in the form of exercises and some very interesting ranges; one of which was an excellent Bayonet Assault course run by Sgt O'Brien.

The quietness of the tour also enabled every member of the Platoon to undertake various courses both in-theatre and back here in U.K. Most notably among these were LSgt Hayward completing Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course, LCpl Lewis 51 on Machine Gun Section Commanders Course, and no less than 5 successful candidates on JNCO Promotion Cse's held in HDPRCC (Pirbright) including the newly-promoted LCpl's Dryland, Evans 71, Johnson, Lee and Parker. Other courses include Class 3/2 Drummers Course in Catterick, from which Dmr's Davies 33, Cooke, Leach and David all returned with glowing reports.

Sarajevo provided many of the Platoon with the chance to either learn (for the first time) or improve their skiing. LSgt Martin definitely won the prize for 'Best Kamikaze Impression' whilst Dmr Davies 23 showed potential to be a very fine skier.

With a return to London and Trooping of the Colour looming in the background, it was time to turn our attention back to Ceremonial Duties and all that entails. We spent 2 weeks 'under cover of darkness' as it were, practising and rehearsing the various marches and displays required for London in a bid to 'hit the ground running'. As a test of capability, we performed to the WO's and Sgt's Mess in Banja Luka Metal Factory at their farewell dinner, and went down a storm. We were ready for London.

Upon our return, we were invited to perform for a Dinner held by the Worshipful Company of Drapers. Considering it was the first public engagement for many of the Platoon, the boys 'done good', and were extremely well received.

However, musical duties in London have hit the Corps thick and fast during the period leading up to and even after the Queen's Birthday Parade but the Drums have just kept on going.

Sadly, farewells have to be said to our longstanding Drum Major Julian Ryan who has been put out to pasture in the wilderness of Swansea Careers Office; LCpl Lec who leaves us on an attachment to Haverfordwest Careers Office and Sgt O'Brien who moves to Foot Guards Headquarters as a Drum Major working for the Senior Drum Major, London District. Drum Major Ryan passes on his Mace to Sgt (now D/Maj) Mark Hayward who now has the unenviable task of taking the Platoon through the dreaded 'Bowmanisation'!

All in all, an excellent year for the Corps of Drums/Machine Gun Platoon.

The Regimental Band

A glance at the Band's calendar for the past 12 months reveals considerable activity away from the norm, some good, some not so good, and so much that is hard to imagine how we fitted it all in.

Autumn 2006 included the usual round of public duties including a number of investitures and the annual Diplomatic Ball at Buckingham Palace at which the dance band complimented the orchestra into the wee small hours. Further 'normal' activity took place in the shape of the Classical Spectacular concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. In combination with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra the Band shares the stage in quite the most impressive performances of light classics supported by an impressive light and laser display. Sell-out audiences every night demanding an encore in such splendid surroundings gives all participants a great deal of satisfaction and sense of a job well done. Repetition of the Hertfordshire Music Excellence Awards brought us into contact with other highly accomplished musicians at the start of their musical careers. Prior to Christmas the Band also squeezed in a new recording of the Regimental music, the CD of which was released the following summer and is proving very popular. It includes compositions and musical arrangements of all former Directors of music, the Company marches and much other popular music associated with the Regiment. The Band also found a free morning to host youngsters from the Variety Club of Great Britain and spread some Christmas cheer.



Working with potential recruits.

The New Year sent the Band to Sandhurst for a 2-month period of musical support. Whilst there we found the opportunity to devote yet more time to recording, again with a very strong Regimental connection. Major Leslie Statham was the Director of Music from 1948 to 1962 and must surely rank as one of the most talented and prolific composers to have served with the band. Many of his works have been published under the pen-name of Arnold Steck, and includes the theme tune to the BBC Wimbledon broadcasts, Sports Special, much light music and fine marches. More details are available on the outstanding insert to the CD which is available from the band.

The helpful and accommodating training staff at Sandhurst also put the Band through its paces on the rifle range in the annual personal weapons test. The weather added to the ordeal in the shape of a good covering of snow. It was also at this time that we had our first encounter with the BBC TV Wales who were making a half-hour documentary about the Band. Shown on BBC 2 Wales on three occasions in the spring and summer, 'Bayonets and Bugles' depicted the diversity of band life. It followed routine duties and other commitments, travel abroad, in this instance to visit the Battalion in Bosnia and all other aspects of being a member of the Band. The crew witnessed the afore mentioned annual personal weapons test, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear tests in the gas chamber, guard mounts at Buckingham Palace and the visit to the Battalion in Bosnia, including the salubrious accommodation at the Banja Luka metal factory. The trip to the Battalion coincided with St David's Day and the visit by the Colonel of the Regiment, which can be read about elsewhere in this journal.

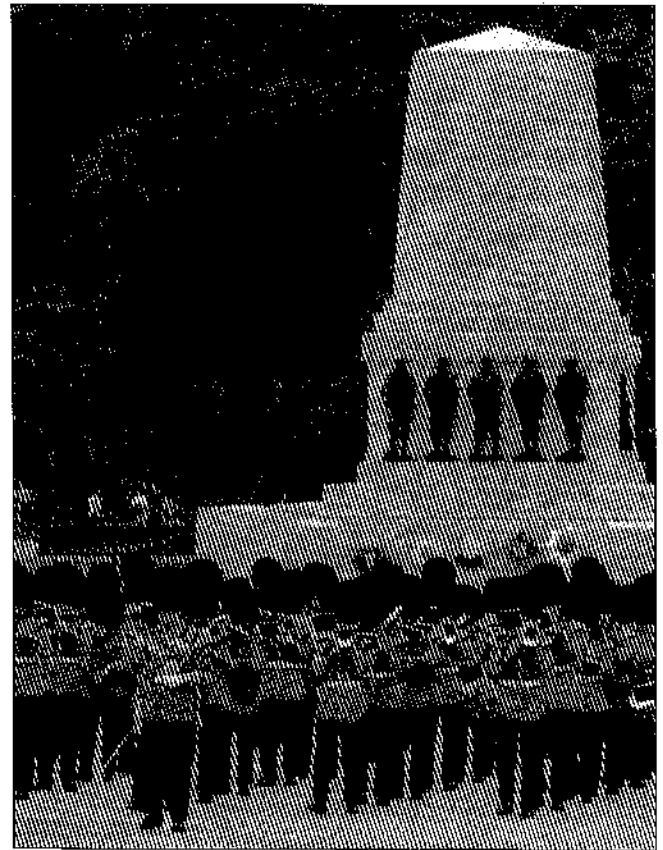
A palace Guard on Easter Day heralded the spring season, a spot of leave and then another of the Band's less routine events. We helped open a brand new theatre at Dunstable where the dance Band accompanied Tony Christie (of Amarillo fame), and Peter Grant. The marching Band and fanfare trumpets provided colour and style, Musn

Emily Barker accompanied international operatic singing stars Nadejda Stoianova and Andriy Perfilov on piano, and the Band shared the stage with compere Brian Blessed and the star of the show, Basil Brush. It all resulted in a very hard day's work, but great fun for all concerned.

It wasn't too long before thoughts were turning to Troop and Beating Retreat rehearsals when the news broke that the Band were to be put on standby later in the summer to deploy to the Cyprus Reinforcement Unit. The Corps of Army Music had been tasked by Land to structure a plan to reinforce the Cyprus Reinforcement Unit should it fall below critical manning levels due to personnel deploying on operations. The Welsh Guards were rostered after the Troop to return in time for Remembrance and Cenotaph in November. A great deal of planning had to be completed, not only regarding our deployment and required training but also the reallocation of our engagements were we to deploy. Certainly the diary had to be cleared of all engagements during our pre-deployment period which unfortunately coincided with the Regimental events in Wales associated with the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands and the Laying up of Colours in Bangor Cathedral. It was decided that the Band would have to work doubly hard during pre-deployment and take a week out of training in order to support the Battalion in Wales and fulfil other planned commitments too. The other difficult news was that the 14 day standby period ran right through our summer leave that had to be postponed. Many disappointed families had to cancel pre-arranged holidays while others continued with arrangements, only in the absence of husbands and partners.

It wasn't long before the summer was upon us. The first of the Falklands events and perhaps the most poignant was a Regimental Memorial Service in the Guards Chapel on 8th June. Personal tributes and memories were a stark reminder to all present of the trauma and devastation that the Regiment experienced during the campaign. Even after the passing of 25 years vivid memories and emotions remain and it was fitting that the first commemoration of this nature was within the family of the Regiment.

The Band squeezed in some pre-deployment



Beating Retreat

training during the week of the troop and also an early morning rehearsal for the main Falklands event held on Horse Guards the day after the troop which was a spectacular tri-service occasion, but a long stand for many who had spent much of the previous day on the same hollowed ground. The impressive parade included a live link to the Falklands Islands. Regrettably the production probably viewed far better on television than for those on parade but once again emotions ran high. The proud gathering at Buckingham Palace for the fly-past brought veterans and serving soldiers into close proximity with a sense of comradeship rarely experienced.

Following another hectic week of military training it was off to North Wales for the Regimental events in June. Members of the Band were treated to an impromptu guided tour of Bangor Cathedral, including the bell tower. Just as our host announced that the resident peregrine falcon's breakfast leftovers could be spotted but we would have no chance of seeing the actual bird, in it flew and nestled on a ledge in full view, as was its chick just a few metres away. The following ceremony was as poignant and emotional as any during the year. The service and parade in Bangor were slightly dampened by the

weather as were other parades during the week. The Band gave three concerts in Bangor, Caernarfon and Wrexham, combining with local male voice choirs in each location. Quality performances throughout included Sgt Andy Libby and Musn Matt Ashment dueting 'Me and My Shadow', Musn Rebecca Watts' violin solo 'Schindlers List' and a guest appearance by a former member of the Regiment 'Spider' Webb with his own brand of humour and version of the Green Green Grass of Home. The final Regimental occasion at the families day in Caernarfon was possibly the dampest of them all, notwithstanding the dance band helped raise spirits of those in attendance.

Cyprus training took priority over the next two weeks and we are indebted to Maj Mellish and members of C Company for their expert help and advice. Our novice skills in many of the required disciplines were honed, bludgeoned, coerced, teased and tested. We then went into a 14-day notice to move period when initially many of our reallocated musical duties were taken back on and then on 10th August the commitment was withdrawn and the Band moved back to routine duties.

UK trips to Aldeburgh, Kirkcudbright and Newbury were supplemented by the Band's annual jaunt to Paris for the Prix de L'Arc de Triumph. To complicate our lives even further the sale of Chelsea Barracks means that the Band will be on the move in November to our temporary lodgings in Wellington, en route to the new facilities in Regents Park Barracks once built. It is anticipated that the Band will be in temporary premises above the RHQs in Wellington Barracks for 18 months or so. We will have to beg and share practice facilities from the other resident Bands for the duration of what will inevitably be a period of some turmoil. Normal service will however be maintained throughout.

The Band has experienced considerable changes of personnel once again. Early in the year we bade farewell to the Band Sergeant Major, WO2 Richard Hood who despite only serving just under two years with the Band had served his previous 20 years or so with the Grenadier Guards. He is heading back to Wales to pursue a career teaching music. June saw the departure of three more

Band personalities, all on transfer to other Bands. LCpl Tony Johncock and his family are well settled into life in Dorset with the newly formed Light Cavalry Band at Bovington. Sgt Duncan Gwyther and LSgt Kelvin Jenkins have both been posted to our friends and colleagues at the Irish Guards. We hope to continue to bump into them both on public duties. The final two departures to civvy street at the end of their 22-year careers have been CSgt Pete Lewis and the bandmaster WO1 Nick Johnson. Nick and his family have settled in the Camberley area while he completes his PGCE with a view to teaching music in the future. We take this opportunity to wish all our former members the best of fortune in their future endeavours. Our ranks have been supplemented by two additions to the flute section. Musn Rebecca Watts' primary instrument is violin however, who is the new leader of the orchestra, having transferred from the Royal Artillery. Our new principal flautist is LCpl Carolinc Smith, re-enlisted following a career break to further her musical studies.



DOM bids farewell to WO1 (BM) Johnson



WO2 Hood with presentation from the Comet Section

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

As at 01 January 2008

Colonel-in-Chief
Colonel of the Regiment

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

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES
KG KT OM GCB AK QSO ADC
Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE
Colonel (Retd) T C S Bonas
Captain J D Lamer
Major (Retd) FK Oultram
Major D Cresswell

1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel R J AE Stanford MBE
Major A Speed, Scots Guards
Major B P N Ramsay
Major H C G Bettinson
Major G C G R Stone
Major M Miles
Major T A Smith
Major M Cooling
Captain M L Lewis
Captain J A Corbet-Burcher
Captain E N Launder
Captain N P Mott
Captain M Evans
Captain T Harman
Captain A F Bowen
Captain A J Plewa MBE
Captain C G Jones
Captain J D Livsey
Captain F T Anderson
Captain S C Broughton
Captain J A Thomson
Lieutenant W G H Freeman
Lieutenant H J Storrar
Lieutenant T C Spencer-Smith
2nd Lieutenant G C H Charles-Jones
2nd Lieutenant J P Olszowski
2nd Lieutenant C J P Davies
2nd Lieutenant H T S Finnegan
2nd Lieutenant J R E Harvie
2nd Lieutenant O G James
2nd Lieutenant T R Richards
2nd Lieutenant M L Evison
2nd Lieutenant D J L Harris

Commanding Officer
Second in Command
Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Officer Commanding Support Company
Quartermaster
Adjutant
Reconnaissance Platoon Commander
Operations
Technical Quartermaster
Defence Transport Manager
Recruiting Officer Wales
Welfare Officer
Regimental Careers Management Officer
Second in Command Number Three Company
Training Officer
Mortar Platoon Commander
Javelin Platoon Commander
Intelligence Officer
Second in Command Number Two Company
Second in Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Lieutenant General Sir Redmond Wall KCB KCVO CBE
Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE
Colonel R H Talbot-Rice
Colonel B J Balhurst OBE
Lieutenant Colonel J D G Sayers
Lieutenant Colonel R H W Bodington LVO MBE
Lieutenant Colonel G A J Macintosh
Lieutenant Colonel R S M Thomloe MBE
Major G J Bartle-Jones
Major D L Bossi
Major (LL) A J Powell

Major T F Charles
Major C K Antelme
Major G R Harris MBE
Major R G B Pim
Major D W N Bevan
Major R W Gallimore
Major S A Birchall
Major C N Ulvert
Major E J Mellish
Captain C T Sargent
Captain A R M Spry
Captain H S Llewellyn-Usher
Captain F N Launder
Captain T A H Eastman
Captain J H Llobrough
Captain D H Basson
Captain R A J Forrest

Commander in Chief Headquarters Land Command
Headquarters Initial Training Group, Upavon
Deputy Director DDEC (GM) Ministry of Defence
Defence Public Relations, Ministry of Defence
SO2 Iraqi ARmy
HQ 1 (UK) Arm'd Div
Defence Academy Shrivenham
APS to SOS Ministry of Defence
Second in Command, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards
MA to CM (BM) Ministry of Defence
Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
1st Battalion Irish Guards
Officer Commanding No 3 Company - 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards
Ministry of Defence
SO2 Plans Headquarters ARRC
SO2 (POL) Ministry of Defence
SO2 G2 ISTAR 52 Infantry Brigade, Scotland
SO2 G2 Istar, 12 Mech Brigade, Aldershot
SO3 J3 Planning, PJHQ, Northwood
SO3 Media Ops, Cyprus
Defence Academy Shrivenham
Defence Academy Shrivenham
SO3 Training, Oman
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Defence
SO3 Urban Ops Wing, Warminster
Defence Academy Shrivenham
ADC to SBMR Iraq
ADC to Commander in Chief, HQ Land Command

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK

Major J D Salusbury
Captain A J Salusbury
Lieutenant P J Durham
Lieutenant N Moukarzel

Officer Commanding Guards Company
Adjutant 3rd Battalion ITC Catterick
Platoon Commander
Platoon Commander

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF
as at 1st Jan 08.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS	Number	Rank	Int	Name
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	24788725	WO2	W J	Williams
REGIMENTAL BAND				
Band Master	24656255	WO1	N	Johnson
Band Sergeant Major	24713115	WO2	J	Kirk
1st BATTALION				
Regimental Sergeant Major	24772309	WO1	D W	Pridmore
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main)	24797524	WO2	M	Monaghan
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech)	24802867	WO2	J	McKeon
Senior Drill Sergeant	24772353	WO2	D L	Thomas
Junior Drill Sergeant	24788299	WO2	A L	Roberts
CSM The Prince of Wales's Company	24830440	WO2	M	Pollard
CSM Number Two Company	25014288	WO2	M	Topps
CSM Number Three Company	24823463	WO2	B J	Baldwin
CSM Headquarter Company	24797497	WO2	A	Campbell
CSM Support Company	24738054	WO2	L T	Scholes
Company Sergeant Major in Musketry	24738105	WO2	B	Nicholls
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer	24772333	WO2	J G	Davies
Master Tailor	24823101	Sgt	S D	Shield
Drum Major	25043668	Sgt	M	Hayward
EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED				
Garrison Sergeant Major Headquarters London District	24520588	WO1	W D G	Mott OBE
Regimental Sergeant Major Warminster	24683200	WO1	P	Robinson
30 Cadet Training Team Wrexham	24805880	WO2	A	Brown
RQMS, Chelsea Barracks	24707913	WO2	C D B	Price
Welsh Guards Recruiting Team	24772480	WO2	A	Price
CSM RMA Sandhurst	24772832	WO2	A J	Hughes
Training Warrant Officer	24773216	WO2	T W	Fadc
Jungle Warfare Warrant Officer	24815116	WO2	D W	Roberts
LONG SERVICE LIST				
RQMS Ministry of Defence	24454142	WO2	B J	Cordy
ACIO Bangor	24623898	WO2	R J	Brace

Honours and Awards 2007

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

24520588 WO1 (GSM) W D G Mott

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

24520588 WO1 (GSM) W D G Mott

24596421 WO1 K Evans

24713091 WO1 A L Bowen

24683200 WO1 P L Robinson

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

24885658 CSgt S Cook

24818911 Sgt D Lowden

24823101 Sgt S D Shield

25074505 LSgt M Hernandez

25010913 LSgt R Mitchell

24896045 LCpl M Bartholomew

Farewell to Captain (Retd) David Davies

by Major (Retd) K. Oultram

In 1993 Captain Davies took over the appointment as the Regimental Assistant Adjutant from Major Ken Lewis MBE. He moved the office from Wellington Barracks London and established a functional and effective office for himself the Association Secretary General and a typist in Maindy Barracks Cardiff.

Throughout his 14 years he has given unwavering support to both the Regiment and Association attending many of the Branch Dinners and playing a key role in the organisation of Regimental events. He has also taken the lead in the organisation of Regimental Band tours (two a year), introduced the Regimental/Association annual Race Day at Ludlow Race Course and of course the Association golf meetings all of which have been and continue to be a major success and well supported.

In addition he has been the custodian of the Regimental funds, the editor of the Regimental Magazine and selected the theme and organised the production of the Regimental Christmas card.

The one area of his job that is never publicly seen is the Welfare aspect, helping and assisting, where possible, the former and serving members of our Regiment who for what ever reason need help. Capt. Davies has carried out this duty, during some difficult periods in time with absolute dedication and professionalism.

On the 14th April 2007 during the Biennial Dinner at Brangwyn Hall Swansea we said farewell to Dai Davies 21. He was presented with a silver dragon by the Regimental Lt Col and a statuette by Col. Bonas (Pres. of Assn).

Finally we would all like to thank Dai for the dedication and loyal service he has given to the Association and his Regiment and wish him and his family the very best for the future and sincerely hope he enjoys a well earned retirement.



Col AJE Malcolm OBE presenting Capt (Retd) D. Davies with a farewell gift of thanks for his years of loyal service to the Regiment and Association on the occasion of his retirement as the Assistant Regimental Adjutant Welsh Guards.

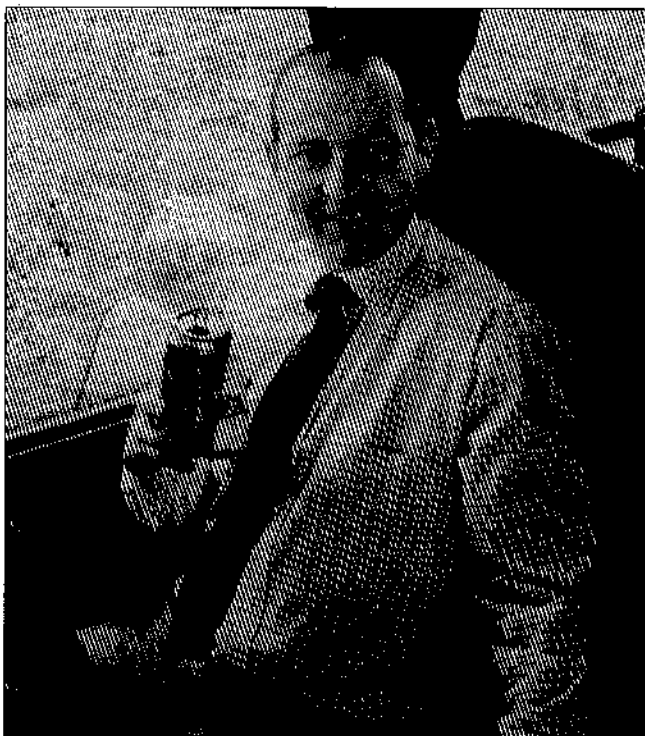
Linking The Past With The Present

The 2007 Battlefield Tour

by Roy Lewis

Battlefield Tours have always been highly successful since the first in 1989, but the 22nd in September 2007 is a strong candidate for the "best ever". It was centred around three visits, to Waterloo, Hechtel and West Cappel, each of which was memorable. The tour also had a youthful feel about it, thanks to four serving Guardsmen who came with us and the children we met everywhere.

There were emotional moments and as always the social side was superb. Some of the older tourists kept habits of a lifetime and late nights were no problem for them, but the young Guardsmen, under the eagle but benevolent eye of RQMS Warren Williams, matched experience with enthusiasm.



RQMS Warren Williams carries the can as usual

After roughing it in the ferry bar to Calais, we arrived in Leuven which is not only an ancient city with a famous university but boasts the biggest brewery in the world, the owners of which profited from the moment we arrived.

Our President, Colonel Bonas and his wife Vivienne, were on their first full tour and there were several newcomers who were made welcome. Arthur Bland, Ray Cumbley, Bob Burman, Fred Bowden and Armand Poupaert represented the 1944/45 era. In the words of Colonel Bonas, the amount of experience on the coach was "awesome".

The first of two group dinners was a happy affair and the President quickly set the theme of the tour when he referred to the past meeting the present. Each of the four Guardsmen spoke and were warmly applauded.

25229479 Matthew Green, aged 20, from Pontypool, 25234802 Keiron Bevan, 19, from Maesteg, 25152986 Liam Balderstone, 21 from Prestatyn and 25173688 Stuart Jones, 20, from Denbigh, were a credit to themselves and their Regiment. We were proud of them and enjoyed their company.



Left to Right - Kieron Bevan, Liam Balderstone, Stuart Jones and Matthew Green, all serving Gdsm from the Battalion, at Waterloo

The dinner in Leuven got the tour off to a great start, and by happy coincidence the town staged a fireworks display, not in our honour perhaps but it attracted the more intrepid who went on the town. They had a 5 am reveille with a difference, getting INTO bed at that time not out of it.

