



104 YEARS ~ 1915 - 2019

# WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2019



*Cymru Am Byth*



Front Cover: Gdsm Graham, 5 Platoon, 2 Company, who joined Battalion in June 19, engages enemy on Onion Ranges in the Falklands during a platoon attack.

This Page: Welsh Guards Boxing Team: The reigning Household Division Champions (left to right as you look at the picture). Front Row: Gdsm Woosnam, SSgt Harrison RAPTC, Maj Butler G, Lt Col H Llewelyn-Usher, WO1 (RSM) M Parry, Sgt Evans 07. Middle Row: Cfm Ambler REME, Sgt Lucas, Lcpl Moriarty, Lcpl Dennis, CSgt Deren, Gdsm Smith, Gdsm Evans. Back Row: Gdsm Gronow, Gdsm Roberts, Dmr Power, Gdsm Faulkner, Lcpl Hughes, Gdsm Durkan, Gdsm Cobb-Evans, Lt Ruscombe-King, Gdsm Grimshaw, Gdsm Davies, Gdsm Williams.



## **WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE**

### **2019**

#### **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

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5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

Régiment de marche du Tchad

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**Welsh Guards  
Third Regimental Council Meeting  
Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright  
Tuesday 19th February 2019**

Left to Right:

General Sir Redmond Watt KCB KCVO CBE, Major General BJ Bathurst CBE, Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB GCVO OBE DL,  
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC, Major General RJÆStanford MBE, Lieutenant Colonel DWN Bevan MVO,  
Colonel TCS Bonas



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Major General R J Æ Stanford MBE, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

# FOREWORD



**M**anning the Battalion has been a constant theme in the past 12 months which has focussed people's attention as we have been Company plus down for the year. The reasons for this have been well aired in the media so I will not dwell on them here. Suffice to say, Welsh Guardsmen have stepped forward and put in the effort needed to ensure our Regiment thrives into the future. The corner has been turned thanks to the combined efforts of the Regimental Support Team, the priority accorded to it by the Commanding Officer, the new centralised Foot Guards approach and the personal attention of the Major General.

This has helped support the Army Recruiting and Initial Training Group and Capita to best effect and I am glad to report that some of the failings of previous systems are now being put right and the numbers entering training are almost double previous years. There are green shoots of optimism on the recruiting front and collectively we need to ensure this continues into the future accompanied by good retention. The future looks brighter and this also includes the opportunity to recruit from the other 50% of the population as the Foot Guards and Household Cavalry are now open to women. It may seem a little odd to begin my foreword covering manning so prominently, however, we all have a role in both attracting high quality people to join and helping encourage them to stay in our Regiment. The past 12 months has demonstrated clearly that when those who really care about the Welsh Guards are involved in the manning challenge great things are possible. My thanks to everyone involved in this endeavor, from recruiters, the Regimental Support Team, members of the Battalion, the old and bold as well as to partners and parents; I am very grateful for the hard work and understanding of you all during the year.

For the Battalion, the Op TORAL tour last year was rounded off when the Colonel presented medals in Pirbright in February. He also visited the Officers and Sergeants Messes and met many of the families. The Colonel also chaired our third Regimental Council meeting on the same day. This year has been dominated by the Battalion's commitment to State Ceremonial and Public Duties including providing street liners for the Queen's Birthday Parade and various Guards of Honour. Perhaps the most memorable Guard of Honour was for HM The Queen and President Trump to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D Day in Portsmouth. Public Duties and State Ceremonial has been set against a very tight manning situation requiring very detailed work in Battalion Headquarters to make sure the right number of guardsmen are

available on parade.

Aside from public duties, the Battalion have also had time to hold a two-week battle camp in Sennybridge in June as well as exercising at the Combined Arms Staff Training (CAST) in Catterick in October. No 2 Company deployed to the Falklands in August as the Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC). We thought it appropriate that the front cover of the Magazine should depict their deployment given the Regiment's close links to the Islands since 1982. The Battalion moved to Combermere Barracks in Windsor in July. We hope this move may last as long as it did for the Household Cavalry, some 200 years, to give greater stability for the long term. The Battalion's first impressions are favourable and with some minor improvements to infrastructure it will soon feel like home. Interspersed with all this activity there has been plenty of adventurous training and sports and many of these are covered in the magazine.