The following day was spent in Waterloo. It was not our first visit, but it was different in several ways. Colonel Bonas gave us a fine talk on the battle and everyone agreed that his presentation was outstanding.

After a break for coffee that tasted remarkably like Stella Artois, we proceeded to the town where we were given a civic welcome by the Mayor and met many of the townsfolk, including Belgian ex-servicemen and women, among them a survivor of Buchenwald Concentration Camp. The young Guardsmen got on well with local people and everyone found it very emotional. It brought home to us the horror and tragedy of war and occupation and the relief and joy of liberation in 1944 for towns like Waterloo.

Sadly Major Jim Carson and Mabel could not be with us but we visited his friends in Waterloo where we were royally welcomed. Their lovely garden was bathed in sunshine and it was particularly pleasing that the children of the family were present. Our hostess Maureen Luhr, and her husband, were presented with tokens of our regard after a perfect day.

For some a perfect Saturday night followed in Leuven which has hundreds of restaurants and bars and the following morning we made our annual visit to Hechtel where the welcome gets warmer every year.



Hechtel

We attended a church service and again admired the wonderful singing of the choir. The President laid a wreath at the town cemetery and also at the Memorial in Welsh Guards Plein. A superb lunch followed with musical offerings by 34 Jones who has a voice Wales can be proud of, and 61 Jones who has a voice. There was a surprise item, which was greatly enjoyed, the four Guardsmen sang a traditional, ancient Welsh folk song – “Delilah”!

We visited Bourg Leopold War Cemetery and laid crosses at the many graves of Welsh Guardsmen and at the Resistance Memorial we were impressed by a 15-year boy who is engaged in keeping the area in good order. Our annual visit to the Memorial, where over 200 Belgians were murdered, was particularly moving to those who had not been there before, and it was appropriate that our wreath was laid by Armand Poupaert, a resident of Abergavenny, who fought with the Belgian Brigade Piron.



Arthur Bland (Left) and Ray Cumbley lay a wreath at Bourg Leopold Cemetery

An added attraction for the townsfolk of Hechtel was the presence of the RQMS and the Guardsmen in Home Service Clothing. Most of the men on the tour had never worn bearskins and scarlet tunics, battledress was their uniform, but all were proud to be on parade with the younger generation.

After another night on Leuven's tiles we left the town and headed into France and our final resting place, the Holiday Inn, Coqelles near Calais, where we held another second group dinner. The entertainment was full of variety but top of the bill was undoubtedly a Polynesian warrior whose Maori Haka out-did the All-Blacks at their most fierce. It was quite impressive, and hilarious, but Warren Williams is advised to keep the day job.

The fierce fighting in the village of West Cappel in May 1940 is part of Regimental history and is still remembered there. In November 2006 a cul-de-sac was named “Impasse des Welsh Guards” and an invitation to attend the ceremony was received from Jack Squire, honorary British representative in the area.

At very short notice Jeff Heenan, Secretary of London Branch and his wife Pat, travelled to France and represented the Regiment. They joined us for the last day of the tour which began with a visit to Wormhoudt where in May 1940, 80-90 British soldiers who had been taken prisoner, were murdered by SS troops. The victims were from the Royal Warwickshire's, Cheshire's and 69 Regiment Royal Artillery.

The Gunners were Territorials from Llandudno and only two survived the massacre. John Jones 34 laid a wreath in memory of fellow North Walsians. It was a sad visit, but appreciated by the local people who have worked hard to preserve the site as a reminder of a particularly horrific war crime.

In West Cappel we were warmly welcomed and visited the grounds of the chateau where the remnants of No. 2 Company of the 1st Battalion held out against great odds. The Guardsmen with us are in No. 2 Company and the four of them laid the wreath at the cemetery where twenty of their predecessors are buried. The sun we enjoyed disappeared and it poured with rain, but with the example of local school-children who stood respectfully nearby we formed a solemn but proud group.

We ended our visit with a memorable reception in the infant's school where the pupils and their head mistress were presented with gifts, which were greatly appreciated. The twinning of towns is well known, but having met so many Belgian and French children on our tour one feels that twinning schools would be much better. The one at West Cappel now displays the Regimental plaque as a reminder of our visit and the men who died there sixty-eight years ago.

The journey home went smoothly and we were indebted to our regular driver Peter, who volunteers for the job and has become a member of the family. The planning and work involved before and during the tour is immense, for which we thank tour manager Captain Graham Taylor, who with Brian Keane, received a credit and are excused boots and blanco!

It was six days of real pleasure and we thank our President and Mrs Bonas for sharing them with us. The official Regimental Battlefield Tour of 2007 brought the Regimental past and present together, and when it ended plans were already in hand for 2008.

We can't wait!



The cemetery at West Cappel where twenty Welsh Guardsmen are buried.

Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion

Held on Saturday 13th October 2007

by Mr C Beynon

The much-anticipated third Biennial Dinner celebrating the past and current successes of the Battalion rugby teams of yesteryear and the present took place at the Manor Park Country House, Clydach on Saturday 13th October 2007.

This year's event was marked by the present successes of two Battalion players, LCpl Melvyn Lewis and Guardsman Rob Sweeney, who both represented the British Army and Combined Services, last season. General, The Lord Guthrie, in his capacity as our honoured guest, presented LCpl Lewis with a framed photograph of the Army scrumage, with Mel about to "crouch, pause, touch, engage"! Rob Sweeney was unable to attend; however, his action photograph was handed to Major Martin Miles for safekeeping.



General The Lord Guthrie presenting LCpl Mel Lewis with a framed action photograph of Army versus Barbarians

With the passing of RQMS Keith Jones 38 in May 2007, one of his last requests to his family was that a significant sum of money be donated to his beloved Regiment, specifically the Rugby XV. After discussions between the family and RHQ, a magnificent silver cup was struck at Mappin and Webb of London, to be presented to the most improved rugby player of the season, annually. It culminated on the night, with Mr David Jones (38's son) presenting the cup to Sgt Carl Williams, Captain of the Battalion side.

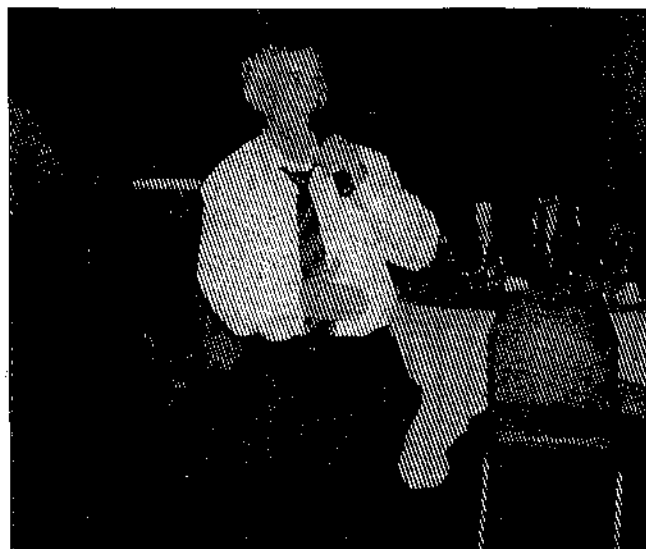


Sgt Carl Williams receiving the '38' Jones Cup from Mr David Jones, son of Keith '38' Jones.

Applauding from left to right, Major Glyn White MBE, Major Barney Cockroft, General the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank.

Mr Derck Bevan MBE was the evening's guest speaker and his experiences as a World Cup Referee and "vardre boy, innit", kept the audience thoroughly entertained. He "mentioned in dispatches" both Nelson Mandela and Clive Norling. One, of his long walk to freedom, the other, of his short walk to Tesco's.

Photographic evidence is prog positive that St Vitis Dance is still prevalent in the western world, yet despite a new hip and prostate problems, Ralph Cooper gives a mean impersonation of Chubby Checker, "twisting" again.



Ralph Cooper Twisting Again

The Iron Guardsman Challenge

by Capt J C R Westropp

The Iron Guardsman Challenge was devised to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Falkland Island Campaign, as well as serving as a symbolic end to the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards' Op OCULUS tour to Bosnia. This was a charity event comprising of a cycle from Bosnia to Calais, a sea kayaking leg across the Channel and then three marathons in three days from Folkestone back to Wellington Barracks in London. A subsequent phase to the operation would be a cycle ride after the Queen's Birthday Parade from London to Wales, as a precursor to the Laying up of the Battalion's Old Colours in Bangor Cathedral. What started as a scribble on an envelope aimed at getting back to the UK early from Bosnia soon became harsh reality when the Commanding Officer gave the project his full backing!

The aim was to raise money for The South Atlantic Medals Association (SAMA 82), The Army Benevolent Fund and Everyman Cancer. From a training and logistic perspective it became immediately clear that this was going to be a serious undertaking. Firstly there needed to be a team capable of cycling the distance of nearly 1,300 miles, kayaking 24 miles without a break, and then still be fit enough to pull off three back to back marathons prior to arrival at Wellington Barracks. The APTCI Sgt Gillies, raised a wry smile of disbelief when the requirements were initially tabled to say the least. There also needed to be a wealth of equipment; tents, generators, beds, cooking facilities, food, bikes, helmets, boats, clothing, trainers, mapping and water to name but a few. Major Martyn Miles, the Quartermaster was visibly quaking with laughter after I explained what was required in late November. The Paperwork Mountain was not small either with clearance documents, funding letters, risk assessments, visas, and insurance documents all needing to be up to speed.

The team had to be selected. This required an aggressive poster campaign all over Banja-Luka Metal Factory, and a raft of presentations to

inspire interest before a selection weekend. This comprised a vicious three-hour spinning session, a half marathon, robust upper body sessions and a chapter of team building command tasks. By the end of it the team and the reserves had been selected.

Bosnia is the dream location in which to train for a running and cycling event, and this soon got underway, under the watchful eyes of Major Sarah Hazard, the Regimental Medical Officer, and Lieutenant Tom Spencer-Smith who drew up a thorough and demanding training regime. Kayaking however soon became a real concern. We initially had no kayaks or instructors, and most of the outdoor activity centres in the Balkans that specialise in water sports don't operate when there is snow on the ground, unsurprisingly because they tend not to have a huge amount of custom. They also steer clear of the lakes near Banja Luka because of the significant mine threat. We managed to source the Kayaks from the stores at Bicester, and Lance Sergeant Humphries and Guardsman Robinson (Coldstream Guards) took on the task of instructing. A lake in Jajce (50 miles south of Banja Luka) was used as the training centre and a tented camp was established on the shoreline, containing exercise bikes and kayaking equipment. This coincided with the start of the snowfall, and an untimely capsized was like wallowing in a freeze vat of sleet. Understandably, the Guardsmen were sceptical about running through the aptly named Eskimo rolls that they were required to complete in anticipation of the conditions expected in the Channel in March during the Spring Equinox. There were regular complaints from Guardsman Caffrey and Lance Corporal Calvert about having an 'ice cream headache'.

Accruing kit was the next big hurdle. Hundreds of letters, e-mails and phone calls were dispatched to companies asking for kit and charitable donations. Most of them were ignored, but some companies were keen. Whittle-Williams hire company provided the vehicles, and London

Bicycle Tours lent the team road bikes for the event. Excilite helped with the safety equipment, DHB with the cycle clothing and UK Gear with the running outfits. A number of individuals and companies were also very generous with their charitable donations.



Iron Guardsman Training for Channel Crossing

In time the team were fit, qualified and had suitable kit. Just before we set off we had reached the fundraising target of £25,000 to be divided equally between the charities. A support team was established headed up by Sergeant Hayes and Lance Sergeant Thomas 60 as his truly second in command. Corporal Mold (REME) was the resident vehicle/bicycle/anything electrical specialist, and Private Zimani was the chef, with Guardsman Pike as his pan cleanser.

On 1st March, St David's Day, with the Battalion supporting them, HRH Prince Charles and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall set the Iron Guardsman team off on its journey to London.

It all started well. In blistering sunshine we escaped Bosnia by bicycle, and headed through Croatia and Slovenia towards North Italy, along the Adriatic coast. The three amigos, Lance Corporals Calvert and Isaac and Guardsman Lewis 64 managed to clock the earliest high speed of 42 mph before this was dwarfed by Lt Spencer-Smith's 56 mph downhill descent. Once through into Austria however, the team exchanged the likelihood of sunburn for hypothermia, as we were confronted with the Alps, and a significant volume of snowfall.

The Alps are not designed to be transited by bicycle, nor by elephant, but it didn't stop

Alexander, and wasn't going to stop us. Strangely, the team found it easier to go up hill. Guardsman Jones 89, the youngest member of the team, at 18 years and 2 months, explained it brilliantly. "Going uphill is less frightening than coming down because the snow and wind is warmer." The skiers were clearly jealous of the team as we had completely open cycle paths, compared to the packed pistes.

With the Alps behind us, we descended into the greenery of Germany, where concerns about ice and sleet were replaced with genuine worries about the mental constitution of German lorry drivers. There seemed to be some sort of competition between them to see who could get the largest truck the closest to the cyclists, and competition was fierce and vigorously undertaken. Luckily we escaped unscathed.

We crossed the border into France, where we discovered why the major championships within the cycling calendar are held in this country. The road surfaces were smooth with cycle lanes everywhere; drivers slowed down, gave way and waved, and the sun came out. Sergeant E Mills who had been accumulating all sorts of cycling accoutrements during the challenge, found himself surrounded by bicycle shops, and promptly bought a new bike. Everyone else tucked into a fresh set of brake blocks after the Alps had eroded the stock. The Roman roads were also ideal, moving the team rapidly from Windkirch on the German-French border towards Calais. Open and flat they carved through the French vineyards on the way to Rheims. Then the wind and rain arrived. Mother Nature was clearly



Iron Guardsman Selection

not happy with the French Six Nations victory, and was keen to devastate this year's Champagne crop. Needless to say the team were thrilled to arrive in Calais.

French shipping laws are some of the strictest in the world, especially with regards to 'La Manche.' It is illegal to depart from French shores without either wind or motor power, and as we were in kayaks, this was not allowed. So we had to take the ferry to Dover, and cross the Channel in reverse. This was the trickiest part of the expedition, as there were a huge number of variables that had to be co-ordinated. All the kit and equipment had to be ready, the team had to continue with their upper body fitness during the cycling stages, the support boats including one very kindly loaned from 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, had to be primed and most importantly, the weather had to be reasonable. Our two civilian instructors arrived, Olly Sanders and Steve Eccleston. We loaded up our kayaks and on the 28th March at 0650 hrs and departed for Cap Griz-Nez with a team of eight and two support craft. It was an emotional day. Crossing a calm channel we made it in a time of 7 hrs and 4 mins.

The transition from bikes to running was not an easy one, as they require completely different muscle groups. The team started on the beach at the exact point where the kayaks were dropped off by the returning support craft, and with the addition of Lance Sergeant Sussex, who had arrived for the marathon phase, we set off. The team started brightly, and we completed the first marathon in just less than five hours before enjoying a well earned rest with 5 Scots at Howe Barracks in Canterbury.

The second marathon was even more painful, with body parts not responding to brain generated stimuli. This also coincided with the arrival of a journalist from the Sunday Telegraph. Keen to get some action shots they tried to coerce the team into more robust action, which became insanely painful. The shots were eventually captured, but the team was nearly broken.

The final marathon was excruciating, but with the prospect of the finish, the team dug deep, and arrived at Wellington Barracks on the stroke of four o'clock, to rapturous applause. The team

passed through the same tape that they had been released from exactly one month before by the Prince of Wales.

The departure of the team for the final 404 mile cycling leg of the challenge from London to Bangor was on 17th June, which was not only the day after the Battalion had conducted the Queen's Birthday Parade, but coincided with the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Falkland's campaign for whom money was being raised. Appropriately the team were sent on their way by Brigadier J F Rickett Welsh Guards (Retd) who was the Commanding Officer of the Battalion during the conflict, and we were once again out on the open road.

The ride took the team through Cardiff where they were met by the First Minister of Wales, Rhodri Morgan, before cycling north through Wales and being welcomed into Bangor by the Mayor, The Commanding Officer and pockets of supporters from the Battalion. This brought the expedition to a symbolic finish, as it was the day prior to the lying up of the Battalion Old Colours in Bangor Cathedral.

Eight countries, forty-one days, ten Welsh Guardsmen, eighteen hundred miles, and more than £30,000 raised for charity. Many thanks to all who have supported the team throughout.



Commanding Officer enjoying Iron Guardsman Selection

trench where Sergeant Bye had earned his famous VC. It was almost the perfect location, except for the fact that we were next to a factory producing chicken manure. It added another dimension to the experience! That evening we attended the 8.00 p.m. ceremony at Menin Gate. The boys had changed into smart casuals (actually on the bus on the way, an exciting experience for one or two local lassies!). They looked a credit; I was privileged to stand with them whilst the Last Post was sounded.

Our last day was spent in Arras where we laid a wreath on the Welsh Guards Memorial. I was

directed to the rear rank and I am afraid did not impress the CSM by being out of time with all the others. We moved on the most remarkable private museum full of the most amazing artefacts, many of them connected with the Regiment. Our final stop was where Captain Furness had gained his VC. The story was told by Haydn, the details he had got from Furness's own driver. It was a fitting end to a remarkable experience. I left with just a small insight into the sense of pride and comradeship that makes up the Battalion. I felt privileged to have been asked to come and I hope that the Regiment won't mind this old duffer coming again.



Picture Parade



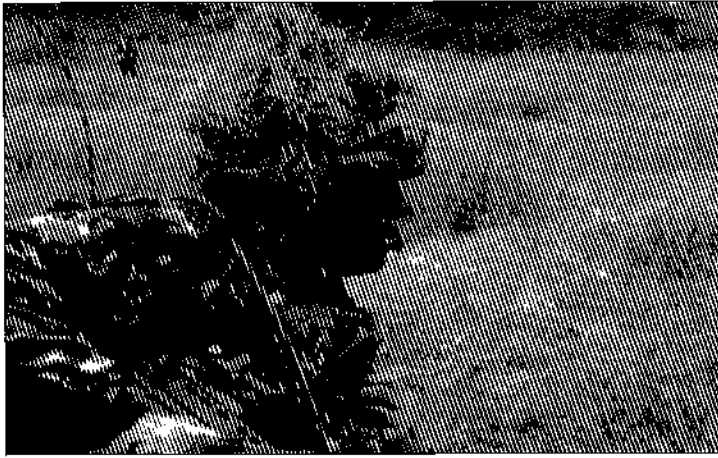
Casual and Formal Dress Of The "30's"
Seated in the Center 2732779 Bill Dixon. Others Unknown

The Temporary Grave of a Welsh Guardsman in Germany. March 1945 - L/Sgt Millard now rests in the Reichswald Forest Cemetery.

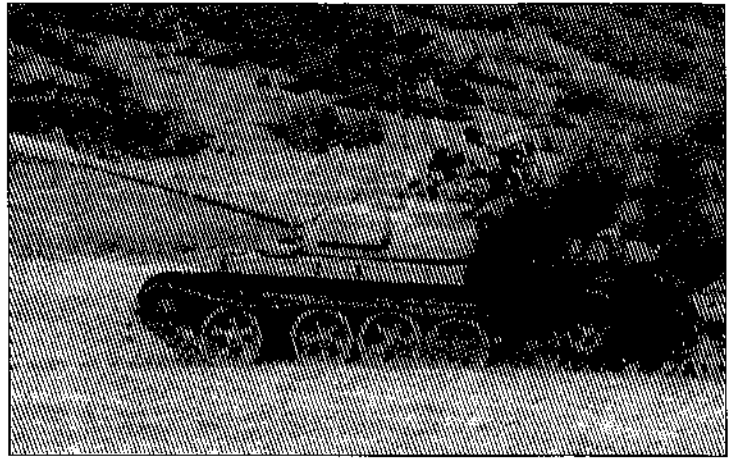


Brewing Up in Normandy 1944
Left to Right - Arthur Bland, 03 Thomas and Sid Phelps





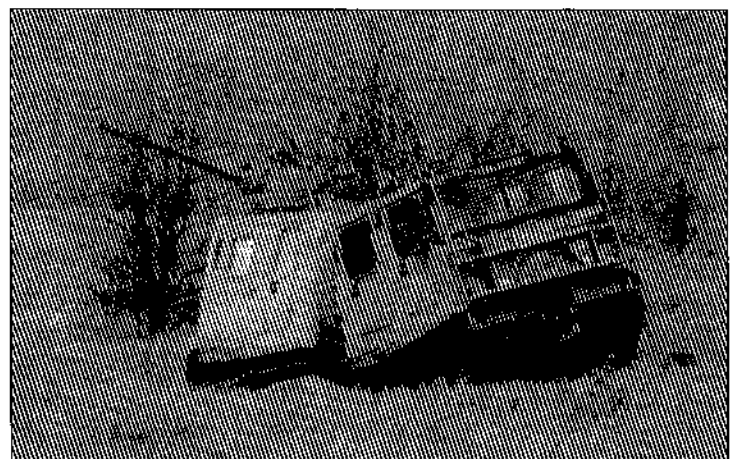
**Major Ben Ramsey
during Final Attack in Bosnia**



**Sgt Thomas 99 giving the armoured
support clear? directions!**



**Fire Support "Ready" for
final attack during exercise in Bosnia**



**G4 Support for the fighting
troops on exercise in Bosnia**

The Welsh Guards Collection

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

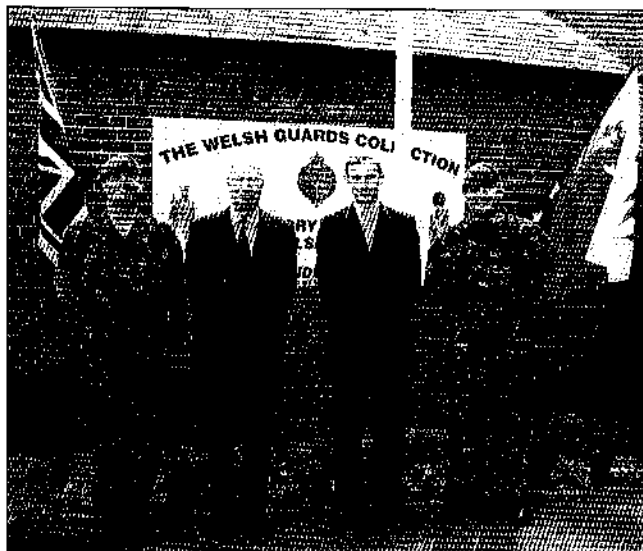
Without doubt 2007 has been one of the busiest years for the team at the museum. 2007 commemorated 25 years since the Falklands conflict so the onus was on us to enlarge the display of Falkland's artefacts and archival material. I had put out a request to Veterans of the war for anything they may have concerning that time and some real gems became unearthed. It's amazing what we forget is in the attic or down the cellar. Some of these items were loaned temporarily for the remainder of the year and others donated permanently, what a splendid display they have made. I would particularly like to mention 23523094 Ex CSM Frank Wilson for he had the foresight to realise that what may have seemed insignificant at the time have become treasures now. Cheers Frank I promise you can have them back!!!

In March we were invited to install a permanent display at the Maritime Museum in Holyhead. The display was to commemorate the three Armed Services in Holyhead during the last war and would be accompanied by displays from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Merchant and Royal Navies plus the Royal Air Force. We were the first to complete our display so I was very concerned what the standard from the other exhibits would amount to but gladly my concerns were unfounded. The opening on the 1st June was a grand affair with over 100 VIPs and guests attending. We were treated to a sumptuous buffet and a free bar all afternoon. Unfortunately yours truly had to leave early to drive back to Cheshire. The Welsh Guards RIT team from RAF Valley was in attendance. The two Guardsmen in home service clothing guarding the entrance were the icing on the cake and I would like to express our thanks to Sergeant Andy Williams and his team. Another unsung hero behind all the hard work installing the display was local man and ex Drummer John Jones 11, who along with his good lady Sue worked tirelessly. John will oversee the

maintenance and upkeep of the display. Being a Drummer we can rest assured that the kit there will be gleaming!

The following Monday at the request of the Wrexham Town Museum, we were asked to install a display depicting life in the Welsh Guards to accompany the activities the Battalion would bring to the town at the end of the month. They have been so impressed we were asked to leave the display there for several months and it is still there as I write.

With the Laying up of the Old Colours in Bangor Cathedral on the 27th and the families day at Caernarfon on 1st July, our work was cut out to make yet another display in the tented area provided by the Battalion at Caernarfon Rugby Club. I'm not sure whether it was the standard of our display or the fact that the weather was less than kind to us but the tent was full to bursting all day. A satisfying point was that with the aid of modern technology we were able to help out several comrades in locating their old lost squad photo. Many thanks to John Williams 83 who on the day made extra journeys to and from Port Madog to make sure everything we needed was in place.



The Battalion Staff visit the Museum - D/Sgt A.L. Roberts, The Regimental Adjutant, The Commanding Officer RSM D. Pridmore



The Curator of the Guards Museum, Andrew Wallace
at the entrance to Park Hall

Visits to the site in Park Hall this year have included Battalion Headquarters staff along with scores of Association members particularly over the Falklands weekend. An unusual visit was that of the Guards Museum staff from London who had called in to see us mid way through their sponsored cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Gaots no less. Curator Andrew Wallace and his team of three were trying to raise much needed funds for the Guards Museum. Which brings me nicely to the subject of fund raising, all museums throughout the Country are feeling the pinch and struggling to make ends meet and the Welsh Guards Collection "Your Museum" is no different. We are fortunate to receive support from the Regiment with the maintenance and upkeep of the Museum but we have to rely on donations for the purchasing of artefacts where and when they become available. Since the introduction of EBAY, more and more Welsh Guards artefacts appear and most times we have no funds to retrieve them. With this in mind the Committee decided it would put in place a "bank standing order mandate" to allow people to support the Museum on a regular basis. I am reliably informed that there are over 4,200 registered members in the Association and one can only imagine if everyone donated £1 per year the museum would be financially secure for the future, we could recover items from our past that found their way somehow to America and elsewhere. Payments can be made into the bank on a monthly, quarter or annual basis, these forms are available from the Museum itself, our

Treasurer Colonel Brian Morgan, the RQMS at RHQ, The Secretary General Brian Keane or just phone me and I will get one off to you by return of post. Just £1 a year will, I promise you will make huge difference. Thank you.

We have been fortunate this year to have three new members joining the team namely 22831530 Tony Crisp, 23553434 Nolan Beeb and 23523212 Gerald Tilston from the local

Branches and all three have got into the swing of things amazingly quickly. Unlike most Museums these men are unpaid volunteers with no financial remuneration for their time and travel. Thank you gentlemen we all look forward to a long and happy time together.

Unfortunately we have to say farewell to one of our biggest supporters for many years, our retiring Regimental Adjutant Charles Stephens. Colonel Stephens has been an absolute rock, supporting the Museum and what it stands for in every possible way. He will be sorely missed but we wish him all the very best for his future retirement and I'm sure he will find time to visit us now and then. Taking his place as Chairman of the Committee will be Colonel Tom Bonas who is very supportive of the museum and we all look forward to seeing and working with him. Welcome aboard Sir.

Finally, if your home town is putting on a special event and you would like to promote the Welsh Guards, we are able to supply items from our reserve collection as exhibits on loan for your local community to enjoy. Obviously there are very strict conditions to the loaning and display of these artefacts but nothing that can not be accomplished. Just give me a call if you are interested.

Thank you

Stan Evans 67 Curator

Working with other Nations:

DENMARK

by Lt. N. Moukarzel

Towards the end of Op Herrick 6, a Welsh Guards Mortar Section (3 Barrels) supported 1st Company; Royal Danish Lifeguards based in FOB Sandford, halfway between Gareshk and Sangin. The mortars regularly fired on enemy forces attacking two Platoon houses and also during strike Ops into the Green Zone, a belt of verdant vegetation irrigated by the Helmand River and used as an MSR by the Taliban. The Danish Company therefore had a British MFC to control the 81mm Mortars, who was initially held with Coy HQ at Sandford.

However, the Danes, having relieved B Coy, 2 Mercs (Worcester and Sherwood Foresters), were given very little time to settle in and had two men killed and several wounded on their first night. The MFC was then sent to assist that Platoon house.

When I arrived early the next morning, I found the Platoon clearing away the debris from the night's attack. Structurally, most of the small Pl. house was sound but part of the sangars had been destroyed and some of the walls had been damaged. The building that had been used as a Med. station was filled with reminders of the previous night's fighting. Bloodied body armour and ripped clothing had been dumped in a corner. Shattered, bent weapons had been piled near the door, and empty saline drips hung listlessly from the mud walls. Danish MPs quietly bagged the items for their journey back down the line.

I was expecting a muted reception, and was particularly concerned that they would see me as an intruder when they needed a moment to remember their dead mates but I found that they were forthcoming and friendly. Even more so when I explained that I would be able to call down 81mm fire on the enemy positions

as their 60mm were not yet fully operational. Much of the day was spent filling sandbags and building sangars, and as complaining about sandbags is an excellent way of starting a conversation it must be said that their English is excellent, and correspondingly my Danish is limited to: "tak" – thanks, and "fuhrling" – contact!

As expected, they couldn't be friendlier when they saw the effect of our mortars in contact. The welcoming crump as they land, and the corresponding reduction in enemy fire, meant that their enthusiasm for all things British grew measurably, and although they struggled to understand our liking for baked beans in just about every breakfast option they did begin to offer each other 'a brew; if there was any boiling water going.

The Danish also had a mortar line at Sandford, and their Section Commander (inevitably tall, blond and barrel-chested) was a regular visitor to the British mortars. CSgt Lewis 62, Sgt Evans 37 and our Danish visitors would have long and earnest discussions about beards and high trajectories. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Danish Company for their generous gifts of American rations...

I found the Danes to be a professional and inclusive group of soldiers. Modest and unassuming, they were keen and quick to learn. Under contact, they committed and controlled, but always willing to listen to advice, and to tweak the plan as necessary. They are steadfast in adversity, as demonstrated when their Company Commander was killed by RPG shrapnel on a strike Op. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside them, and I would gladly work with them again.

An Old Alliance

by Lt. NRK Moukarzel WG

In the Summer 2006 edition of this magazine (Ceremonial Troops of the World: Holland, by General Sir Michael Gow) the reader was able to learn about the Ceremonial troops of the Dutch Armed Forces. Amongst those is 17 Pantserinfanteriebataljon Garde Fusiliers Prinses Irene. The youngest of the Dutch Army's Foot Guards Battalions, it is more than just youth and drill that this particular unit shares with the Welsh Guards.

Since September 2006 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has found itself on operations in the Balkans once again, with the majority of the Battalion based at the Banja Luka Metal Factory in Bosnia, and Number 2 Company, with elements of Support Company, in Kosovo. The nature of multi-national operations means that the Battle Group in Bosnia has got a Company of Dutch troops attached to it in order to make up the full complement of three Rifle Companies needed.

In late October the Dutch Company deployed to Bosnia changed, and we welcomed "C (Bears) Company 17 Pantserinfanteriebataljon Garde Fusiliers Prinses Irene" to the Battle Group. In many ways this can be seen as history coming full circle.

Formed in 1946 from what had previously been Royal Netherlands Brigade Prinses Irene, this Battalion can trace its routes back to that Brigade's early days in Porthcawl, Wales, in October 1940.

Following the German invasion of the Netherlands members of what was then known as the Dutch Legion made their way to Britain via Dunkirk and Brest. Initially all Dutch troops were moved to Porthcawl in order to allow regrouping and a full assessment of what manpower there was available. Next the Legion found itself moving to Congleton and Wolverhampton, where it was renamed as the Royal Netherlands Brigade and began its training for future deployment back on the European mainland. In August 1941 the Brigade received its Standard and a new name, Prinses Irene, in honour of the youngest granddaughter of the Queen, the sister of the current Queen of the Netherlands, Queen Beatrix.

Between 1941-1944 the Brigade was used to assist with coastal defences and continue its

training for future European operations. In March 1944 the Brigade was inspected by Field Marshall Montgomery, and in August they finally set sail to begin their long journey home. Action was seen first at Chatcau St. Come, where the Brigade took its first casualties. Initially working in the centre of 6th Airborne Division, Brigade Prinses Irene moved quickly up in to Belgium in order to catch up with the Guards Armoured Division who, having recently completed their record-breaking advance to Brussels, looked likely to be the first allied troops back on to Dutch soil. As an obvious point of pride, this is where Brigade Prinses Irene wanted to be.

By early September 1944 XXX Corps found itself facing up the Dutch border with the Guards Armoured Division at its head and a series of canals to be crossed in order for the advance to continue. On the 6th September the Division continued the advance, leaving Brussels behind and the first major action, at Beeringen (today spelt Beringen), is perhaps the most coherent moment of multi-nationalism at work between the Guards Armoured Division and Brigade Prinses Irene. Here, with the Welsh Guards, 'X' Company Scots Guards and the Irish Guards all being involved in fighting, Prinses Irene's Brigade got drawn in to the destruction of all enemy forces in and around the town of Beeringen, which would soon provide a bridgehead for Holland for Operation Market Garden.

By the end of the war the young Dutch Brigade had played its part in the fighting throughout Europe and been present for the German surrender in Holland. Following the disbandment of the Brigade, the Regiment was given the title of Prinses Irene to continue the tradition, later being given the title of Garde, one of only two such Regiments in the Dutch Armed Forces.

In the modern day, they, like the Regiments of the Household Division, contend with maintaining the delicate balance between operational capability and a traditional ceremonial role in the heart of the Dutch State. Much like us they provide the guard for the State opening of the Dutch Parliament each year, as well as acting as the guardians of the Royal Household on all such state occasions.

Operationally the Regiment finds itself spread across the world. They have troops currently

serving in Afghanistan as well as in Bosnia. They have recent experience of Kosovo and "C (Bears) Company 17 Pantserinfanteriebataljon Garde Fusiliers Prinses Irene" was in fact serving in Iraq at the same time as the Welsh Guards during Op Telic 5.

In Bosnia the Welsh Guards have been able to rekindle this old alliance with an international unit whose history is not only tied to Wales and the Welsh Guards, but indeed the Household Division as a whole.

Band Tour of Bosnia and Herzegovina

February 24th - March 3rd

February 24th - 27th Sarajevo

After minimal sleep Friday night and in some cases none at all, the Band arrived at Chelsea Barracks with a slightly alien look wearing combat 95 ready for the trip to RAF Lynham and a Hercules flight to Bosnia. Having arrived for check-in at around 05.00 all the obvious gags of "can I have an aisle seat?" were uttered to a collection of less impressed RAF members of staff who duly took our bergens and lobbed them down the luggage run.

Ear defenders at the ready and cooped up like hens in a battery we were off. Some five hours later we arrived in Pristina, Kosovo where we dropped off a few non-Band members that had joined us and after a quick turn around we were back in the air for Sarajevo, Bosnia.

Upon arriving at Butmir Camp we met up with Sergeant Lowden who had travelled in advance to co-ordinate our programme and who duly gave us details of camp etiquette and a guided tour of the facilities. The evening was spent at numerous venues across camp watching Six Nations' rugby. Firstly it was the turn of England to be trounced by Ireland then the Welsh put up an equally disappointing effort against the French. However merriment prevailed whatever your rugby



En-Route on Hercules

persuasion as the rest of the evening was spent socialising with very cheap prices on all beverages.

The first gig of the tour was to be a full Band concert at the Ambassadors Hall in the centre of Sarajevo. This beautifully designed hall was a perfect setting for the concert but with a narrow stage, seating proved an issue. Having negotiated that certain members would sit on stage and some at ground level we were left with one last dilemma, the full size Steinway grand piano on

stage needed moving off. Huddled around like ants around a disregarded apple core we all took the strain and with legs shuffling like a badly choreographed river dance we repositioned the piano with no fatalities.

The concert was played to a packed hall with Ambassadors from all over Europe including our own British Ambassador (who we would meet up with in Banja Luka later in the week). The stand up soloists that evening included Lance Corporal Withwham on Euphonium, Musician Murray on Trombone and Sergeant Libby was introduced on Saxophone although tutting could be heard around the Band as Sergeant Libby was introduced as Lance Sergeant Libby, surely a fineable offence.

Other soloists were featured within the Band's pieces, with mention going to Lance Sergeant Hunter who kept the rhythm going all the way through Ravel's Bolero. The Beatles echoes of an era displayed Lance Corporal Mercer who slid his way through Hey Jude with Colour Sergeant Brill expertly demonstrating the fiendishly difficult piccolo solo in Penny Lane. The concert was complete with further pieces such as The Blue Danube, Procession of the Nobles from Mlada and Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance number One, plus a historic reference to the triumph of Torvil and Dean at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics by the playing of Ravel's Bolero. Can this really have been as long as 1984?

During our stay in Sarajevo we were offered the opportunity to visit the town and a coach was laid on for us. We were dropped in the town centre and in our various groups we made our way through the old town which possessed all sorts of knick knack shops, then on to the more familiar chain stores in the high street. The highlight was walking along side the River Miljacka, where the Latin Bridge crosses, in the heart of Sarajevo, the scene of surely the most significant event of the 20th century. The shooting of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia at this very point on 28th June 1914 is deemed the trigger for the start of World War One. The assassination was actually the second attempt that day as the infamous "Black Hand Gang" had earlier hurled a grenade at the Archduke's car only to miss and hit the car behind, injuring those inside. A speedy

get-away followed but later that day the Archduke insisted on going to Sarajevo hospital to see those injured. On the way there the driver who had not been informed of this hospital visit drove along Appel Quay along side the River Miljacka and turned up Franz Josef Street as though leaving the city. The Archduke quickly informed him they should be heading to the hospital, the driver stopped and duly reversed back out on to Appel Quay where Gavrilo Princip – another Black Hand group member – was stood, and fired several shots at the Archduke and his wife from nearly point blank range, killing them both almost instantly.

That evening the brass quintet performed their first gig at a local television studio in Sarajevo on a TV show aimed at young people similar to our Blue Peter. The quintet arrived, placed themselves in front of the camera and after a quick run through to sound check and to position cameras the red light was on and we played "The Liberty Bell" much to the enjoyment of the camera crew who were all muttering "Monty Python" to each other. Following this the cameras panned across to the sofa where Major Cresswell was interviewed about who we were and explained what the Foot Guards in London are all about, including what the different items of uniform represent.

The evening entertainment was back at Butmir camp and featured a small marching band which played a selection of marches and pieces before the dance band took over for an opportunity for the punters to get up and dance. Sergeant Libby stole the show by leaving the stage to transform himself in to Elvis complete with cape, black wig and massive sunglasses. His rendition of Suspicious Minds could have only been bettered by The King himself.

The final leg of the Sarajevo part of the tour involved the Band splitting in two, one heading for the Sarajevo International School and the other a school for local under privileged children. Both venues sparked enormous interest and many of the children enjoyed dancing around the room as we played Lennon and McCartney and then took great delight in having pictures taken and taking it in turns to wear our bear skin caps.



Performing in Sarajevo

FEBRUARY 27TH – MARCH 3RD BANJA LUKA

For this leg of the tour we were joined by a BBC Wales camera crew who arrived to record various gigs and events with us in the process of making a documentary about the Band. Throughout the rest of the trip the camera shy element of the Band slept with one eye open as at every turn there were cameras rolling. The cameras caught all the gigs and also included some interviews on a one to one basis with designated Band personnel. The recording being put together is to feature on Welsh television across a number of weeks with one part designated entirely to the Band. One Band member came up with a witty title for the series, "Band of my Fathers" which has enormous potential.

The brass quintet was in action again this heading to Zagreb, Croatia to play for a European Defence Attaché Military Dinner. This involved a mini bus drive across the border in to Croatia then finally in to the stunning Sheraton hotel in the centre of Zagreb. Despite this rather plush hotel the quintet had to change in the car park before hurrying in to the hotel for some incidental music between courses. Following dessert the quintet played some cabaret style music finishing with quick marches of all Regiments present. The rest of the Band entertained themselves back at Banja Luka with some of the more agile members organising some five-a-side of football on the pitch set up in the metal factory.

St David's Day was organised to the very last detail as the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were arriving to celebrate this day. The Band arrived complete with bearskin cap and red

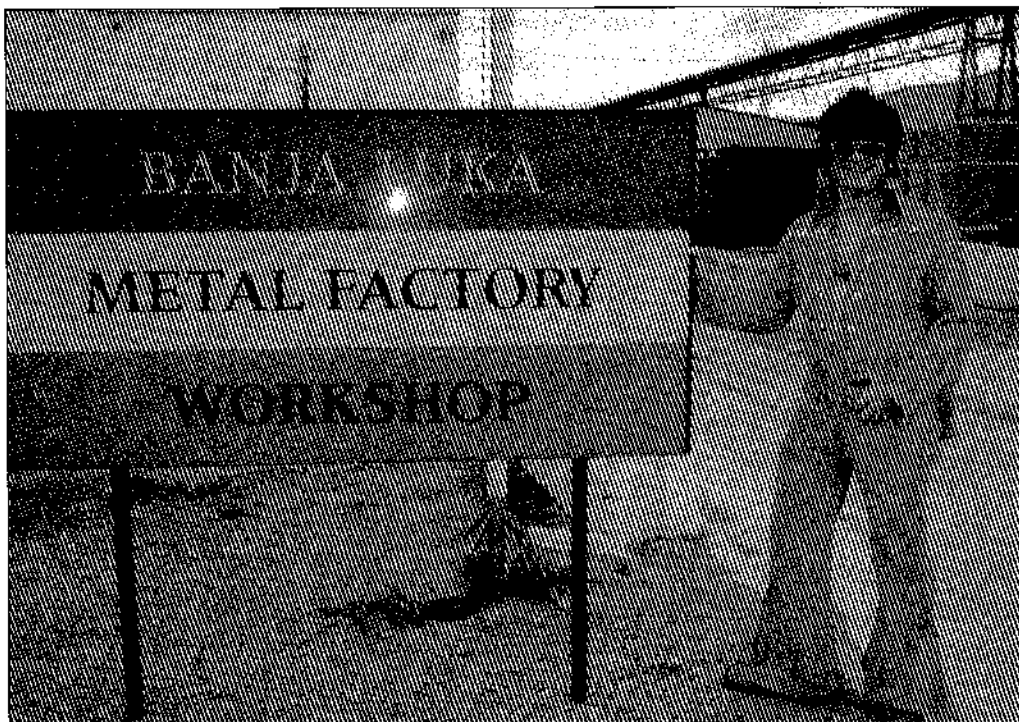
tunics to play some incidental music followed by a quick and slow troop. Then came a moment of history as the Band played the Bosnian National Anthem for the first time in front of three Presidents, Nebojsa Radmonavic, Zeljko Komsic and Haris Silajdzic. Prince Charles and Camilla then arrived to a Royal Salute before handing out boxes of leeks to the Officers for them to present to the troops, who were standing in Company order in combat 95. Major Cresswell then handed leeks to the Band. A very special moment followed for Sergeant Lowden as Prince Charles presented him with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal (LSGC). Others who also spoke with the Prince of Wales that day were Lance Corporal Mercer, Sergeant Beckett and Colour Sergeant Brill. As a slight deviation from a very traditional parade the Band also played a fanfare to start of the 'Iron Guardsman' expedition. A brave few from the Welsh Guards were cycling from Banja Luka to Calais then Kayaking to Dover before running back to Wellington Barracks – good luck guys!



Iron Guardsman Departure

The last gig was similar to that of Sarajevo with the Band marching in to one of the hangers at Banja Luka playing Men of Wales. Following musical items such as tippy trombones and post horn gallop the Band finished with an arrangement of Queen's "We are the Champions" joined half way through by the dance band who then took over with their choice of lively and up beat music. In tradition style Elvis made yet another come back!

Then it was the main event, an X factor competition comprising eight competitors, all hauled in front of the panel of judges comprising the Regimental Sergeant Major, Al Bowen as Simon Cowell and our very own Major David



Sgt Andy Libby in disguise

Cresswell as Louis Walsh, plus Sergeant Teresa Newell (RMP) appearing as Sharon Osbourne. After much musical carnage the contenders had finished and the decision of best act was left to the panel. The winner was Drum Sergeant O'Brien or OB who sang rather fittingly "I predict a riot".

The final act of the tour was in true military fashion to pack down and have things squared

away which all took place in combat 95. Once the load was complete and the accommodation checked we were all left to lug our bergens to the NAFFI for one final fry up before boarding the bus for the airport. A short ride to the airport was accompanied by the usual double entendre game which involves observing shop signs and sign posts out of the bus window which could possibly be misconstrued as slightly erotic – how mature. It was then time to adopt the static

position for another gruelling four and a half hour flight on a Hercules that took us back to England to complete a highly successful trip for the Band of the Welsh Guards, a trip that had everything from Kosovo to Sarajevo, camera crews to Iron Man contests and X-factor to Elvis. And yes he has left the building!



Regimental Party Banja Luka

Sandhurst in the Sand

by Lt. W.G.H. Freeman

With the intention of improving my increasingly rusty university Arabic and gaining a formal interpreting qualification, the Commanding Officer very kindly organised my attachment to the British Embassy in Jordan. As Op OCULUS drew to a close, the details were finally confirmed: it was to be a three-month attachment to Jordan where I would help the Defence Attache, Colonel Richard Currie, in assisting Jordan's new officer training establishment. The Jordanian Royal Military Academy (JRMA). Furthermore, Sgt Boika, Anti-Tank Platoon, had volunteered and would join me on this attachment.

After some frantic packing of MFO boxes (why had I brought out all six pairs of issue gloves and a face mask?!), I took a lingering look at my home of six months – Banja Luka Metal Factory, and headed out of the main gates for the last time. In London, I joined Sgt Boika and we embarked on our next journey: Amman, Jordan.

As background to our destination, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a country bordered by Syria to the North, Iraq to the Northeast, Saudi Arabia to the East and South, and Israel to the West. Jordan shares the coastlines of the Dead Sea, and the Gulf of Aqaba with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. It is a country which the King of Jordan describes as being in a "rough neighbourhood". Indeed, it is a country whose borders have often defined the nature of her history as seen in the Arab-Israeli wars, and more recently the invasions of Iraq. Since its formal independence in 1946, Britain has enjoyed close relations with Jordan. Recently, this has been evidenced in Jordan's pivotal role and support for British and America in the restoration of stability and security to Iraq.

This close relationship is said to have its roots at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) where both the late King Hussein and his son, the present King Abdullah, attended as Officer Cadets (Ocdts). Interestingly, both Kings allegedly enjoyed their time at Sandhurst. Other

interesting facts about Jordan include the fact that you can create your very own live firing template by cutting out the shape of Jordan's borders onto a transparent piece of plastic.