The Battalion has had an excellent year and we continue to have real strength in depth in both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. As a result we have both officers and senior ranks in a variety of key appointments both within the UK and many abroad including Pakistan, Germany, USA, Belgium, Africa, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The Regimental Band remain front and centre of the Regiment and have been engaged in many high-profile events this year including playing in the Principality Stadium, Twickenham, the FA Cup Final and attending the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Brussels. I am delighted that they have been able to take part in so many Regimental events including of course St David's Day, Remembrance Sunday but also a KAPE tour in September with the Battalion. I was also pleased they could play at the Rupert Thorneloe Memorial Polo Cup and Tournament in Kirtlington on 2 July. They do really superb concerts and the St David's Day Concert in the Guards Chapel in March and their one in St Peter's Church in Carmarthen in September were

notable occasions. The Band is almost fully manned, and we have been very fortunate that our previous two Directors of Music have been promoted to Lt Col, our current Director of Music is proving to be equally talented. Morale is high and their musical ability across a wide spectrum hugely impressive.

This year has been a unique and special one for the Association in that they have celebrated the centenary of their formation in 1919. It was marked in September with a Church Service and lunch in Cardiff with nearly 200 Association members attending and where a special centenary brochure was produced to mark and record this special year. It is sad to see some branches beginning to fade but I believe this is offset by the Association wide activities which take place throughout the year. St David's Day was very well attended in Brecon on 1st March as was the Falklands Re-union in Wrexham in June. The annual battlefield tour remains a cornerstone of the Association's activity each year and none more so than this year when 45 Association members visited Hechtel, Arras, Mons and Bavai in September. I am most grateful to Captain Lyndon Davies and Andy Morgan for their tireless dedication in organising this really successful annual trip which was enjoyed by all. My thanks also go to the President, Colonel Tom Bonas and his Trustees, the Vice-Presidents Brigadier Johnny Rickett and Captain Chris Hopkins, the Secretary General Maldwyn Jones, the Assistant Secretary General Neil Rice and the Treasurer, Major Martin Browne, for all their work in support of the Association. Welsh Guards Re-united (WGR) continues to be a very important part of Association activity and much credit must go to Branch Presidents, Secretaries and Committees who do so much to keep their branches alive and kicking. We should also not forget the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club who held their bi-annual dinner in Llanelli on 20 September where some 150 gathered for a most enjoyable evening. My thanks go to Lieutenant Colonel Alun Bowen and his

committee for organizing this important event and for running this very successful Club. Whilst the Association, like many others, face challenges I think we can be very proud that ours is still a strong one and its activity levels very healthy.

The Welsh Guards Charity remains in excellent shape and may I extend my warmest thanks to the great many who have supported it again this year. Donations are the life blood of any charity and we have been touched by how many have contributed and in so many different ways. The list is very long indeed but they range from a smoothie making stall at a Musical Festival (donation every year) to marathons, swimming lakes to individual donations. These donations have amounted to some £56,000 this year, an impressive sum which enables us to continue to achieve our charitable aims. Our charity website is probably one of the best in the business and Major Martin Browne, who runs it, should be congratulated on this achievement. It is always up to date, packed full of information, and a superb fora for learning what is going on in the Charity and Regiment. I do commend a visit to the site.

In support of our charitable aims we continue to employ a Regimental Veterans Officer, Jiffy Myers, whose work over the past six years has been immense and his contribution to the Regiment, and in particular our veteran community, has been outstanding. He has helped, and continues to help, a great many people. Our welfare support would not be the same without him and his dedication to his work. I extend enormous thanks to him.

The preservation of our Regimental Heritage and educating the wider audience are a part of our charitable aims and, as a Regiment, we take time to help commemorate our history and in the process bringing it to life for serving guardsmen and veterans. We took part in the D Day Normandy 75th Anniversary by sending a Battalion detachment under

Capt Paul Razall to Normandy over the 6 June period visiting Arranches, Asnelles, Charles St Percy and Montchamp. Another Battalion detachment under Captains Rhydian Emlyn-Williams and Orme Clarke took part in the 75th liberation ceremony in Arras on 1 September, the day the Welsh Guards liberated the City in 1944. The 75th anniversary of the liberation of Brussels on 3 September 1944 was attended by the Regimental Adjutant and his wife along with the Regimental Band. I have already mentioned the Association battlefield tour, and we should not forget the equally successful Regimental Battlefield tour also in September. Some 22 Club members, members of the Battalion and some Drapers attended this very interesting and enjoyable tour in which Brigadier Johnny Rickett covered the British Expeditionary Force's withdrawal to the beaches and the battles and engagements around the Dunkirk perimeter. Four members of the group had very close relations at Dunkirk which made the visit to the beaches particularly poignant. This was the 5th Regimental Battlefield tour in succession and another is planned for next year. Major Charlie Carty continues to organise spring trips for our Falkland veterans and I remain so grateful to him for the time and effort he puts into these which are always helpful and therapeutic visits.