The Six Section Battle Skills - A Revelation

As far as the JRMA and Officer Training is concerned, Jordan has experimented with a number of systems. Since 1950 there has been a training establishment in Mauta, which, like RMAS some years back, provides a four-year course for non-graduates. In most recent years, a system based on the US Army's Westpoint was adopted for graduates. However, following poor results from the Academy, King Abdullah ordered the formation of a 'Sandhurst' in Jordan. Thus in 2004, the Jordanian Royal Military Academy was formed, and it has now witnessed the successful passing out of two intakes of Ocdts. so as our plane touched down in Amman, I had a sudden, painful realisation that I was going back to Sandhurst. Just as I was breaking into a cold sweat, it dawned on me that I was returning as a member of the 'DS'. I wiped my fevered brow, disembarked and started the three-month detachment.

Our arrival in Jordan had been carefully timed to coincide with Colonel Coates (Assistant Chief Instructor RMAS), and Major Kevin Gallagher (Chief Instructor of Skill at Arms Wing RMAS), who were visiting the JRMA for four days to make their assessment. With the benefit of their advice, and with the direction from Colonel Currie, Sgt Boika and I started work at the JRMA.



Sgt Boika instructing the Demonstration Company

Our initial plan was simply to evaluate the training by taking part in as much of the training programme as possible and provide advice, as it was required. With this in mind, we started work with a gruelling personal fitness test in the searing desert heat. A painful, if not abrupt, acclimatisation package! After the 2 miler, Sgt Boika assured me that the climate and the high altitude had played an important part in us not coming in the top third of Officer Cadets.

As we gained a better insight into the Academy, it was remarkable to see how the Jordanian Army had adopted the inherently foreign Sandhurst system of training in such a short time. Indeed, in many ways, it was a peculiar experience taking part in Exercise 'Long Reach' in the heat of the Jordanian desert, given my Sandhurst memories of getting chilled and soaked to the bone in Wales. There was the inevitable feeling of 'deja-vu', particularly when listening to War Studies lessons in Arabic that I remembered being taught at Sandhurst. Witnessing a number of 'nodding dog' impressions among the OCdts during some of the longer lectures after PT, seemed to demonstrate at the very least, that the new academy had picked up the intensity and pace of the training from Sandhurst.

However, as we quickly realised, the total transplantation of a foreign training system had not been without its difficulties. Teething problems are certainly expected in a training establishment as young as the JRMA. There are also cultural considerations to take into account. The training at Sandhurst is the unique product of the values, standards and ethics of the greater British Army. Therefore it would be unfair to expect a carbon copy of RMAS in a country whose Army and culture is vastly different from our own. However, one of the greatest disadvantages of the JRMA, was that very few of the directing staff (DS) have had

the chance to visit Sandhurst to be able to put the training into context. It was with this problem that Sgt Boika and I could assist.

Thus, once we had spent three weeks taking part in the training program with the OCdts and shadowing the DS, the next question was finding the appropriate way in which to help the Academy to improve. The major difficulty we were confronted with was constructively criticising members of the DS who were a good deal more senior than us in rank, and who were somewhat culturally disinclined to receiving criticism.

It was therefore with hesitation that I agreed to give the Academy DS weekly presentations on ways in which the Academy could be improved. Concerned that this could be tantamount to launching a RPG at some fairly senior officers, it was very much a question of adopting the 'I don't want problems, I want solutions' approach with a heavy focus on the solutions part of the equation. Furthermore, Sgt Boika was able to put words into action and spent many sunburnt hours with the Demonstration Company. He then provided central demonstrations to the Academy, which greatly helped in providing a better understanding of British Army training techniques.

It was a great experience for Sgt Boika and I, and we gained an understanding of the trials and tribulations of training abroad. I was extremely grateful to all the Officers who, despite having to listen to their language being routinely massacred, helped considerably in improving my Arabic. All were very welcoming and generous towards us, particularly with provision of sweet tea by the gallon. My dental work continues...

Many thanks must go to Lieutenant Colonel Currie and the Defence Section Staff for all their help during our detachment. Also thanks must go to the Lieutenant Colonel Stanford and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Blackmore for organising the attachment.



Left to Right - Captain Samih, Major Zarqawu, Me, Lieutenant Colonel Osama (Chief Training Instructor) and Major Omar

The Memoirs of a Temporary Guardsman

by Capt. T. Bachamus

Some months ago I volunteered to go with a group of Welsh Guardsmen on an educational trip around the Western Front. My limited credentials for doing this were my son Tim is an Officer in the Regiment, I had a somewhat also-ran history degree and had attempted to teach the subject for thirty years and finally and least impressive of all had been for four years a remarkably shambolic RAF CCF Officer.

A week or so before the event a rather large parcel appeared on my doorstep. This consisted of Dudley-Ward's history of the Regiment and a very official looking document entitled 'Operation Flanders Dragon'. I had always thought that educational speak was obscure and unintelligible, having read this I realised that the military version was in a league of its own. What did 'the preparatory phase' mean, or even worse 'the execution phase'? Perhaps, I thought, the whole thing was far more serious than I had anticipated! As I glanced through the document I realised that the itinerary involved reveille at the remarkably uncivilised hour of 6.00 am. As I rarely see daylight until 8.00 am this was going to be, as Tim would say 'emotional'.

Having caught a very early train from Evesham I made my way to Wellington Barracks on Tuesday September 18th. Very quickly I discovered the phenomena of army banter. The Sergeant at the gate immediately told me that the party had left. Then with a wicked grin reassured me that this was only the advanced party – much to my great relief!

Thus I met the blokes from the Prince of Wales's Company. My first impression was lots of young men haphazardly hidden in various doorways smoking clandestine cigarettes with extraordinary speed. As a smoker I found this immensely reassuring! Then quite suddenly these lounging figures were transformed into three lines of soldiers (albeit in a rather eclectic range of casual clothes!) barking out their names and showing their passports.

There were about fifty of us in all these included Captain Simon Hillard, Lt Henry Storer, and 2 Lt James Olszowski the three Officers and Mark Pollard the CSM and Eifion Griffiths the CQMS, our long-suffering driver Dave together with WO2 Ina Sullivan who bravely came as the lone woman. The advance party had consisted mainly of the chefs of the Field Kitchen. I was amazed how international this group was with chaps from the West Indies, Nepal and South Africa. When we arrived the camp was set up all ship-shape and ready to function. We were met at the campsite by Alun and Haydn, both ex-soldiers and experts on the Western Front. Haydn had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Welsh Guards. As a former member of the Regiment he loved the traditions and history with a great and genuine passion.

In a moment of madness I had consented to camp. This is an experience I last tried over twenty years ago and didn't enjoy it much then. My situation was made worse that I had forgotten a towel and a torch. My daughter's sleeping bag was too small and the zip broke. To make matters even worse the temperature on that first night plummeted like a stone. Thus I shivered my way to dawn. The wonderful breakfast provided by our remarkable army cooks revived everyone and certainly helped me to feel human again. My spirits were further enhanced by the knowledge that there were chalets for hire at 35 euros a night. I quickly arranged to procure one of these (the best investment I have ever made!)

Our first day was spent on the Somme. We spent the morning looking at the southern end of the battlefield and especially around Ginchy where the Regiment was engaged in October 1916. The chaps seemed almost subdued by the endless evidence of the horrendous sacrifice. All over the landscape are the graveyards, over one hundred on the Somme battlefield alone. Deville Wood is an especially remarkable place where the woods still contain the remains of thousands of bodies together with both spent and still active ordnance. The scale of what happened is so difficult to comprehend.

The afternoon was spent at Thiépval, a monument which contains the names of more than 72,000 British soldiers whose remains were never found, including a number from the Welsh Guards. If this wasn't potent enough, our final visit of the day was to Newfoundland Park, which is a preserved section of trench where an entire Battalion of Newfoundlanders was wiped out in five minutes. It was very gratifying from my point of view how genuinely interested the young soldiers were. They discussed amongst themselves how differently they might have done things – I had no doubt that they would. It is clear that the modern soldier is encouraged to think in a way not possible ninety years ago.

On our arrival back at camp the cooks had excelled themselves. They had all painted their faces in the French national colours. We were offered snails (not very popular) together with duck-a-la-orange, steak, chicken, burgers and the most delectable range of fabulous puddings. I had the further good-fortune to be able to look forward to my warm chalet and hot power-shower. I am not sure that either CSM or Colour-Sergeant were hugely impressed – perhaps they were just jealous!

A word about the lads – when I first met them they looked absolutely terrifying. Lots of shaven heads and tattoos. However, it was quickly obvious that looks belay. They were absolutely charming, always polite and often genuinely interested. I wish I had received so many insightful questions when I was teaching. I had decided it would be best if everyone called me John. Despite trying very hard to achieve this I was usually called Sir – it was really like being back in school! It was truly a pleasure to be part of it, if only for a few days. The CSM decided, in his jocular way to refer to the three old buffers by rank. I received the lowest and for some of the time was referred to as Guardsman Badham. Sadly, after arriving late for almost every event he decided that I was a lost cause as far as soldering was concerned and I reverted to a civilian status. However, I am very proud that I can claim to have been a temporary guardsman for twenty-seven hours!

We next made our way to Ypres. This little Belgium town was the focus of four battles during

the Great War. The whole place was entirely destroyed and it is difficult to imagine that the present town with so many historic buildings is only eighty years old. There is so much to see within Ypres salient, more so even than in the Somme. We were only able to scratch the surface. Our tour started at the really excellent Streckmuseum in Zonnebek. What was perhaps most interesting were the cellars that were a recreation of some British dugouts. One recognised how basic, even primitive, conditions were. There was one room set out as a casualty clearing-station. The wounds displayed were truly horrific and even this could not reflect what really happened. We moved on to Tyne Cot on the Passchendaele ridge. This is the largest British war cemetery in the world with nearly 12,000 men buried together with 35,000 missing commemorated on plaques around the walls. Through the cemetery are the original blockhouses that formed the German line and this added to the impression of the horrific cost of taking such strong defences. After lunch we visited the reconstructed trenches in Sanctuary Wood beside the amazingly eclectic privately owned museum at Hill 62. We were all fascinated by the 'what the butler saw machines' not showing scantily dressed ladies, but scenes of horror that even today would not be used by the media. The party were especially grateful at this point to be treated to a bottle of beer by Haydn. Hill 60 just up the road consisted of a large crater filled with water which was one of the twenty-one mines set off in April 1917 (two didn't go off!) A total of over one million tonnes of explosives was used. Whilst viewing this we came across an elderly gentlemen dressed as a South African/Highlander soldier of the period. He was an eccentric old chap, but the lads were courtesy itself, no one even asked the obvious question if he had anything under his kilt? Although later a thong was observed when the old fellow was getting hurried changed in his car further down the lane. There was a general sense of disappointment: another myth was dispelled!

For me, at any rate the highlight of the tour was our visit to Hitler's trench in Croonaert wood. It was a salutary thought to consider that even such an evil man was a courageous soldier. We had to have an early supper and our extraordinary cooks had set up their kitchens right next to Yorkshire

trench where Sergeant Bye had earned his famous VC. It was almost the perfect location, except for the fact that we were next to a factory producing chicken manure. It added another dimension to the experience! That evening we attended the 8.00 p.m. ceremony at Menin Gate. The boys had changed into smart casuals (actually on the bus on the way, an exciting experience for one or two local lassies!). They looked a credit; I was privileged to stand with them whilst the Last Post was sounded.

Our last day was spent in Arras where we laid a wreath on the Welsh Guards Memorial. I was

directed to the rear rank and I am afraid did not impress the CSM by being out of time with all the others. We moved on the most remarkable private museum full of the most amazing artefacts, many of them connected with the Regiment. Our final stop was where Captain Furness had gained his VC. The story was told by Haydn, the details he had got from Furness's own driver. It was a fitting end to a remarkable experience. I left with just a small insight into the sense of pride and comradeship that makes up the Battalion. I felt privileged to have been asked to come and I hope that the Regiment won't mind this old duffer coming again.



Picture Parade



Casual and Formal Dress Of The "30's"
Seated in the Center 2732779 Bill Dixon. Others Unknown

Brewing Up in Normandy 1944
Left to Right - Arthur Bland, 03 Thomas and Sid Phelps



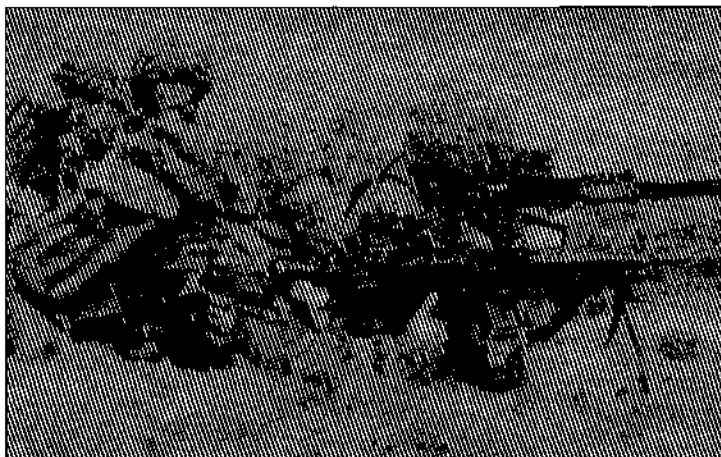
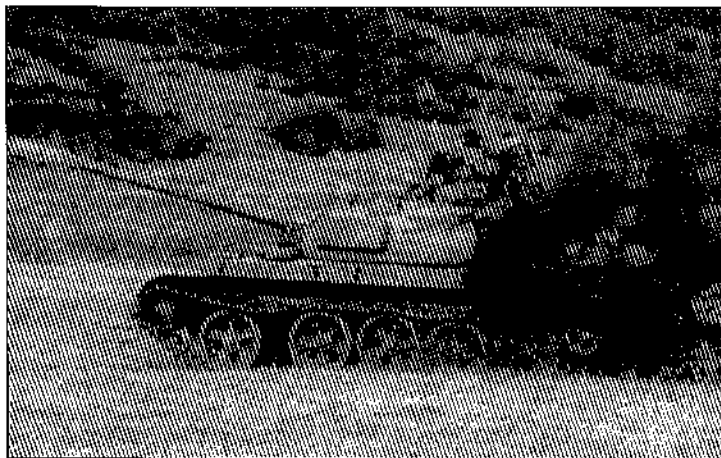
The Temporary Grave of a Welsh Guardsman in Germany. March 1945 - 1/Sgt Millard now rests in the Reichswald Forest Cemetery.





**Major Ben Ramsey
during Final Attack in Bosnia**

**Sgt Thomas 99 giving the armoured
support clear? directions!**



**Fire Support "Ready" for
final attack during exercise in Bosnia**

**G4 Support for the fighting
troops on exercise in Bosnia**



Birth of a Regiment

by Roy Lewis

In May 1945 while we celebrated the end of the war in Europe the 30th Anniversary of the Welsh Guards went unnoticed. There was still a war in the Far East and the 1st Battalion was destined to go there as part of the Allied invasion of the Japanese home islands. Fortunately the Japanese surrendered in August and instead the Battalion went to Palestine and served there for two and a half years.

The decision to form the Welsh Guards was made "in order to include Wales in the National component of the Foot Guards," but there were misgivings. In a letter dated 11th February 1915, written by the King's Private Secretary, The Military Secretary at the War Office was informed that "The King on further consideration was doubtful as to the expediency of raising such a Battalion: for His Majesty now realises the difficulty which he fears is inevitable of obtaining Officers, either Welshman or not, for the Battalion in times of peace."

Before the Regiment was born, and in the second year of a horrendous World War, there was concern about its future in peacetime. It was not a time to consider bearskins, but David Lloyd George, who a year later became Prime Minister, suggested that the plume of the new Regiment should be white, green, white, Tudor colours.

Whatever doubts there were over the formation were removed and the King signed the Royal Warrant of Authority to raise the Welsh Guards on the 26th February 1915. Two days later the new Regiment mounted its first Kings Guard and in August the 1st Battalion joined the newly formed Guards Division in France in August 1915 and fought its first battle at Loos in September of that year.

The Grenadier Guards had recruited in South Wales and many of them transferred. They served under a former Grenadier, our first Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, W Murray-Threipland, who commanded the Battalion in France until December 1916.

Greatly admired he had not been well since the Somme Battles and was ordered home much to the sadness of his men. It was said of him that he had "looked after his men and their comforts extraordinarily well, fought fearlessly for the good of his Battalion when occasion arose and never spared himself."

Colonel Murray-Threipland's wife is remembered by a grandson as "a fiery Welsh woman of the Wyndham Lewis family." She had presented the Battalion with a motor ambulance, which was shipped to Boulogne in 1915, but it was refused entry and returned to England. Red tape declared that units were not allowed to bring "such things" into France!

She took a personal interest in the welfare of Welsh Guardsmen who had been taken prisoner. Parcels were sent by the Royal Savoy Association and when she received a complaint from a Private Fowler she forcefully took it up with the Association, referring to a paragraph in their letter as "making her despair". A fiery lady indeed!

After the Armistice on 11th November 1918, the 1st Battalion began a 218-mile march to Cologne, many of the men wearing boots in poor condition. No one fell out and they arrived in Cologne on 20th November. It had been a fierce baptism for the new Regiment whose casualties in the war totalled 856 killed and 1755 wounded.

In 1919 Privates in Guards Regiments became Guardsmen, but there was talk that the Irish and Welsh would be disbanded. There was a public outcry and the press joined in. A very long article in the Liverpool Courier dated 2nd June 1920 condemned the whole idea, which it said was based on grounds of false economy, the immediate savings amounting to just £4000!

The appointment of HRH The Prince of Wales as Colonel in June 1919 strengthened the cause and his close interest is shown in a letter to the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel dated 24th

January 1920. Responding to an invitation to attend a Comrades Dinner which he could not accept he wrote, "I am very sorry to fail you and very disappointed, as you know how keen on the Regiment I am."

But ten years later there were still unwelcome rumours and the Western Mail of 28th January 1930 featured a cartoon showing a Welsh Guardsman standing on a gun-powder keg marked "Disbandment."

We survived and prospered. In two World Wars and on active service from 1945 to date the Fifth Regiment of Foot Guards fulfilled its purpose and increased in stature. So much has happened that you could write a book on it – and someone will to mark the Centenary in 2015.

The author will research from a fund of information in Regimental Archives and at the Welsh Guards Collection near Oswestry, but more is needed so that personal memories covering all periods of service are recorded. Only Welsh Guardsmen can provide that, and although much has already been accumulated more is needed, especially on the decades that followed the Second World War.

Lord Kitchener, who as Secretary of State for War in 1915 gave the order to form the Regiment, was famously depicted on a recruiting poster pointing his finger under the caption, "Your Country Needs YOU."

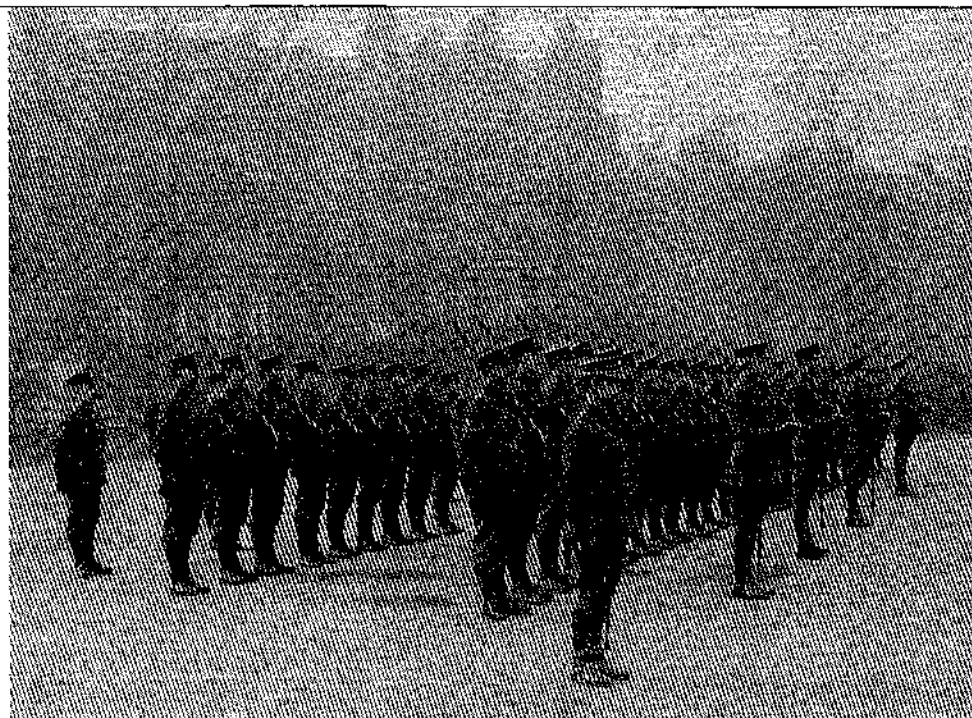
Now the Regiment needs YOU to ensure every aspect of our history is recorded and preserved.



DAME WALES RESENTS HIS ACTION

Although it is yet only a rumour that the Welsh Guards are to be disbanded, Wales is already alarmed at the possibility of such humiliation, and will do all she can to stay the hand of the Secretary for War.

(This cartoon appeared in the Western Mail & South Wales News on 28th January 1930.)



The first Guard Mounting on 1st March 1915

Tragic June

by Roy Lewis

A week after D-Day, 6th June 1944, four pilotless aircraft crossed the English Channel heralding the beginning of Germany's campaign of Vergeltung (Retribution). The German High Command had ordered that a "long range bombardment of Britain to begin in the middle of June. It will open like a thunderclap by night".

With a speed of up to 400 mph and carrying 1800 lb. of explosive the V1 (Vengeance Weapon One) pilotless 'planes, known variously as flying bombs, doodle bugs and buzz bombs', caused enormous damage and casualties in London and its suburbs.

Although 80% of V1s were destroyed by August 1944, they killed 6184, nearly all Londoners, and were followed by the V2 rocket. The attacks were totally indiscriminate and not confined to London, many were aimed at Antwerp and Liege, both important Allied supply centres in Belgium.

On Sunday 18th June 1944 a large congregation attended morning service at the Guards Chapel. A V1 struck it, causing serious damage and killing 49 Guardsmen, 11 from other Services, 3 ATS and 58 civilians, a total of 121. Two were Welsh Guardsmen with consecutive numbers, 2739031 Earnest Stamp, 18 of Reading and 2739032 Ahmond Male, 18 of Glyneath.

Twelve days later, on Saturday 30th June, the Training Battalion Welsh Guards stationed on Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher, held an athletics meeting two miles away at Imber Court, the Metropolitan Police sports ground. It should have been held on the 29th but the weather forecasters expected rain and it was postponed to the following day with fatal consequences.

On the 30th June a V1 landed in the centre of the oval running track while the 100 yards race was underway. Twenty were killed, 18 Welsh Guardsmen, a Sergeant in the Army Physical Training Corps and a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). Four of the Welsh Guardsmen died in hospital; the others were killed instantly.

In that brief moment the Regiment lost three Officers, Lieutenant W F Moss and Second Lieutenants G A M Baker and J A L Crofts, CSM C H Lang, Sergeants T G Griffiths and J T Hughes, Lance Corporal C Richardson and 11 Guardsmen.

There were many wounded and others who suffered from shock. They were treated in local hospitals one of which subsequently suffered a direct hit by another missile. Dick Fletcher later commented, "I cannot say Imber Court preyed on my mind after a few days. Perhaps death was cheap at the time. Certainly we were not unaware of trauma or stress."

Of the eleven Guardsmen killed seven were English and four Welsh. Two had similar surnames but with slightly different spelling, 2739165 A Fernihough of Birmingham and 2739388 J F Fernyhough of Hawarden. Six had transferred to the Welsh Guards from non-Guards Regiments and two others joined the Training Battalion the day the disaster occurred.

The 50th anniversary of the disaster was marked at a ceremony at Imber Court 30th June 1994 and a brass plaque was placed in the small garden and in 2001 a memorial stone from North Wales slate was inaugurated at a special service.

The memorial service at Imber Court in 2002 was expected to be the last but on Saturday 30th June 2007 over a hundred gathered there again. Among them were six who were present when the V1 struck, Islwyn Evans, Captain Dick Fletcher, Doris Lee (ATS), Harry Webb, Frances Fox (ATS) and Bill Powell. They are pictured seated left to right next to the Reverend Brian Pugh on the accompanying photograph (see overleaf).

London Branch made the arrangements with the close co-operation of the Police, but unfortunately heavy rain prevented a service at the memorial in the garden of the Sports Centre so it was held indoors. The service was conducted by the Reverend Brian Pugh, Padre of the 1st Battalion 1971-1972, Islwyn Evans, who suffered shrapnel wounds when the V1 struck, read the names of those killed and Doug Wilcox gave the Exhortation.



The Last Post, Reveille and the Welsh National Anthem, all beautifully played, ended a poignant occasion which hopefully will become an annual event attended by Welsh Guardsmen of all ages and periods of service.

Civilians and serving men and women lost their lives through enemy air attack and not only in cities. In June 1942 the Luftwaffe targeted the Somerset resort of Weston-Super-Mare and carried out several low-level attacks.

Guardsmen were Extra Regimentally Employed in the town as drill instructors and nine were among the nineteen servicemen killed on the night of 28/29 June. Three were Welsh Guardsmen, all pre-war Regulars, 2732779 Sgt W F Dixon, 36, 2734403 L/Cpl H Williams, 34 and 2736080 Gdsm E C Dean, 24.

Initially mistaken for Allied aircraft, the enemy 'planes' approached the town from the Southeast on a moonlit night. Those who know Weston as a resort can only imagine the scene when the first wave of German bombers "went out into the channel and then came back in a straight line with the Grand Pier" and

dropped bombs in the town. The Home Front was anything but peaceful.

When the disasters at the Guards Chapel and Imber Court occurred the 1st and 2nd Battalions had landed in Normandy, and the 3rd Battalion was fighting in Italy. 1944 was in many ways a momentous year for the Regiment with three Battalions overseas on active service. Most of the 633 fatal casualties of the Regiment in the war were suffered in that year.

Among them were those killed by enemy bombing in the United Kingdom in June 1942 and 1944. They, too, must not be forgotten.

The Final Winter for the 2nd Battalion and the coldest

by Roy Lewis

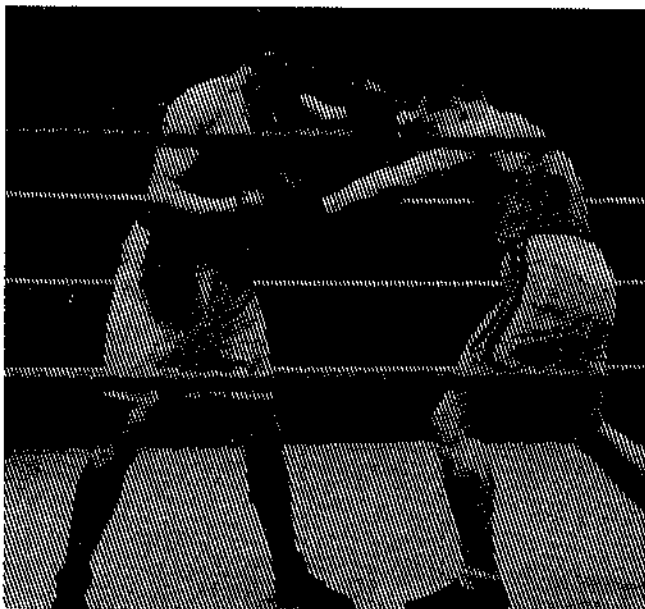
The winter of 1946/47 was considered the most severe for many years, and it was especially bitter for the many refugees and displaced persons who, under-nourished and scantily clad, were roaming around North West Europe.

The aftermath of war had left thousands in distress and although the "Iron Curtain" had not fallen, there was an uneasy relationship between the occupying forces in the British and Soviet Zones.

The 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards was stationed in Lubeck, a major city on the Baltic, which was frozen hard. Furness Barracks was a former German establishment, built just before the war and fitted with central heating and double glazed windows, absolutely necessary because of the low temperatures.

The Battalion manned a zonal frontier post near a village called Schlutup. The Baltic winds made it one of the coldest and depressing parts of Germany and sentries wore two pairs of everything, from socks to "draws cellular" and shirts. Over their greatcoats they wore former German Army sheepskin coats and to avoid frostbite, ex-Luftwaffe fur lined flying boots.

Sport was almost non-existent due to the weather, but the boxing team reached the final stages of the BOAR competition before losing, unluckily, to the Royal West Kent's in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. There were compensations and the two Forces clubs in Lubeck, the Crusader and the White Knight, were popular.



BAOR Boxing Championship
CSM "Slogger" Hill, right in a heavyweight contest



Celebrating "Dai's Day"
Left - I/Cpl MF Bray, Right CSM 04 Williams, Centre M.T. Driver?

Whenever they could, Welsh Guardsmen found their own amusement, and there was the usual party on St. David's Day 1947. It was the last for the 2nd, in July 1947 following its return to Britain it went into "Suspended Animation" – and still is!



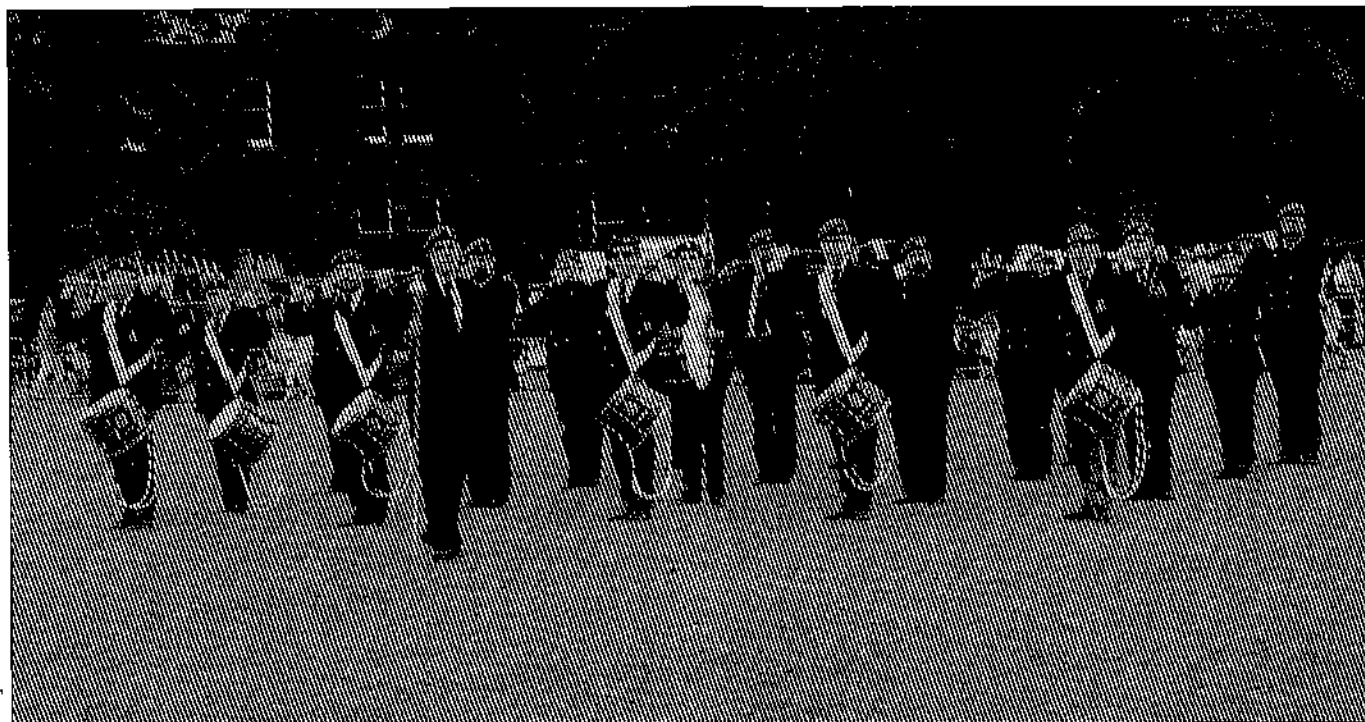
Corps of Drums - St. David's Day 1947



The Battalion on parade indoors - St. David's Day 1947

The Guards Division

Corps of Drums



“Drummers all, big and small can’t you hear the Buglers Call”
Traditional words to the Drummers Bugle Call

Formed in 2004 and now with a membership of 67 plus with approximately 35 of that number taking part in Corps activities we are looking to the future hence this report of our activities in 2007 with a view to recruiting more former Drummers to join us. Our normal meeting place is the Grenadier Guards Association Club at Windsor in Berkshire and we meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 1045 hrs. Our meetings consist of Musical Practice finishing at approximately 1530 hrs. Bar facilities and a light lunch are available and we have spare instruments for those who do not have their own.

This year we have taken part in the Coldstream Guards London Branch Annual Dinner, Veterans Day Celebrations in Walsall, Grenadier Day at Aldershot, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Remembrance Day Bristol, HM Tower of London as well as individual members sounding calls at Military funerals.

In order to maintain our high profile and ensure our future we would welcome all former qualified Drummers to come along and join us at Windsor where we are extremely well supported by Drum Major Tony Taylor and his Corps (Coldstream Guards) and there is the opportunity to make new friends, enhance your musical skills and help preserve the traditions of our Regiments over many years in the standard of their Corps of Drums.

Details of the Association may be obtained from:

Major (Rtd) Brian Lane:	01334 778255	E-mail: thelanes@freeuk.com
Mr Peter Taylor:	01189 793372	E-mail: peter.taylor65@btopenworld.com
Mr Stuart Sutton:	01793 852969	E-mail: stu.Sutton@tiscali.co.uk

Heroic History of the Welsh Guards Revealed in War-time Memoir

A new memoir written by a soldier from the Welsh Guards reveals some of the heroic actions of Welsh Soldiers during the Second World War. Sydney Pritchard from Aberdare took part in the largely forgotten evacuation and battle for Bolougne in May 1940, where so many Welsh Soldiers were injured and lost their lives.

During the evacuation and attack from the Germans many Welsh Guards were left to fend for themselves because of the lack of space on the evacuating ships, and many fought heroically against the odds, and only when down to the last 13 fit Welsh Guards did they surrender to the Germans.

Sydney Pritchard notes in a book about his experiences that "German Officers were astonished how so few men had held out for so long... and congratulated us on such a heroic fight."

Following the battle in Boulogne, Sydney Pritchard marched with his Welsh compatriots for fourteen days in sweltering heat without food or drink from their captors, and spent years as a prisoner of war. His book include stories from his experiences of various camps throughout Europe, including a story where he managed to steal a photograph of Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering from his captors – photos he kept and that are published for the first time in this book.

Sydney Pritchard only wrote about his war experiences in the last years of his life and his memories are published the book published by Y Lolfa called **Life in the Welsh Guards 1939-46**. Sydney came originally from Aberdare and died in 2003. He is survived by his widow, who still lives in Aberystwyth, and his two children.

Teitl / Title	Life in the Welsh Guards
Dyddiad cyhoeddi / Publication date	11.07.06
Pris / Price	£6.95
Awdur / Author	Sydney Pritchard
Ffon, e-bost / Phone, e-mail	Sian Ward (daughter) - 01341 241 218

St. Davids Day at Merthyr Tydfil

by Brian Keane

The Welsh Guards Association was privileged and honoured once again to have the opportunity to celebrate Dewi Sant at the historic site of St Tydfil's Church, Merthyr Tydfil.

St Tydfil's, the Old Parish Church of Merthyr Tydfil, stands at the lower end of the High Street, and was built to keep sacred the spot where Tydfil was martyred by invading Irish Picts in approximately 420 A.D. because of her Christian beliefs. The original church was probably constructed of wattle and daub, and a stone structure was erected in the 14th century. The present church was not built until 1894.

Unfortunately, the church was closed for worship in 1968 when St David's Church, situated in the centre of the town, became the new Parish Church of Merthyr Tydfil. St Tydfil's is now used as a Chapel of Rest, and for special services throughout the year.

The Padre, The Reverend Martyn Davies, gave a stirring and most fitting sermon to mark our special day, and our President, Colonel T C S Bonas read the lesson. The absence of the Welsh Guards Band did not detract from the reverberation of almost 200 voices raising the roof - and the rendition of 'Cwm Rhondda' was worthy of entry in the National Eisteddfod!

An excellent buffet lunch and other 'liquid refreshments' was partaken in the nearby Labour Club, or the old 'Court House', which is again a building steeped in history. It was originally built in the 12th century as part of the Court Estate. The interior was curiously constructed with all the flooring made of split oak, and fastened with oak pins - there was not a nail in the entire building. In the Jacobite Rising of 1715, the then owner, a Mr Lewis, was punished for his part of it, and was fined £10,000. In order to meet his debts, the Court Estate had to be sold. Since then, it has been used as a private school, and in more recent times, a Labour Club.

The day was an excellent example of the camaraderie within the Association, with members travelling far and wide to attend, especially the North of England and London Branch. Celebrations continued long into the night, resulting in many 'thick heads' the following morning; one can only wonder what Mr Lewis would have made of such activities?

It is hoped that the Battalion will be in the UK next year, where we all look forward to sharing our St David's Day celebrations with them once more.



Past and present members at the 2007 St. David's Day Celebrations



The "Entertainments" Committee at the St. David's Day Celebrations

23rd Association Dinner

by Brian Keane

The 23rd Association Dinner took place on Saturday April 14th 2007 at Swansea, 'Gateway to the Gower.' Guardsmen old and young banqueted in the auspicious surroundings of the Brangwyn Hall, situated within the confines of the city's Guild Hall.

In 1934, the ceiling of the Brangwyn Hall was raised 13 metres in order to house the magnificent panels painted by the artist Frank Brangwyn, and in 2007, raised even higher by members and guests of the Association! All enjoyed an unforgettable evening with first class food, excellent company and possibly a lot of 'bull'!

The evening also marked the retirement of Captain Davies:

'21' enlisted as a boy soldier in 1958, and retired as Captain in 1988 after 30 years service. In 1992, he was invited to join the Association Office at Maindy Barracks Cardiff, as Assistant Regimental Adjutant and Treasurer of the Association, where he remained for 15 years.

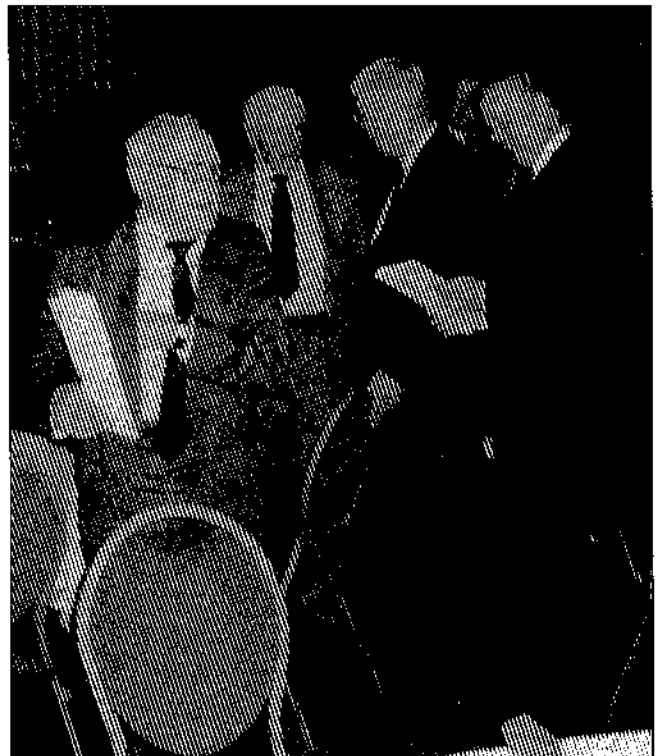
To mark this special occasion, our President, Colonel T C S Bonas presented Captain Davies with a Welsh Guards figurine, as a token of thanks from Association members. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel A J E Malcolm OBE, also took this opportunity to present a silver statuette on behalf of the Regiment.

For some, the evening ended, like Cinderella, at midnight – for others, it was a crawl along the 'Mumbles Mile' until dawn.

What a way to end a great reunion!



The president of the Association presenting Capt D. Davies with a Welsh Guards figurine from the Members of the Association



Grant Harper looking for his wallet at the Association Dinner

Welsh Guards Association

President: Colonel T.C.S. Bonas
Vice President: Brigadier J.F. Rickett CBE
Vice President: Roy Lewis Esq
Treasurer: Major K Oultram
Secretary General: Brian Keane Esq
Maindy Barracks, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff CF4 3YE
Telephone: - 029 20781342 (Home: 01685 376495)
E-mail: - brian_keane@yahoo.com
Web site: www.welshguardsassociation.com

The Association has seen great changes in 2007, and some may say, the end of an era!

The Regimental Adjutant, Lieutenant Colonel C F B Stevens and the Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Captain D M Davies retired from their posts after many years of stalwart service, both to the Regiment and the Association. We now eagerly look forward to a new chapter in our history, and warmly welcome aboard the new Regimental Adjutant Colonel T C S Bonas and Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Major K Oultram. We have been extremely fortunate in having Colonel Bonas as our President since 2003, and so many of us already regard him as a friend and mentor. We now look forward to meeting and working with Major Oultram, and I am sure he will receive a very warm welcome from everyone.

The Association continues with great vigour, and I am indebted to you all for your efforts. Events such as St David's Day, the Reunion Dinner, Race Day, Golf and the Darts and Shoot all takes a vast amount of organizing, so it is especially heart warming to see so much support by so many Branches – long may it continue. Much interest has also been shown regarding developing a Bowls section, which proves that members are eager to continue forging new links with other Branches. With sufficient support, I am sure we could make this yet another popular event to add to our diaries.

I now look forward to seeing you in 2008, and wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Brian Keane
Secretary General

Aberdare Branch

(Formed 1951)

President: Simon Rhodes Esq.
Chairman: John Coleman (22217873)
Treasurer: Lyndon Price (22217807)
Secretary: Michael Williams (23325233)
33 Tre Gwilym, Cwmbach
Aberdare
Mid Glamorgan CF44 0AA
Tel: 01685 877786

Our year began with the Branch attending St David's Day celebrations with the Association at Merthyr Tydfil. This is the second time we have been to the town, and it seems to be an excellent venue to use when the Regiment is not in the U.K.

The day began with a service at St Tydfil's Old Parish Church situated at the lower end of the High Street, followed by refreshments (both liquid and solid) at the nearby Labour Club, just 50 yards away. The food was excellent, and the entertainment that followed was up to the usual Association standard, with '61' acting as Comperc. All in all, a great day from start to finish – with some of us 'finishing' later than others!

In April, the Branch attended the Association Dinner at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Again, the venue was superb, and the meal was one of the best we have ever had. These events are a wonderful way to keep in touch with old friends, and also to make a lot more new ones. I was extremely pleased to meet up with a very old friend, Terry Upperdine (23271133), whom I had not set eyes on since 1957 – 50 years is a long time

to catch up on. Many of us had to leave before we wanted to, while others took advantage of the many hotels and guesthouses in Swansea to make a weekend of it. We extend our congratulations to Brian Keane for organizing two such marvellous events, enjoyed by so many.

On a sadder note, in July we lost our Vice President, David Francis (2735335). David was a long and faithful member of the Branch, although not playing an active part over the last couple of years. Even so, he remained as passionate as ever regarding Branch activities. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

I cannot close this report without thanking the loyal few for their continued unstinting support during another difficult year. We desperately need some new faces and new ideas, so come along to our meetings – they are not stuffy, but just a great way to keep in touch with friends and with the Regiment.

Being a member of a Branch means you can receive 2 free Newsletters every year, which enables you to find out what the Regiment and the Association is up to. Besides Reunion Dinners, we also take part in competitions such as Darts and Shooting as well as Golf. An annual Race Day is also arranged at Ludlow.

Our meetings continue to be held at the Abcddare Rugby Club on the first Tuesday of the month (except



Aberddare 2007

The Secretary Mike Williams (23325233) with Terry Uppertine (23271133) at the Association Dinner in Swansea

for Bank holidays) at 1930 hrs. Dave Bradley, the Steward (and also a Welsh Guardsman - 24302192) will help to ensure you have the best of welcome, and we all look forward to seeing you.

Finally our thanks go to the team at Maindy Barracks for all their help and guidance over the last year, and our good wishes to Captain Davies and Jenny on their retirement – may it be a long and happy one.

We welcome the 'new Guard', and hope they have an enjoyable stay.

Cardiff Branch

(Founded 1919)

President: Colonel C J Dawney
Chairman: Brian Elliott (24385846)
Treasurer: Alex H Webb (22370877)
Secretary: Bill Morris (22217619)
45 Angelica Way
Thornhill
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Tel: 029 20621528
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m.morris.627@btinternet.com

This past year has been fairly quiet for the Branch, however, I would just like to report on the Ladies Night held in St Peter's Hall, Cardiff on Friday, 15th December, 2006. Once again it was very well attended and a good time was had by all present. This year, (2007) our Annual Christmas Ladies Night will be somewhat different, as for the first time we shall be combining the evening with our Christmas Draw.

It is the belief of the Committee that this will in no way detract from the enjoyment of the evening.

At one of our monthly meetings this year, (still being held on the first Monday of the month at the United Services Mess) we held a quiz night on "The Regiment", organised by Mr Dave Parry. This proved to be very successful and we look forward to other quiz nights in the future.

The Branch was very well represented at the Biennial Dinner, held at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. It provided those of us present with the opportunity to meet members from other Branches and Guardsmen we may have served with in the past.

We have recently held our 88th Annual Dinner where, sadly, only twenty-two attended. Nevertheless, for those present it was a most enjoyable evening. The

Dinner was held in the upstairs function room at St Peter's, and Spiro provided a first class meal with waitress service. Despite the paucity of numbers, it was the decision of the Committee that we go ahead with the Dinner, particularly when you consider that since 1919 the Cardiff Branch has held a Dinner every year, including the war years. We should, as Welsh Guardsmen, look forward to redressing this situation and ensure a full house for next year's Dinner which will be held on **Friday, 17th October, 2008** – put this date in your diary now, and support your Branch.

On the welfare front:

Mr Ivor Hicks is slowly recovering from a fall, as is Mr Herman (Jim) Cahill. We wish them both a full recovery.

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

Finally, my address shown above is temporary, I hope to move in to new permanent accommodation in approximately 4-5 weeks. Telephone and email address will remain the same.



Cardiff Branch Dinner
2007

Cardiganshire Branch

(Formed 1947)

Caretaker: N Owen (24513423)
Station Chambers
Alexandra Road
Aberystwyth SY23 1LH
Tel: 07712 883 927
E-mail:
nigel@dilwens.frccserve.co.uk

February 2007 has seen the Cardiganshire Branch go into 'Suspended Animation' with me, the Secretary / Treasurer, taking on a new role as Branch Caretaker. This was a very sad and difficult decision of which we



Cardiganshire Branch 2007

Left to Right Nigel Owen, Mdm E Youimovich and John Hughes

were given no choice but to propose, and then pass at our Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Belle View Hotel, Aberystwyth on Thursday February 15th 2007. Mr. Brian Keane, Secretary General of the Welsh Guards Association was present at our request, to overhear this unfortunate situation, with respect to this Branch.

Mr. Nigel Owen, Hon. Secretary / Treasure to the Welsh Guards Association, Cardiganshire Branch, stated the following at that meeting:

I was asked two years ago by Mr. John Hughes, the then serving Hon. Secretary, to consider a proposal to take over as the Hon. Secretary and Treasure to the Cardiganshire Branch of the Welsh Guards Association: prior to that, amalgamation with another local Branch was a strong consideration, as current membership was poor. We have tried our best by contacting "ON PAPER" all our members, writing and talking to the Battalion Commanding Officer and also the Army Cadets, but not had a single new member join, or shown a glimmer of interest. We have sadly lost three very good members last year, with George Chapman being our greatest supporter. We no longer hold our Thursday morning coffee meetings of which we are equally sad. I am proposing that the Cardiganshire Branch goes into suspension with me taking on a new role, serving as "Branch Caretaker".

The Cardiganshire Branch Standard is retained and looked after by me at my home address. My role as

Caretaker will be to represent the Cardiganshire Branch of the Welsh Guards Association at all Remembrance Sundays Services, to lay our wreath to remember our fallen comrades, but importantly to show representation and respect to our 'full members' funerals, of which you know, I will fulfil.

The Welsh Guards wreath was respectfully laid at the Memorial Stone in November last year at Llanbadarn Fawr, near Aberystwyth.

Mr. John Hughes, and myself were presented a cheque donation of £500 for The Cardiganshire Branch, on Thursday the 9th of August 2007, by Madam Eliane Yovinnovich, the widow of the late George Chapman, Irish Guards. Mr. John and Celia Evans kindly gave Eliane a large basket of locally sourced fruit and vegetables as a thank-you gesture. We intend to hold a Dinner for George's Association friends, and to his memory in February 2008. I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

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

The first trip of the year for the Branch was to the Arboretum at Burton-on-Trent in the Potteries. A full bus left Pontypridd on a fine Sunday morning, and arrived at our hotel approximately 5pm, after stopping at Cheltenham for a light lunch.

The hotel was a bit like Fawlty Towers, but with Polish staff! Bob Chambers and his wife Margaret got stuck in the lift for about an hour, but managed to make it for Dinner – and Peggy Jones (Trebors' widow) had staff carrying hot water to her room in ice buckets! Apparently the hotel was under refurbishment, which resulted amongst other things, in cold water and cold rooms, but being seasoned 'Guardsmen' we made the best of it – at least the food was good.

Things steadily improved on our return journey, when we stopped for lunch at Worcester, arranged by the Secretary of the Midlands Branch, Keith (Danny) Bartlett. Keith did us proud, and a big thank you goes to him from everyone on the trip.

We managed to half fill a bus to attend Merthyr Tydfil for St David's Day celebrations, which was extremely well supported. As usual, after the service, we found ourselves once more imbibing in the local fire water, and at one time, our table consisted of Pete Door, Brian Keane, Keith Bartlett, Tom Jones (87), Terry Cockram and myself – all served together in the Signal Platoon at Gort Barracks – AND NOBODY HAD A CAMERA !!!!!!!

On May 6th, we attended a Memorial Service of Rededication of the Cenotaph at Porth. Again this was a



Dedication to Suez Veterans at Ystrad Mynach
George Grant - Ron Hambley - Ken Haines

huge success, and the people of the town should be extremely proud of what has been achieved. The Cenotaph is situated in a very prominent position in the square. Our Standard Bearer, Ron Hambley was as usual in attendance, and has been in more parades this last year than ever, always immaculately presented.

In June, it was decided to attend the Service of Remembrance at Imber Court, run by the London Branch. Unfortunately the weather was rather wet, but nevertheless, it was such a good day that it has been already decided that we will attend again next year.

We left Imber Court and proceeded to Wellington Barracks, where we enjoyed a late tea provided by W.O. Brian Thomas (an Ynysyawl boy), and again, a big thank you to him from the Branch.

The Darts and Shooting Competition at Nesselcliffe Barracks, was very disappointing for us since we arrived late and had to 'shoot' almost immediately. After lunch, we got knocked out of the Darts competition, and then had to watch the Swansea Branch win almost everything and take all the silverware back to Swansea. Never mind – there's always next year!

We still meet on the second Wednesday of every month at the Institute Club, Gelliwasted Road, Pontypridd (approximately 50 yards from the Army Recruiting Office) – 7.30 for 8pm and it would be nice to see some new faces and also a few more Guardsmen from the area attend.

Llanelli Branch

(Formed 1974)

President: Sir David Mansel Lewis
Chairman: J Fuller (6300582)
Treasurer: Vernon Jones (22217890)
Secretary: Alan Cunningham (24125105)
197 Cockett Road
Cockett
Swansea SA2 0FH
Tel: 01792 554151
(work: 07971229465)
E-mail:
alan.Cunningham1@ntlworld.com

Hi everyone - Not a lot to report since it has been rather quiet after the unveiling ceremony back in April.

We have just returned from Nesscliffe Barracks for the Darts and Shooting Competition, and it was a good weekend. Congratulations to the winners and to the runners up. This proved to be an excellent venue, which I am sure will be used again in the future. The Branch would like to thank Brian Keane for all his hard work, as well as the staff at Nesscliffe, and not forgetting our own Captain Ben Parry. Also, special thanks to Spider and his gang for the entertainment on Saturday night!!

The Branch continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at the White Horse, Pembrey Road, Llanelli (7.15 for 7.30), and we also arrange Sunday lunches occasionally.

Can I thank all those stalwarts who attend every month and ask those of you who have not attended a meeting for some time to make the effort – it's good to keep in touch! Thanks must go to all who support the Branch in various ways, be it by

subscriptions, stamps or cash donations - your support keeps the Branch alive.

At this time of writing, we have been invited again to a service of Remembrance at Felinfoel Community Hall Llanelli on Friday 9th November 2007 (6.30pm for 7.00pm), and due to finish at approximately 8.30pm. Those who attended last year will tell you it is a superb occasion with artistes, choirs etc, etc. Children are also welcome, so come along next year and join in with the Branch.

It was heart-warming to see fantastic numbers at our 'Unveiling of the Welsh Guards Plaque' in April, and after the laying of wreaths on Sunday 11th November, we will carry out a Remembrance Service at this new Memorial, so please attend in the same numbers.

Christmas Brunch on Sunday 16th December (1-1.30 pm) is at the Diplomat Hotel Llanelli. Please contact myself, or any of the committee if you wish to attend. The price is £15:00 per head for a 3-course meal.

I cannot give you a forecast of events for 2008 since this has to be decided by the Branch at a future meeting, although I would imagine the Branch Dinner would possibly be held in April. Further details will appear in our Winter Newsletter.

To all our members and their partners who are not in good health, we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery. May I also wish them, and our fellow Branches a healthy, happy, and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Llanelli 2007
Members of the Regiment
at the unveiling of
The Welsh Guards Plaque
at Llanelli 2007



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
North Yorkshire HG2 8BS
Tel: 01423 879326
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London Branch 2007
"Schoolchildren of the West Cappel School with their wreath"

Our meetings in 2008 will be:

Friday	1st February 08	Annual General Meeting London Branch
Saturday	1st March	St David's Day. (Details from Maindy Barracks)
Saturday	5th April	Ladies Lunchtime Party
Saturday	31st May	Tea / Dinner Dance Union Jack Club
Friday	13th June	Annual General Meeting WGA & Eve of Troop Meeting
Friday	5th September	First Friday Meeting.
Friday	3rd October	First Friday Meeting
Sunday	11th November	Remembrance Sunday. (Details from Maindy Barracks)
Saturday	6th December	Lunch Time Grand Christmas Draw. (See June newsletter for details)

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

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

The Association Battlefield Tour in September 2007 included a visit to West Cappel. In 2006, a cul-de-sac in the town had been named 'Welsh Guards' in memory of the battle fought there by the Welsh Guards during the 2nd World War, and this was unveiled by the Mayor, Monsieur Andre Fiquoreux. On this occasion, it was to lay wreaths, and to thank the children of the village school, who lay flowers every year on the graves of the Welsh Guards and others buried in the local cemetery. We presented the school with a DVD player and several history books (in English, at their request). 'Guardsmen' pens were also given to the children present on the day.

The owners of the nearby chateau, Monsieur and Madame B Delaplanque, where the fighting took place, accompanied us at the ceremony of the laying of

wreaths. The 4 Guardsmen present on tour laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment, and the local children presented a wreath to be laid on the Memorial Stone. Our thanks go to Monsieur Jack Squires, who assisted us on our visits.

Again our thanks to all our Committee Members, Keith Mordcaai, Bob Burman, Vince Jones, Tim Plowden, John Tipton and Roland Davies, and of course our Chairman and Treasurer Richard Doughty and Doug Wilcox, for all their hard work. We thank all our Associate Members and their wives for their continued support over the years. It is much appreciated.

We held a Remembrance service at Imber Court Metropolitan Sports Club last year, on the anniversary of the bombing of Imber Court on 30th June 1944. Approximately 100 people turned up on a wet and windy day, including a contingent from the East Glamorgan Branch. The service was hastily arranged in the Ballroom overlooking the Memorial, but we managed to venture out between showers to pay our respects. It is hoped that a service will be held on 24th June 2008, and details will be discussed early next year. Anyone interested in attending should write to the Regimental Adjutant, marking their envelope 'Imber Court'

We will have the pleasure of another Welsh Guards Troop in 2008 – we were so good last time that we have been invited back to show them how it's done!

Our Christmas party took place once again in the Garrison Mess. Our members dined, danced and cavorted during the afternoon, enabling them to be home before lights out.

Due to your generous aid and kindness, we have been able to support and sponsor various charities over the year, and I thank you all on their behalf. Donations and subscriptions are always welcome.

Our sub meetings continue in Bristol / Bath, and contact for these meetings is:

Alan Ridgewell (22217347) Bridge View, Nettle Bridge, Oakhill, Nr Bath. BA3 5AA Tel: 01749 840538.

Thanks go to Alan for organising these meetings.

Ron Perrin (2741152) can be contacted on 01323 840754, for details of meetings at the Guardsmen's Club, Eastbourne. Again, many thanks to Ron for all his hard work.

We had another very beautiful Racc Day at Ludlow in 2007, and we encourage more members to attend. Our thanks go to Captain Davies and his team for all the hard work in organising what is now an established excellent event.

Our thanks to Brian Keane and Jenny Cronin at Maindy Barracks for their help and assistance throughout the year.

And finally, sadly, during the past year, several of our comrades have passed to the parade ground in the sky. Our thoughts and condolences go to their loved ones – their names can be found in the 'In 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

Early in the year we were informed that due to too many commitments, Major Stevenson had to stand down as our President. It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Major Stevenson, and wish him and his family the very best of luck for the future. We now welcome Captain Harry Legge-Bourke as our new President, and hope he will have a long and enjoyable tenure. He has had close relationships with the Merthyr Branch over numerous years, so many of our members already treat him as old friend, and hopefully he feels the same about us!

It is good also to report that we have had five new members this year, although sadly, we lost Billy James (Drummer- 2741791) and Bob Taylor (2740347). Both had a good send-off from the Branch, and we wish to thank Lenny Floyd of Swansea and Les Evans of Llanelli for making the journey to Merthyr for their funerals.

St David's Day at Merthyr Tydfil was once again a great success, thanks to the planning and organization of RHQ Cardiff. It was good to see so many old friends from other Branches in attendance. The buffet was excellent and the entertainment up to the usual 'Welsh Guards' standard.



Merthyr Tydfil
Oldest Member - Eric Jones 2733754

This was followed in April with the Association Dinner in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. The meal was worthy of a top restaurant, and it was again great to meet up with old friends.

We sent a team to the Darts and Shooting Competition in Nesscliffe Barracks, Shrewsbury in September, but unfortunately, did not return with any silverware! Nevertheless, everyone reported a marvellous time, with good food and excellent facilities.

Best wishes to all our members for Christmas and the New Year, and look forward to seeing you then.

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

Twelve months go before one realises, and it is time once again to report on Branch news.

It has been a quiet year compared with all that happened last year, but there were still the regular annual Association events to celebrate.

St David's Day at Merthyr Tydfil was once again very successful. The weather was especially kind to us, and there was a good turnout by Branch members. We were looked after extremely well at the Labour Club, and our Secretary met up with Tommy Jones (87), someone he had not seen for 44 years! The meal was first class and the talented singers within the Association gave us some great entertainment during the afternoon.

In 2006, the Branch held a Christmas Lunch, for the first time, at the Fownes Hotel, Worcester. It was a great success, and we actually had a slightly better turnout than the April Luncheon. It is always very pleasing when a new venture becomes a success, and needless to say, it will be repeated, hopefully, for many years to come.

The Luncheon at the Fownes Hotel in April was again very successful. We continue to be reasonably supported by our members, but rely on other Branches to swell our ranks. The Hotel staff looked after us in their usual efficient and friendly manner, which helped to ensure an unforgettable day.

The next Branch Lunch will again be held at the Fownes Hotel, on Sunday 27th April, so please put this date in your diaries. We will also be organizing a Christmas Lunch at the same venue, with a time and date to be announced.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Branch for their continued support. Thanks also 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: Neil Chamberlain (24184149)
11 Cae Collen,
Coed Duon Rise
Blackwood, Gwent NP12 1FF
Tel: 01495 221436
E-mail:
chamberlain_neil49@hotmail.co.uk

It is no exaggeration to say that Association members have never had it so good. Events like St. David's Day, the Biennial Dinner, Battlefield Tours, Race Days, Golf, Darts and Shooting competitions are well supported, and the Association is also considering a Bowls tournament! Secretary-General Brian Keane is a busy man and we thank him and everyone at Maindy Barracks for their service.

We support all those events and thoroughly enjoyed the Darts and Shoot even though our archers failed to retain the trophy won in the previous two years. Taking part in sport is what matters and any event that brings us

together should be supported. Credit goes to those who made the trip to Nesccliffe Barracks, Shrewsbury; it was a good day, full of variety and comradeship.

In June we enjoyed a wonderful Sunday afternoon in brilliant sunshine at the home of our President and Mrs Prichard. The hospitality was superb and there was even croquet on the lawn, but our President who is a British and Welsh international in the sport did not spot any talent.

The big event of any year is our Annual Reunion. In October 2007 the Angel Hotel in Abergavenny was again full of Guardsmen, exiles and friends from other Branches, some staying there over the weekend.

Colonel Bonas, who as a young officer was affiliated to the Branch, paid his first visit as Association President and Regimental Adjutant and responded to the toast to The Regiment. The Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year, Sergeant Edward Mills of No.3 Company, 1st Battalion, was presented with the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy, first awarded forty years ago.

Captain David Davies, now a Branch Vice-President, retired as Assistant Regimental Adjutant four days after the Reunion, completing almost 46 years in the service of the Regiment, and has now joined the 'Mafia' of former Quartermasters, among them Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Morgan and Major Glyn White who were at the Dinner.

The usual Branch contingent went on the Association Battlefield Tour and thoroughly enjoyed what they can remember of it! It is a great social event but the main purpose is to pay respect at places where Welsh Guardsmen fought and died.

We hold our next AGM in Abergavenny Town Hall, followed by a Civic Reception, on Thursday 14 February and look forward to the annual Sunday Lunch at the Maes Manor Hotel, Blackwood on 11 May. We now have two lunches a year as well as the Reunion Dinner in October and many other events.

Monthly meetings are enjoyable mini-Reunions and are held every second Thursday of each month, most of them at our HQ, The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny except for the AGM at the Town Hall, and in May and October when we meet at the Capel Hotel, Bargoed.

The 25th anniversary of the Falklands War reminded members of the great fund-raising campaign that followed it in 1982. By sheer dedication and hard work, Branch members, particularly in our HQ area, amassed a total of several thousand pounds, and similar efforts were made throughout Wales. That should be remembered.

Sadly we report the passing of Alan Acreman who while recruiting in the area, helped us build a base of members in the Bargoed/Deri area and Phil Durbin, who lived in the West Country but attended all our functions until ill health prevented him from doing so. We will always remember them.

The Corn Exchange

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near Abergavenny NP7 0DG**



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Two Welsh Guardsmen from both ends of the age scale met last year, 93-year-old L/Sergeant Murrell Chatwin, who won the MM in Italy, and 20-year-old 25229479 Matthew Green, formerly of Ebbw Vale, now Pontypool, of the 1st Battalion. He was one of four Guardsmen who went on the 2007 Regimental Battlefield Tour and represented the Welsh Guards superbly.

To those who give untiring devotion to the Branch we give many thanks. They also provide our funds by donating raffle prizes and buying tickets at meetings and functions. There are others who cannot attend such events but they, too, can give practical support by sending donations.

We look forward to another busy and enjoyable year, which will include another long weekend in Ostend over the 13th-16th June and send our warmest greetings to friends in other Branches and serving Welsh Guardsmen who keep up the traditions of the Regiment superbly.



The Secretary Neil Chamberlain 24184149
and the Chairman Alan Mountjoy 23929747
- another day at the office!

Montgomeryshire and Shropshire Branch

(Formed 1950)

President: Captain Sir Beville Stanier Bt
Chairman: Mr J O Williams (23860183)
Treasurer: Lt Col B D Morgan MBE
Secretary: Captain R J D Parry
10 Grangefields, Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY3 9DE

The Branch has again had a very busy and successful year with some most enjoyable events being organised within the area. The attendance at these planned events have been extremely good, and our thanks go out to all who make the effort to attend.

In early December, we had a very good lunch at a venue near Welshpool, which is used quite often by us. This was well attended, and the meal excellent value. We were there again in late February for a lunch to celebrate St David's Day, with spring in the air, and thoughts of a warm summer around the corner!

The start of our summer activities began with some Branch members, fortunate enough to obtain tickets, visiting London for the rehearsals of and also the actual Queen's Birthday Parade on June 16th. The following day saw the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War being commemorated on Horse Guards Parade, with a 'March Past' down the Mall to Buckingham Palace. This was followed by an outstanding 'Fly Past' of the type of fixed wing and rotary wing planes which played such an important part in the war. The whole event was covered

by live television, with coordinated coverage from the Falkland Islands. The South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) did an outstanding job organising this highly successful weekend for the many veterans from all three services.

On the Sunday prior to this, I was fortunate enough to be selected - from a cast of thousands - to attend a VIP Luncheon aboard the QE2 in Southampton. About 60 veterans sat down to a sumptuous meal as guests of Cunard and the City of Southampton. This was followed by a church service and a march past the local dignitaries outside the City Hall. It was very special to be back on board after so long, especially since it was 25 years to the day that the QE2 steamed back into Southampton after taking 5 Infantry Brigade to South Georgia for the conflict.

A Parade was also arranged at Cardiff on September 30th, following the dedication of a Falklands Memorial Stone to all those Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice during the conflict, and a final parade is planned at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 27th October.

The Branch was well represented at the Laying up of Old Colours in North Wales at the end of June, and in July we celebrated our Annual Lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel. It was at this lunch that the Branch bid farewell to the outgoing Regimental Adjutant Lieutenant Colonel Charles Stephens, and the Assistant Regimental Adjutant Captain David Davies, together with their Ladies. The

President thanked them both for the hard work and assistance they had given to the Branch during their term of office, and wished them both the very best for their future retirement.

In September, we were delighted to see the Association Annual Darts and Shooting Competition being at Nesscliffe Training Camp near Shrewsbury, with many members staying overnight in outstanding accommodation offered by the camp. The 'Shooting' was conducted on a computerised training aid called 'The Dismounted Close Combat Trainer' (DCCT), where the average group size was recorded. The majority of users found this easy to use, with exceptionally good results being recorded, whilst others were not quite so good!

In the afternoon, once the serious shooting was over (and before the rugby!) we enjoyed different exercises on the DCCT, and these new skills were practised with some tactical shooting, exercises displayed to show the characteristics of the trainer, which many members had fun with.

To return back to the serious part of the weekend, congratulations must go to the Swansca Branch, who, displaying so much skill with their Darts and Shooting, won both Cups. Well done. However, we can take pride in winning the 'Best Shot' with Bob Jones (12) producing an outstanding group size - well done. Also, with a team of Bob Jones, David Myatt, John Bates and myself, we came 'Runners Up' in the Shooting competition, but promise to do better next year!



Annual Lunch - July 2007 - Left to Right: Lt Col Brian Morgan MBE, Capt Ben Parry, Lt Col Charles Stephens, Mrs Helen Stephens, Rev Willy Prior, Mrs Mary Davies, The President, Capt Sir Billy Stanier Bt, Capt David Davies

We now look forward to the Branch AGM, and then the Christmas Lunch planned for Sunday December 9th, at the Wynstay Hotel, Oswestry.

As we say farewell to another year, we welcome the new Team of Adjutants into the Association, and look forward to welcoming them both to events we are planning for next year.

Many thanks to other members of the Association for their help and guidance given when requested over the past year.

We wish all Association members the best of health and good fortune for the 2008 season.

North America Branch

(Formed 1986)

**President /
Caretaker**

Percival 'Dai' Tilley
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There is nothing to report from the Branch in the way of sick report, everyone seems to be taking their Wincarnis, and wearing Thermogene. There are no shotgun weddings, no lottery winners and no circling wagons - thing just amble along. At this time of the year, our Canadian members are checking their snow blowers, shovels, studded tyres, anti-freeze and central heating, while our members in the more tropical parts like Florida and the Bahamas are looking forward to the winter tourist season, longer waits at the traffic lights and McDonalds, hurricanes, tide times, fishing

forecasts and new bait. I live in Oregon, in the valley between the Cascade Mountains and the Coastal Range, where our main concern is whether the ski lifts will open in November, checking the horse blankets and if the 'Fall' salmon will be good!

The North America Branch was activated in 1986 in Ontario, Canada, and covers the entire continent of North America, which is comprised of Canada and the United States. The Bahamas is included in the Branch due to a member, Adrian Clec, living on Grand Bahamas. The Branch stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean, and from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico. In many cases, members living on the Atlantic coast of Canada and America are closer to the UK than they are to members living on the Pacific coast. I am sure our members have a little chuckle when they receive a copy of the AGM minutes and read that the Pembrokeshire Branch have too far to travel to Llanelli for the Darts and Shoot, and the North Wales Branch think that South Wales functions are too far to attend

and vice versa. Many of our members, including me, sometimes travel that far for a Guards Luncheon. In North America, if you ask a person how far it is to a certain place, he will probably reply, 'about two hours' – the answer is always in driving time, never mileage.

The tenth anniversary of the Branch was held in London Ontario, Canada, on 15th April 1996. All seven Regiments of the Household Division were represented. Ann Sloman, the wife of the Branch Secretary, made an account of the distance travelled by the members attending this function, and it was 67,000 miles, or, at 55 miles per hour, 1218 hours!

The Branch formed in 1986 in Ontario with Captain Stevenson M.C. as President, Tommy Pyne, Treasurer and Dave Sloman as Secretary. Dave (Tailor Shop 1st Battalion) was Secretary for seventeen years, four of which was combined with being Treasurer. He did a remarkable job before the days of computers and e-mails. Everything that came from RHQ regarding the Association such as Queen's Birthday Parade tickets, Garden Party invitations, Battlefield Tours etc. had to be relayed by mail or telephone to all Branch members. Other functions of the Grenadier Guards (Canadian Branch) and the Coldstream Guards (Canadian Branch) also had to be conveyed to members. During this extremely heavy commitment to the Regiment, Dave was working full time in his civilian job with the Canadian Government. Since the Branch went into 'suspended animation', he has been elected Potentate of the Shriners (Masonic) Order, whose main interest is raising money for Children's Hospitals. He and his wife Ann have just completed a 40,000-mile tour of the United States and Canada for this purpose. Dave is also the Drum Major of the Shriners Band. When he and Ann eventually slow down they will probably relax and do a walking tour of the Rockies, High Sierras and the Andes.

Immigration laws have seriously curtailed British emigration to Canada and the United States. Our Branch, unfortunately, depended entirely on Guardsmen emigrating to start a new life. With our dwindling numbers courtesy of the Grim Reaper, the Grenadier, Coldstream and Welsh Guards now all support each other's functions.

In August, eleven Guardsmen and their wives travelled to Aurora, New York, to attend the Fish-Price Toyfest Parade and the American Legion B, B, Q. the distance being eight hours for most people. The Scots Guards Lunch in Port Coburn, Ontario (four hours) was well attended even though they do not have a Branch here. November will see me travelling to Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia to march in the Armistice Parade with the group residing there, including four Welsh Guardsmen – namely Peter Brady (1st Bn.), Denys Cooke and myself (2nd Bn.) and Cy Sutton (Muleteer 3rd Bn.) The British Columbia Guards Group meet for lunch at the Victoria Golf Club every month, hosted by Paddy Brennan (Irish Guards) and on Vancouver Island we have Brian Leckey (Irish Guards) who owns the 'Brigantine' pub, with some of the world's best fishing right on the door step.

Speaking on behalf of the Branch members, I would like to convey our thanks to Brian Kcane, Secretary General of the Association for his willing and untiring help to our members when visiting the U.K. in attending Association functions. Like most Branches, we have our 'last minute Charlie's', who will telephone Brian from Heathrow Airport on the day of the Troop, and want six tickets! He always ensures our members are given the utmost help during their visits with regards to the Association. Also, every member gets a Welsh Guards Newsletter, and any other pertinent Regimental news about various ticket applications and so forth. Brian, like the rest of us is getting on a bit, but when he retires, he will be a hard act to follow. Thank you for all your help over the years Brian.

Guardsmen have made many classic remarks through the years, but one made by Drummer Tommy Pyne (Late Treasurer of the Branch, but now with the Corp of Drums and Harpists), will stand the test of time. Tommy and RSM Rees never did see eye to eye, and one day on parade, RSM Rees pointed his Pace Stick to Tommy and said, "There is a 'orrible' Welsh Guardsman in bad order at the end of this Pace Stick". Tommy, without batting an eyelid, looked squarely into the face of the RSM and said, "Well, it's not at this end!"

I hope this epistle has shown you a little of what life is like out here in the 'Yewnited States', Canada and the Caribbean for the wearers of 'The Tie'. Why don't you grab a plane, buckle your seat belt and pay us a visit? It's not much further than Ogmore to Cardiff on a wet day, just nine hours.

Many of us speak with nostalgia about the 'old country' but we are always proud to belong to that wonderful fraternity who wear the 'Tie'. It did my heart good to see a photograph of the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince William and Prince Harry at the Guards Chapel, all wearing the Brigade Tie. I showed it to my son, and said, "Look, they are all wearing my tie" – it doesn't get better than that!

Wishing Welsh Guardsmen everywhere the very best of health and good fortune.



Left to Right: Tom Docker (Life Guards), Geo Gibson (Horse Guards), Ron Dutch (Grenadier Guards), Alun Powell (Welsh Guards), Tony Allen (Irish Guards), Les Norris (Coldstream Guards)
Welsh Guards North America Branch 15th Anniversary Dinner
London, Ontario, Canada - 15th April 1996
All seven regiments of the Household Division of Guards

North of England Branch

(Formed 1946)

President: E L Williams Esq.
Chairman: Tom Homan (2739289)
Treasurer: Alan Simcox (23908718)
Secretary: Bill Elliott (23908639)
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On Sunday December 9th 2006 The Branch celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a Christmas Anniversary Dinner held at The Cheshire View Christleton. To celebrate our 60th Anniversary was the idea of our late Secretary, Mr David Roberts, and as such, the day was dedicated to him. In the presence of Captain D. Davics and his wife Mary, a record number of 124 members, family, guests and friends attended and made the occasion an excellent and memorable day. The food and service from the staff at the Cheshire View was first class and I thank them most sincerely for the wonderful way in which they looked after us. The entertainment on the day commenced with the Scots Guards Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major John Bowen 2628107, and their rendition of Men of Harlech had to be heard to be fully appreciated. Paddy Foulkes brought the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force Band - and the talent of these youngsters, particularly on the drum salvo at the end of their performance was electrifying. Major Macdonald made a presentation to the Cadet of the Year, Corporal Chellsea Whitehead, and we felt honoured and surprised they chose our Anniversary to present such a deserving award. The entertainment was concluded by our own 23866392 Billy Thomas and his daughter Katie. Katie sang and played the guitar to her own arrangements, and Billy's comic routine with songs in between kept us highly amused and entertained for a goodly half hour. His finishing number of the Debra Kerr song of 'Never Say Goodbye Just Goodnight' was dedicated to 'Flintstone' and all departed Welsh Guardsman. It completed an absolutely wonderful day of entertainment. The Branch extends their sincere thanks to them all.

The first celebration of 2007 of course was St David's Day, and many Branch members enjoyed a splendid day at The Davenport Hotel in Stockport. The meal was excellent, and while we were eating, was entertained by Louise Thompson from the Manchester Royal College of Music who played the Harp. To mark the 60th Anniversary of the Branch, the Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Peter Burns, who, with his wife Mary, were the guests of honour, presented an oak wood carving of

the Welsh Guards Badge, superbly crafted by Mr Bryn Jones, to The North of England Branch. The Secretary of the North of England Branch (23908639 Bill Elliott) was honoured and privileged to receive this wonderful gift on behalf of the Branch and thanked the members of Stockport for their kindness.

The Branch continues to grow with eight new members joining since writing the last report, and it is pleasing that the average attendance for the meetings is about twenty six which includes the ladies and cadets. 22217099 Kenneth (Paddy) Foulkes regularly attends the meetings and is always accompanied by three or four cadets from Number 3 (Somme) Company, Greater Manchester Cadet Force Band. Paddy was a cadet himself in 1944, and on leaving the Battalion in 1951 went back as an Instructor, and is still working with them today - a total of nearly 60 years work with the cadets. No fewer than 22 cadets have gone on to become Welsh Guardsman and all have held rank, so the cadets are a very important part of our Branch. They have continually supported us in many ways, not just at our meetings but at our functions as well and we thank them and Major Macdonald very much indeed, and sincerely hope the companionship, which we share, goes on for a very long time to come.

Although we gained new members it is inevitable that we also lose members and this is always a sad part of our year. We paid tribute and respected our comrades who left us this past twelve months.

Paul 'Tiger' Griffiths 22831753; Ronald 'Dinger' Bell 23879445; Malcolm Jones 24076036; N. E. Taylor 23157542 and H. W. Stephens 2738150. Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

With regards to Ronald Bell this Branch owes a great deal of thanks to Mike Jones 23523201, the Secretary of the Ogmere Branch, Ray Gorringer 23585533, Chairman and the Ogmere Branch members. With the funeral being in Bridgend, Mike went out of his way to assist this Branch in all he could do for Ron and his family, and it is deeply appreciated by all of us here. The members of Ogmere helped sway the Welsh Guards presence at Ron's funeral and this had a tremendous impact on the family. Mrs Anne Bell was so grateful and thanks all who attended.

Our chairman Mr Tom Homan (2739289) and his good lady Theresa celebrated their Golden Wedding on 31st October 2007 and on the same day Mr Doug Hague (2741410) and his good lady Rosemarie also celebrated their Golden Wedding. Our congratulations are extended to them all.

Tom Morris 23523060, Wally Kendall 23523116, and Bill Elliott 23908639 accompanied by their wives, enjoyed a marvellous day with The 'Not Forgotten Association' at their annual Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. A beautiful sunny day made it an unforgettable experience and one that we all highly recommend. Our thanks go to the 'Not Forgotten Association' for allowing us to share their day.

The Dinner at Swansea was another memorable occasion, which was enjoyed by Keith Bonehill 22831043, John Harding 23879339, and Bill Elliott from the Branch. To meet old friends after such a long time is always nice, and on a personal note, for me to team up again with Dave Head 23908637, Harry Holland MM 23877354, Graham Tooley 23908687 and Arwel Jones 23877328 was terrific.

The Christmas Luncheon is to be held again at The Cheshire Vicw, Freemason's Hall, Christleton on Sunday 9th December 2007 and we look forward once more to a memorable day. Our meetings are still held at The Cheshire Regiment's Mess, Chester Castle on the last Sunday of each month except for December, and all are most welcome including the ladies, so come along and join us.

In the meantime my thanks to The North of England Branch members who continue to assist and support me so well, making my job a most pleasurable and happy



Tom Morris (23523060), Carol Morris and Isobel Kendall
Garden Party - Buckingham Palace

one, to Brian Keane and Captain Davies at Maindy Barracks and to Kirsty Morgan who has just joined us. Our best wishes go to Jenny on her retirement.

My thanks also go out to RQMS Warren Williams and to Sergeant Morgan at RHQ for the help and assistance that they have given me in my first full year as Branch Secretary.

There have been many items of bad news this year with members falling victim to serious illness, so to all the members of our Association who have become ill, we wish you a speedy recovery to better health.

North Wales Branch

(Formed 1936)

President: J Harrop MBE
Chairman: G Binnie (24060777)
Treasurer: B Williams (22831600)
Secretary: D Webb (23523061)
 2 Arran Drive
 Rhyl
 North Wales LL18 2NS
 Tel: 01745 334340
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This last year has been an extremely busy one in North Wales. Our first get together was at The Crown Bard to celebrate St David's Day, where we had 22 on parade for an evening of refreshments and frivolity.

Our thanks to mine hosts Terry & Mary Lamb for supplying the Buffet. We continue to meet there 1st Thursday of the month.

March 11th was the day we had our Branch Standard Blessed in Bodelwyddan Church in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Trefor Jones. Our President J. Harrop MBE read the lesson, which was followed by a

wonderful sermon by the Minister Berw Hughes, telling us all about the significance of a Standard, what it means and why we have an allegiance to it. He explained that our motto, Yma O Hyd, which means 'Always Here' sent out a message, 'support to our fellow comrades who served in the Regiment', so we are here to support you. After the service, we made our way to the Headstone of Anthony Burke who was a victim on the Galahad. The Lord Lieutenant laid a wreath on behalf of the Association in the presence of Anthony's mother. The Branch would like to thank Sgt. A. Williams and the Recruiting Team for bringing colour to the occasion, dressed in Tunic order. The Lord Lieutenant commented on their immaculate turnout and was honoured to have his photo taken with them on such a historic occasion for the Branch. The Lady Mayor of Bodelwyddan, Doreen Jones, was equally impressed with the parade and was proud to be a part of the celebration. Our thanks to our neighbours for their Standards carried by North of England, Mick Ryan, Montgomery & Shropshire Norman Edwards, British Legion Llandudno Andy Roberts and last but not least our New Standard by John Jones 11 who came out of retirement for the day.

Our 71st Annual Dinner at the Bod Erw St. Asaph followed this in the evening. It was slightly cramped with 120 guests in a room with a capacity of 100, but with the Recruiting Team in tow, the banter flowed. Our guest of Honour, Captain Dai Davies, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, filled us in with what is going on within the Battalion and their future commitments. He was given a hearty round of applause after which our President stood up and thanked him on our behalf.

A social evening was held at the Millbank Pub Rhyl, on June 8th, organized by Les Peake, with Tony Willoughby, Ken Roberts, Dai Shaw, Jason from the Argonaut (yes he survived), Paras' plus 'us pensioners.' Tom Homan suggested a moments' silence for our lost comrades, which we duly did. Thank you Tom.

Wednesday 27th June 2007 was the start of a hectic 5 days in North Wales, starting with the Laying up of Old Colours in Bangor Cathedral. The Parade started from Bangor Pier, through the town to the Cathedral accompanied by rather inclement weather, more typical Blaenau Festiniog! The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel A.J.E. Malcolm OBE handed over the Old Colours to the Dean of Bangor, who gave a wonderful sermon on the meaning of the Colours and what they represent. He also thanked the Bangor Chairman's wife Brenda Morgan for the wonderful display of Leeks in flowers on the pillars within the Cathedral.

The evening concert was well supported with our Vice President Sir Richard and Lady Williams Bulkeley in attendance. It was nice to catch up with him once again since it gave me the opportunity to use him as a 'prop' during my stint. The Band had a difficult time warming up in the cool ambience of the Cathedral, dressed in damp Tunics from the morning Parade, but in true Welsh Guards style they delivered.

On Thursday, the Battalion, with the Regimental Band, marched through the town of Caernarfon, of which they were granted their 'Freedom' way back on Saturday 10th May 1958. They marched down to the Harbour Trust car park, which adjoins Caernarfon Castle. Three members of the North Wales Branch of the Association together with 2736586 William Hugh Roberts, who served with all three Battalions during the course of his service, were invited by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel R.J.A. Stanford MBE to take part in the parade, which was inspected by the Lady Mayor of the town. It was a wonderful day, and watched by many members of the local community as well as holidaymakers. The evening concert at the Galeri was a sell out, with Association members from the area giving it their full support. We were in the hometown of "Dai Iawn" (Jimmy Roberts 95), and he was certainly there in spirit, as the Commanding Officer of the Battalion will verify!

Friday was the turn of Wrexham to host the Battalion. The morning march was the longest of the three, from Hightown Barracks to the town centre, and the crowds that turned out confirmed it was a complete success.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth speaking to Jimmy Roberts at Presentation of Colours, Windsor

After the Parade, Derek and Veronica Whiting held a B. B. Q. at their home, inviting Colonel Stevens, Garrison Sgt Major W. Mott O.B.E., RQMS, Warren Williams, Sgt. Morgan, 61 Jones, Bradley and yours truly - we all left for the concert with a warm glow! Our President also attended the concert, which marked the last time Colonel Stevens would be in charge as Regimental Adjutant and Captain D. Davies as Assistant Regimental Adjutant: a truly nostalgic night was in the offing. Sgt Andy Libby and Musn. Matt Ashment stormed the show with 'Me and My Shadow', Musn. Rebecca Watts played a violin solo of John Williams's theme tune of 'Schindler's List', which was absolutely mind-blowing, and Rhos Choir performed at the top of their game. My thanks to the Musical Director Major David Cresswell and the Band for their patience with an 'old pro' and giving me 'star status' in the three Concerts. It was a privilege and honour to sing with the Band of the Regiment in which I served.

Saturday morning found us all on parade in Wrexham for the Falklands 25th Anniversary Service in St. Giles Church. There were over 300 in attendance, and was truly a memorable and moving service, with Brigadier Rickett reading the Lesson. After the Service everyone mustered behind the Welsh Guards Band for the march to the Memorial in Bodhyfred Gardens. Andy Roberts a Falklands veteran, carried our new Branch Standard, and led his mates with whom he served, behind the Band. Thanks to Captain Hopkins, Dai Wigley, and Mark Pemberton for making this a memorable day and giving our Standard its First Parade.

Llandudno was the next outing, with Andy Roberts who has now taken the mantle of Branch Standard Bearer, displaying our Standard on the Venue Cymru Stage for the Falklands Memorial Service in Llandudno. The Lord Lieutenant of Clwyd, Trefor Jones, organiser of the service, appeared very proud to see our Standard - to which he now associates himself with - there, and it definitely stood out in the crowd. The service was run on the same lines as the Albert Hall, with the Bishop of

Bangor officiating. The concert with the Royal Marines Band and the award winning Froncysyllte Choir made it a night to remember, and it was good to be able to share the evening with Cas Butler, now a Chelsea Pensioner.

Saturday 15th September saw a party of us at Nesscliffe Barracks, Shrewsbury, for the annual Darts and Shooting Competition, run, as always by Brian Keane. This was a well-supported event with Swansca sweeping the board. Our President of the Branch turned up to support us on what can only be described as an excellent weekend. Our only accolades are:

The John Harrop Cup for the Branch best shot – G. Williams, Glan Conwy, and the Lowest Score Darts Shield – D. Pecker. Guess who? (Nice to be rid of it – had it since 2002) I think everyone present thoroughly enjoyed themselves (especially the nights in the club), and we look forward to a repeat next year.

Our thanks to our Chairman, G. Binnie, who opened up the Museum in Oswestry on the following Sunday morning at 0900 on our way home, to give us a conducted tour, explaining everything in detail, absolutely magic.

The Annual Dinner for the Bangor Section was held on Friday September 28th 2007, at the Victoria Hotel Snowdonia in Llanberis, and attended by members and wives. The President was on form with his usual quips and accolades to the Branch, and looked proud to stand next to our Standard for a photo shoot. What we lacked in numbers was made up with the quality of the evening.

The dining room which was decorated with our Standard, looked magnificent, and the three-course dinner, excellent. This was followed by much liquid refreshment and a raffle, many of the prizes being donated by those present. The raffle itself was conducted by our Bangor member, Bill Moores (Grenadier Guards) and his wife Leah. Our thanks go to them both for the brilliant way they organised it, sold the tickets and helped raise a large sum of money for the Branch. It was a great evening and a few of us even stayed the night at the hotel after finally getting kicked out of the bar at midnight. Looking forward to the next function!

It has been a joint effort compiling this report for the magazine, and without 'Woody', it would have been impossible to generate all the news from North Wales, which is the biggest area geographically, so a big thank you goes to him. Equally I wish to thank Association Headquarters Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant W. Williams, Sgt. Morgan (Am I Retired yet), Captain Davies, Brian, and (yes she has retired) my thespian, Jenny. Colonel Stevens must also have a mention for suffering an ear bashing over the last five years off Dai Morgan (Bangor Section Chairman) and myself over the Colours being laid up in Bangor. Thank you for making Bangor your final epitaph as Regimental Adjutant, you have made history, since this is the first Colour to be laid up in North Wales, and to make it sweeter, the first Colour with the Falklands Battle Honour, Diolch, Cymru am Byth,



R. 2013

6th CADET BATTALION THE ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS (Gwynedd A.C.F.)



**DO YOU LIVE IN OR NEAR GWYNEDD?
DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO SPARE?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE TRAINING
AND WELFARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PASS ON TO THEM SOME OF THE SKILLS
AND EXPERIENCE YOU GAINED IN THE WELSH GUARDS?**

If the answer to all the above questions is "YES" then we should like to hear from you. The Army Cadet Force in Gwynedd is always anxious to find keen new Instructors for the Detachments situated all over the country. We already have some Welsh Guardsmen and would like more.

To find out all about what is expected, conditions of service, rates of pay etc.

Contact Major M. L. Hughes (ex Welsh Guards) at:-

HQ. 6th Cadet Bn., The Drill Hall, Bethesda, Gwynedd LL57 3LY. Tel. 01248 600383.

Ogmore Branch

(Formed 1982)

President: Lieutenant-Colonel R.L. Traherne
Chairman: Ray Gorringe (23585533)
Treasurer/Secretary: Mike Jones, TD (23523201)
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Our year started with our AGM in January 2007 when the Officers and Committee were once again re-elected to office. We are very grateful to the Management of the "The Highwayman" Public House where we hold our meetings, for their generosity in allowing us to have a room monthly.

This year being our Jubilee Year we were hoping to "spice" it up somehow, so it was decided to try to go to Hechtel in September if we could get a Lottery Grant. In February, after some discussions with members of the East Glamorgan and Swansea Branches who had successfully applied for and got one, we sent off for the Application Forms, which we duly received, completed and sent off.

St. David's Day saw us in Merthyr Tydfil for the Presentation of Lecks, meeting old friends and a good old-fashioned "Sing Song" afterwards in the Labour Club. Well done the Merthyr Branch for a great day out.

Our Annual Dinner Dance in April, held in the Masonic Hall, Bridgend again proved to be very popular with a good attendance in a nice setting. Some members from various other Branches attended, and for that we are most grateful. The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough was in attendance and graciously agreed to present Certificates of Merit to Mr Terry Henry, an old stalwart, and Mr Sid Millar (ex SG) who although registered blind is in attendance at virtually every function and meeting, so this was just a small gesture of appreciation from the Branch. We presented the Mayor with a WG Sgt Statuette, which will be housed in the Mayor's Parlour in the Council Offices.

Our Chairman was once again Parade Marshall at the Veterans Parade in the Borough in June, and will also do the same job in November for Remembrance Sunday. The Branch has had the honour of doing this for the last 25 years and Ray is continuing the tradition.

With half the year gone we were waiting on tenterhooks to find out if our Lottery bid had been successful. We

had a few hiccups in that we had not filled the forms out correctly (i.e. Chairman signing where I should have signed and vice versa!).

Suffice to say we got the good news in June, and from then on it was full steam ahead booking accommodation, courtesy of our Associate Member in the Belgian Army, Bob Vranken-Deckers and transport via Main Line Coaches, Giffach Goch.

Prior to leaving on Friday 6th September 2007, we had a meeting with our local AM Carwyn Jones to publicise the Lottery Grant, which is one of the conditions of the Grant, and he immediately put us in touch with the Editor of the local paper, "Glamorgan Gazette" for a photo call. We also received some mementoes from our local Mayor to present to the Mayor of Hechtel.

Our trip out was rather an ordeal despite travelling through the Channel Tunnel, due to a three-hour hold-up near Antwerp, but once through that we made good progress to our Hotel where a warm meal awaited us. The following morning we had a formal meeting with the Mayor and local dignitaries, and presented our gifts at a reception in the Town Hall. Afterwards we planted a Lime Tree, which we had purchased from Cornwall, to leave as a reminder of our visit to the town. We did not know that our purchase was nine feet tall until it arrived on the afternoon before we left!

We all enjoyed a splendid weekend and a varied programme well received. We laid a wreath at the Sherman Tank Memorial in the town, visited the British Cemetery at Leopoldburg where we laid another poppy wreath, and the wife of one of our members laid a poppy cross on her father's grave. We then visited the German War Cemetery and also the Secret Cemetery where members of the Belgian Resistance were executed.

A boat trip up the canal into Holland came next, where we visited the Pancake Bakery and gorged ourselves on the biggest savoury pancakes you have ever seen!! The finale to the trip was to Camp Beverlo where enthusiasts dressed in authentic German uniforms staged a "Mock Battle" against those in British and American uniforms, complete with vehicles. We were the Guests of Honour and had a ringside view of everything going on - really great. Our final evening was spent in the hotel-bowling rink where our competitive streaks were in full view. All this was due to Bob and we are really grateful to him for all the arrangements.

Back home we attended the Darts & Shooting Competition at Shrewsbury, and Paul Mockett. MBE came away winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup. This

was the second time he has won this Competition, and Branch's third success since its inception. It was a bit of a disappointment again though that we could not manage eight members for the Darts team since once again we were one short, so come on the youngsters why not give it a go?

Our President has been away for most of this year in the South of France renovating a farmhouse. We have all watched the TV "Location, Location" for a glimpse of him and his wife but to no avail I'm afraid. We do hope there will be a "house warming" party however, and look forward to seeing them again in the New Year.

Our Annual Service of Remembrance was held once again at Nolton Church on Sunday 21st October 2007, conducted by the Branch Padre The Rev Michael Komor. This is when we as a Branch remember our fallen members as well as the men from the Borough who fell. Our numbers attending are dwindling due to our age group; we do hope to see some younger members in the future.

Pembrokeshire Branch

(Formed 1957)

President: Major I B Ramsden MBE
Chairman: Hugh (Snowy) Beard (2339411)
Treasurer:
Secretary: Trevor Warr (2740352)
11 Shakespeare Close
Haverfordwest
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Tel: 01437 766400

We have not had a very eventful year but nevertheless, the Branch continues to function quite well in spite of the ongoing problems with age and falling membership. The Secretary is still looking for someone to take over from him, but to date there has been no volunteers.

You will note that our Chairman this year is Hugh (Snowy) Beard. Snowy was in Support Company, 1st Battalion, and a genius in keeping Carriers roadworthy. He experienced life as a Guardsman, a Sergeant, a Guardsman, and then Sergeant again all in short space of time - a very likeable gentleman, now in his 83rd year.

Our 50th Annual Dinner was held at our regular venue, the Cleddau Bridge Hotel, Pembroke Dock, with Brigadier J F Rickett being our special guest. An excellent 3-course meal was followed by many of us dancing the night away. We were pleased to see 90 year old Sid Elsbury at the Dinner with his three sons (see photograph) Sid was a member of the 2nd Battalion during the 2nd World War, and was wounded by a shell

The following members have departed from us this year: Ex RQMS 22217538 Keith Jones, 23092652 Alan Rees, and 23877349 K Mizen. Our sincere condolences go out to their families.

The Chairman, Secretary and Committee would like to thank all the members for their attendance and support throughout the year and wish all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Many thanks and Seasons Greetings to Brian Keane and family, and of course Happy Retirement to Dai (21) Davies and Jenny Cronin. We welcome the new replacements, and look forward to working with them in the future.

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

alongside his tank - not many of these gentlemen left!

Unfortunately, due to the distances involved, we were unable to support St David's Day at Merthyr Tydfil or the Darts and Shooting Competition at Shrewsbury this year. Like 'fine wine' our older members do not seem to travel well!

On a brighter note, a few 50 and 60 year olds are showing some interest in Branch affairs. It is good to see Malcolm Fry (23836046) from Angle, and presently employed on the Ranges at Castlemartin, and John Bonnewell (24129607) from Carmarthenshire who is a 'genius' with computers. Both John's father and his son Simon (25071568) served in the Regiment. Gary Williams (Sgt) (25071568) served in the Regiment. Gary Williams (Sgt) has just left the Battalion and has found employment in Pendine - another military establishment. We wish him luck, and hope to see him at Branch / Association functions in the future.

During April, ten members attended the unveiling of a Welsh Guards Memorial Stone at Llanelli, organised by the Llanelli Branch Welsh Guards. It was an excellent day with fine weather and a great turnout - well done Alan.

The Association Dinner at Swansea was also supported by ten of our members, thanks mainly to our 'volunteer' coach driver, Bill Kellaway (23523513). We all appreciated what Bill did, since it meant he could not have a drink on the night, and had to listen to our 'drunken ramblings' on the way home.

I sadly have to report that John Hearn (23092649) passed away in Australia earlier this year, and pass on our sincere condolences to his family.

We have many members and their wives who are unwell at the moment, and send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Members of the Pembrokeshire Branch send their best wishes to all readers of this report.



Sid Elsbury and his three sons at the Pembrokeshire Reunion Dinner 2007

Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch

(Formed 1927)

President: Major G White MBE
Chairman: Roy Bennett (2214147)
Treasurer:
Secretary: Steve Fisher (24242691)
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Welcome. Not every member of the area receives this excellent publication, but there are at least 300 Association / Branch newsletters posted out twice a year which I hope keeps every member in the Branch up to date with our social events etc. The main information on Association events i.e. St David's Day / Darts & Shoot etc. is also covered in these newsletters, and then I actually order about 70 Regimental magazines which is full of extra news, information, & loads of pictures etc. Please encourage any fellow Welsh Guardsmen you know that is not receiving this magazine to become paid up members of our successful Branch so that I can send them future issues. The cost is £6.00 per year, but anything else on top to help with the administration costs would be greatly appreciated. Please make cheques payable to 'Swansea & W / Glam Branch W.G. Association'. Thank you.

In order for me to order & post

this magazine on to you I need subscriptions sent to me by the 1st of December each year

The Branch had an excellent family day out with the Gurkha's at their Durba at Dering Lines, Brecon, on the 1st September. The next one is planned for 2009. Although in my summer newsletter I stated that the restored London double bus was not available, we in fact located another one, so off we went nostalgically through the lovely countryside, with steam poring out of the radiator cap whilst climbing the steep hills! The highlight of the day was when Vee, my wife, won the top prize of a presentation Kukri.

We had a highly successful time at Nesscliffe Barracks for the Darts & Shoot Competition. Being the winners of the 'best Shooting team 2006', we came away as reigning champions once again. To cap that, our Darts team beat the reigning winners, the Monmouthshire Branch. It was a close call but good fortune smiled on us. Derek Williams won the Darts 'highest individual



Swansea Branch at 2007 "Darts and Shoot" Nesscliff

score' after a close play off. Well done everyone, and as can be seen from the group photograph we really looked the part in our ties & blazers. Four of the team are Falkland veterans.

Pictures of the prize giving & names can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

Our Branch Christmas Dinner on the 1st December at the Manor Park, Clydach, was again a great success, where 50 members/family attended.

Please note that we are holding our annual Branch Dinner on the 18th October 2008 at the Red Lion Hotel, Morriston. As you are aware we did not hold one in 2007 as our 80th Branch Anniversary coincided

nicely with the Association Biennial Dinner at the Brangwyn Hall. Please put this date into your year planner now, and I will remind you in plenty of time in future newsletters.

Please support your Branch by joining us at our monthly meetings & the many socials / parades / events etc through out the year. The next opportunity to get together will be St David's Day. We are very fortunate that we have a good mixture of young & older members, and it would be really lovely to see you.

I do hope that you are well, take care, & I wish you good health & happiness.

Monmouthshire Branch Trophy Sportsman of the Year

The trophy is presented to the Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year, and in 2007 the winner was Sergeant Edward Mills of the 1st Battalion.

He received this trophy for his incredible feat of cycling from Bosnia to Calais,

paddling the English Channel in a kayak to Dover, running the equivalent of three marathons en route to London and finally cycling from Wellington Barracks to Bangor North Wales. This was all done in the aid of charity.



Sergeant Mills receiving the Trophy from former winner RQMS Warren Williams

Welsh Guards Association Darts & Shooting Competition 2007

by Brian Keane

Nesscliffe Barracks, Shrewsbury, was the venue for the 2007 Darts and Shooting Competition, which took place on Saturday September 15th 2007.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to take advantage of available accommodation at the Barracks on both Friday and Saturday night, enabling those who had some distance to travel to break their journey.

During the afternoon, after the main shooting competition, many members participated in 'computerised war games', which proved extremely popular with both young and old – cheers, jeers and some colourful language emitted from the area at regular intervals. To date, it has been voted the best venue so far, so, hopefully we will have the opportunity to visit again in the future.

This is a competition for young and old, and 'expertise' in a given event is not expected, just come along and enjoy a good day with great company.

Results

Darts Competition

Welsh Guards Association Cup

Winners of the Abertawe Shield

Highest Individual Score

- Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch

- Monmouthshire Branch

- Derek Williams, Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch (140)



Welsh Guards Association Cup
Left to Right: John Latt, Hubert Ellis, Roy Bennet, Peter Williams, Derek Williams, Brian Evans, Karl Trenchard, Steve Radford. Secretary: Steve Fisher



Winners of Abertawe Shield - Monmouth Branch



Highest Individual Score - Derek Williams (Swansea Branch)

Shooting Competition

Winners of the Latham Trophy

Runners – Up

Winner of Aberdare Cup

Winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup

Winner of the William Burman Cup

- Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch

- Montgomery & Shropshire Branch

- R Jones, Montgomery & Shropshire Branch

- Paul Mockett, Ogmore Branch

- Carl Trenchard, Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch



Roy Bennett with all the silverware
Swansea Branch



Winner of the William Burman Cup
Carl Trenchard
Swansea Branch

The Seventy-ninth Annual General Meeting

of the

Welsh Guards Association

held at

Wellington Barracks, London at 12.30 hrs on Friday 15th June 2007

President: Colonel T S Bonas
Vice President: Brigadier J F Rickett CBE
Vice President: R E Lewis Esq
Treasurer: Captain D M Davies
Secretary General: B Keane Esq

Present: Mr M Williams, Secretary Aberdare Branch; Mr W Morris, Secretary Cardiff Branch; Mr N Owen, Secretary Cardiganshire Branch; Mr K Haines, Secretary East Glamorgan Branch; Mr A Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch; Mr J Heenan, Secretary London Branch; Mr G Harper, representing Merthyr Tydfil Branch; Mr K Bartlett, Secretary Midlands Branch; Mr N Chamberlain, Secretary Monmouthshire Branch; Mr D Webb, Secretary North Wales Branch; Mr M Jones, Secretary Ogmore Branch; Mr M Davies, representing Pembrokeshire Branch; Mr R Bennett representing 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: 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 Treharne, President Ogmore Branch; Major I B Ramsden MBE, President Pembrokeshire Branch; Major G White, MBE, President Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch;

Mr J Manning, Secretary Merthyr Tydfil Branch; Capt. R J D Parry, Secretary Montgomery & Shropshire Branch; Mr T Warr, Secretary Pembrokeshire Branch; Mr S Fisher, Secretary Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch;

Item 1 - President's Address and Apologies for absence.

The President opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and pointed out that we were perhaps the strongest Association in the British Army, which is due to the camaraderie, with everyone being prepared to work together.

He looks forward to combining both roles of Regimental Adjutant and President of the Association in October, and plans to visit all Branches in turn.

Special thanks were given to Brian Keane, who keeps him up to date with what's going on, Roy Lewis, who is the pillar of the Association, Captain Graham Taylor, the organiser of the highly successful Battle Field Tours, Captain Dai Davies, who will be massively missed by everyone for his unstinting service and RQMS and staff who continue to give their time to the Association.

Links continue to be very strong between the Battalion and the

Association, as seen with special ceremonies taking place around the country commemorating 25 years of the Falklands Conflict. The Battalion is at present in Wellington Barracks, but move to Aldershot some time in the summer of 2008.

Item 2 - Minutes of previous meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 16th June 2006 was proposed by Mr Roy Bennett (Chairman Swansea & West Glamorgan Branch) and seconded by Mr Jeff Hecnan, (Secretary London Branch). This was carried and the minutes signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Item 3 - St David's Day 2008

Various venues were discussed including London, North Wales and Merthyr Tydfil. The President pointed out that travelling around Wales was fine in principle, but costs and venues etc must be taken into consideration. Another suggestion was that the Association celebrate St David's Day on the nearest Sunday to March 1st, but this was not thought to be appropriate. The final decision was that if the Battalion was in the U.K. then celebrations should be with them. The President will speak to the Commanding Officer to confirm details.

Item 4 - Welsh Guards Association Dinner 2009

It was unanimously agreed that the Dinner at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, was an outstanding success, and a possible date for the next Biennial Dinner is Saturday March 28th 2009 at Ludlow. The President feels it important that all Branches attend, i.e. there will be no clashes of dates with individual Branch events as happened this year. Dave Webb, Secretary of the North Wales Branch, enquired whether the Dinner could be held in September when the weather was more favourable, but it was pointed out that it would clash with other events such as the Darts & Shooting Competition and the Battlefield Tours. The Dinner in 2011 will take place in North Wales.

Item 5 - Association Events

a. Race Day

The Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Captain Davies, reported another good turnout for the Association Race Day at Ludlow on April 4th. It has been suggested that next year the date be changed to Sunday April 27th, which is the last day of the Races. It is an excellent day out, and room to extend the marquee if more members wish to come along. A bar is available, and a buffet lunch is included in the price of the ticket.

b. Darts & Shooting Competition

With a possibility of two venues, i.e. Cardiff and Shrewsbury, it was agreed that Nesciiffe Barracks, Shrewsbury, was the one of choice since it is more accessible to Branches in mid and north Wales. The

competition will take place on Saturday September 15th 2007. Lunch tickets will be £5, which will include a hot meal, with tea and coffee available all day. Overnight accommodation is also available free of charge for Friday and / or Saturday night (breakfast extra)

c. **Golf**

The next meeting is on Wednesday July 18th at the Mile End, Oswestry, followed by Raglan on September 6th. A total of 10 members made the pilgrimage to Portugal this year, and plans for next year are already underway. Everyone is welcome at these events, even if they do not wish to participate. More information can be obtained from Captain Davies at Maindy Barracks.

d. **Bowls**

Some interest has been voiced in forming a Bowls Association. If enough members are interested, this can be run on the same lines as the Golf, with a few tournaments organised throughout the year and spread around the country. Branch Secretaries are requested to seek the opinions from their members, remembering that wives / partners will also be made welcome. There should be no significant outlay since bowls can be hired from the Greens, and plastic covers are supplied to cover unsuitable footwear.

Item 6 – Battlefield Tour 2007

This year's tour takes place from September 7th to September 12th inclusive, visiting Waterloo, Hechtel and West Cappel. Older veterans have shown concern that Normandy has not been visited for some time, therefore there will be an article in the Summer Newsletter to get the opinion of members whether to run a tour to Normandy in the spring 2008 and Belgium in September. Obviously, veterans will have priority for the Normandy tour, and the President is hoping to contact the trustees with the possibility of them underwriting some of the costs for these veterans.

These tours are extremely popular and get booked up very early. Further details from Captain Graham Taylor.

Item 7 – Troop Tickets

The current system for the allocation of Troop tickets to Branches appear to be working well, with the exception that some requests are not accompanied by a cheque

It is reiterated that a cheque must always accompany a request for Troop tickets. Applications for tickets without a cheque will no longer be processed, and unsuccessful applicants will have their cheque returned to them. The closing date each year for requests is March 1st.

Item 8 – Remembrance Day 2007

The Regiment will hold their Remembrance Service at the Guards Chapel on Sunday November 11th with the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in attendance. It is hoped that this event will be well supported, although it is appreciated that Branch members support their own local services. Further information and tickets will be available from RHQ London.

Item 9 – Christmas Cards

The Christmas card chosen for 2007 depicts the Corp of Drums marching away from Buckingham Palace.

The cost of the card remains at 40 pence. Packs of mixed cards are also available.

In the past, the Association has purchased the original painting, but this year it has been purchased by an Officer in Northern Ireland, who has stated that on his death, it will be returned to the Association.

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 30th. This has been organised by the London Branch, and well supported by other Branches, with over 100 people expected. We have been informed that this is the only Welsh Guards memorial in England with the names of Welsh Guardsmen inscribed on it.

Item 11 – Book to commemorate 100 years of the Regiment

Mr Roy Lewis reiterated that he is not writing the book, but collating stories from veterans, and cataloguing information from the archives at RHQ London, which will be available for inclusion into the book. More information is needed from conflicts and wars since the Second World War, together with personal accounts and photographs.

Item 12 – Wearing of Berets

There has been much confusion by members of the Association with regards to the protocol attached to the wearing of the khaki beret. After much discussion, the President agreed to clarify the situation with regards to the Queen's Regulations, and report back in time for the Secretaries meeting in February. Until then, status quo exists.

Item 13 – Branch Accounts

It has been noted that some Branches are not submitting their annual accounts to Maindy. The Association does not wish to share in any profits, but this is a legal requirement, and therefore, as and from today (15th June 2007), copies of all Branch accounts must be submitted for perusal and filing.

Before the meeting closed, Alan Cunningham, Secretary Llanelli Branch thanked RHQ and Association members for their donations, and attending the unveiling of the Welsh Guards stone at Llanelli.

As there was no other business, the President closed the meeting by thanking all present for their excellent contributions, and hoped everyone who planned to stay for the celebrations in London had a wonderful weekend.

The next AGM will be Friday 13th June 2008 (provisional)

In Memoriam

ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths of the following:

23523004 WO2 A J Acreman

Died 22nd May 2007 aged 66
Served 28th May 1958-31st January 1977

2733285 Gdsm T Ashford

Died 31st August 2007 aged 94
Served 8th April 1931-4th January 1946

496348 Captain P R Bailey

Died 14th February 2007 aged 53
Served 30th June 1973-29th June 1978

349164 Captain I B D Bluett

Died 8th November 2006 aged 79
Served 25th May 1945 – 1st January 1949

22217558 WO2 H C Clarke MBE

Died 3rd November 2007 aged 88
Served 21st April 1939 – 18th August 1979

14584370 Gdsm L G Cook

Died 26th July 2006 aged 83
Served 15th April 1943-4th July 1946

22217394 Gdsm F Davies

Died 16th January 2007 aged 72
Served 15th May 1951-13th July 1955

22217101 Gdsm P Durbin

Died 16th June 2007 aged 78
Served 15th November 1948-15th November 1953

2737961 Gdsm G Edwards

Died 7th July 2007 aged 85
Served 26th February 1941-27th May 1948

2736652 LSgt J Enwhistle

Died 6th October 2007 Aged 79
Served 6th June 1940-21st June 1946

2739118 Gdsm T L Evans

Died 3rd April 2007 aged 84
Served 2nd December 1943-26th December 1946

23523318 Gdsm S Evans

Died 2nd December 2005 aged 67
Served 19th August 1959-17th August 1962

2739105 Gdsm G Ferneyhough

Died 30th December 2006 aged 80
Served 8th November 1943-23rd April 1947

72465 Major Sir H Forbes

Died 3rd September 2007 aged 91
Served 25th July 1939-29th August 1958

2737558 Gdsm A Griffiths

Died 18th December 2006 aged 90
Served 22nd August 1940-17th July 1946

2217050 Sgt K J Griffiths

Died 23rd October 2006 aged 77
Served 22nd July 1948 – 28th February 1955

307912 Capt K Hamylton-Jones

Died 23rd November 2007 aged 84
Served 28th January 1944 – 1st July 1946

422451 Major T R Hearn

Died 29th January 2007 aged 77
Served 5th October 1951-16th May 1957

23092649 Gdsm J Hearn

Died 28th November 2006 aged 70
Served 9th December 1954-8th June 1960

2741358 LCpl J Heatley

Died 3rd December 2006 aged 79
Served 8th November 1945-30th March 1948

2734844 Gdsm J Hole

Died 1st November 2006 aged 85
Served 26th June 1939-27th June 1946

2738351 Gdsm W F T Hollick

Died 17th July 2007 aged 83
Served 2nd June 1942-8th January 1947

2739803 Gdsm J Hook

Died 6th January 2007 aged 83
Served 6th July 1944-21st May 1947

2741791 Gdsm W James

Died 14th June 2007 aged 76
Served 18th January 1949-17th September 1954

24076036 LSgt H Jones

Died 12th December 2006 aged 60
Served 3rd April 1967-30th June 1975

24493668 Gdsm N Jones

Died 20th October 2007 aged 51
Served 20th June 1978 – 30th September 1983

2735815 Gdsm G Lewis

Died 6th April 2007 aged 89
Served 15th March 1940-26th May 1946

2740727 Sgt G Lloyd

Died 17th January 2007 aged 79
Served 15th February 1945-20th January 1948

2740399 Gdsm N Lockett

Died 24th February 2007 aged 80
Served 7th December 1944-6th April 1948

449706 Lt P G M Lowsley-Williams

Died 17th April 2007 aged 69
Served 6th January 1956-19th July 1961

22831565 Gdsm T Mahoney

Died 28th December 2006 aged 70
Served 16th July 1956-21st March 1960

2740470 Gdsm J Markham

Died 8th December 2006 aged 80
Served 21st December 1944-9th January 1948

2737896 Sgt W Marshall

Died 12th May 2007 aged 86
Served 16th December 1940-15th December 1963

346124 Captain R McGhie

MA MICE MIPENZ CANTAB CENG

Died 18th November 2005 aged 80
Served 8th April 1945-16th July 1949

22779808 Gdsm P McGlyn

Died 26th December 2006 aged 68
Served 17th October 1956-16th October 1959

2738007 Gdsm N McLaren

Died 4th August 2007 aged 85
Served 15th April 1941 – 22nd November 1945

23877349 Gdsm Mizen

Died 11th October 2007 aged 64
Served 16th May 2962 – 23rd November 1965

22437951 Gdsm J Moulton

Died 10th March 2007 aged 74
Served 7th December 1950-9th December 1952

2740027 Gdsm A O Otley

Died 9th December 2006 aged 80
Served 20th July 1944-6th December 1947

22856001 WO2 G Pugh

Died 24th March 2007 aged 72
Served 18th August 1954-17th August 1976

22831211 Gdsm B Reader

Died 2nd April 2007 aged 69
Served 29th January 1955-28th January 1962

2734369 Gdsm E Roberts

Died 15th April 2007 aged 89
Served 31st January 1938-8th June 1946

124490 Major C Shepley-Cuthbert

Died 19th April 2007 aged 93
Served 23rd March 1940-1st January 1949

2734550 Gdsm A Sncad

Died 20th January 2007 aged 86
Served 17th August 1938-6th June 1946

2740347 Gdsm R B Taylor

Died 8th June 2007 aged 81
Served 23rd November 1944-31st March 1948

22041628 LSgt G Tout

Died 10th December 2006 aged 76
Served 28th February 1950-6th June 1953

22770775 Sgt D Williams

Died 18th November 2007 aged 74
Served 18th April 1953 – 28th November 1977

2736120 Gdsm F Vaughan

Died 14th June 2007 aged 87
Served 18th April 1940 – 1st August 1946

Forecast of Events - 2008

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

1 ASSOCIATION ST DAVID'S DAY WELLINGTON BARRACKS

APRIL

Llanelli Branch Reunion Dinner – Date to be confirmed
5 London Branch Ladies Lunch-time Party
26 Ogmore Branch Dinner / Dance, Masonic Hall Bridgend
26 North Wales Branch Reunion Dinner, Deganwy Castle Hotel, Deganwy
27 ASSOCIATION RACE DAY LUDLOW RACECOURSE
27 Midlands Branch Reunion Luncheon, Fownes Hotel, Worcester

MAY

11 Monmouthshire Branch Annual Lunch, Maes Manor Hotel, Blackwood
31 Trooping The Colour – Major General's Review
31 London Branch Tea / Dinner Dance Union Jack Club London

JUNE

4 Beating Retreat
5 Beating Retreat
7 Trooping The Colour – Colonel's Review
13 ASSOCIATION AGM WELLINGTON BARRACKS LONDON
14 THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

JULY

Montgomery & Shropshire Branch Luncheon, Wroxeter Hotel, Shrewsbury.
(Date and venue to be decided)

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

ASSOCIATION DARTS & SHOOTING COMPETITION
(Date and venue to be decided)

OCTOBER

17 Cardiff Branch Reunion Dinner, St Peter's Hall Cardiff
18 Swansea & West Glamorgan Reunion Dinner, Red Lion Hotel, Morriston
25 Monmouthshire Branch Reunion Dinner, The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny

NOVEMBER

9 Remembrance Day.

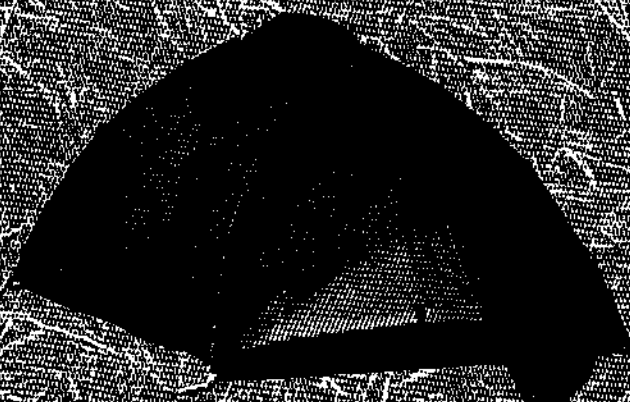
DECEMBER

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Wastemasters
Water carriers
Inner tents
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