The Regiment is now affiliated to a number of Combined Cadet Forces in schools; Treorchy our first but now also the Oratory, Dulwich College, Millfield and Berkhamsted. The latter two had their inaugural cap badging parades this year and we welcome them into the family. We also have a number of ACF detachments in Wales and elsewhere. They are well supported by the Regimental Support Teams, North and South, and we should thank them for their sterling work both in their support to them and in their recruiting achievements. I congratulate both Lance

Sergeant Duffy for his award of a CGS Commendation and Lance Sergeant Jury, for receiving Commander Home Command's Commendation in recognition of their work as head of our RST's North and South respectively.

Our affiliations with HMS Prince of Wales, 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and Régiment de Marche du Tchad, the Drapers Company and the Friends of the Regiment remain very strong. The Battalion command group spent a day in the Drapers Hall and a visit by them to Combermere Barracks is planned next year. Many other contacts exist with the Drapers Company and we remain very proud of our affiliation to them over many years now and for all the support they continue to give to the Regiment. The same is true of our 'Friends of the Regiment' who also support us in so many ways as well. A lunch organised by Colonel Alan Peterson and his family at the Harrow in Little Bedwyn in July raised over £20,000 for our charity. Through the Peterson family, our links also with the Welsh Rugby Union are also thriving and enables us to see our Band play in the Principality Stadium and for our Guardsmen to be present as well.

Very much at the core of the Regiment are the Regimental Trustee's. Whilst they only meet formally twice a year, there are a number of sub-committees responsible for different aspects of Regimental activity and there is regular communication amongst them all throughout the year. They work very hard on behalf of the Regiment and are our guardians ensuring we achieve our charitable objectives and that we remain strong and protected from potential dangers. By way of example we are most fortunate to have a number of trustees who have an excellent knowledge of the stock market and they advised a change of management for the charitable funds to achieve a better potential return and

greater protection from market volatility. We are extremely well served by all the trustees who bring together a wealth of various experience and a common bond of dedication and energy to supporting the Regimental family. My thanks to them all.

My final thank you is reserved for our small team at Regimental Headquarters. Colonel Tom Bonas continues to be the firm foundation of all manner of matters Regimental, in particular his superb work in officer recruiting is self-evident by the very strong cohort of officers in the Regiment. His sterling work as President of the Association keeps the wider Regimental family going. My thanks for all he continues to do for us. Major Martin Browne has had a considerable impact on Regimental business since he assumed the appointment in January 2017; his energy is boundless and his output unceasing. The Regimental Adjutant is very ably supported by RQMS Davies 03 who very pro-active throwing himself into all manner of things. Lance Sergeant Laing achieves a considerable amount as well and ever helpful, no matter what the question or query. Yvonne Brown has now been in RHQ for 39 years and is a font of Regimental knowledge. They do a superb job in supporting us all in the Regiment and my sincere thanks to them.

2020 promises to be an important year for the Regiment when we Troop our Colour, The Colonel will Review His Company. The Prince of Wales's Company will exercise in Belize in February and March and the Battalion will exercise in Kenya in October and November.

Much of what I have touched on in my Foreword is covered in articles in the magazine. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading them all and I hope you will as well.

Lieutenant Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher, Commanding Officer 1st Battalion

# FOREWORD

As I write, the dust of Afghanistan has long since been washed away to be replaced by the sound of drums beating and boots crunching as the routine of life on Public Duties abounds. While we may have swapped the streets of Kabul for those of London and Windsor, memories of the heat of a summer in the Hindu Kush are quickly replicated when marking time wearing tunic and bearskin cap! We are most definitely back on the Blue Line.

After the success of last year's operational tour in Afghanistan, the Battalion had a much-deserved soft landing into 2019. Long overdue Adventurous Training and the final weeks of post tour leave meant that all returned refreshed to Pirbright late in the New Year. The wonderful support that the Battalion received, at both its homecoming parade in Cardiff and the Medals Parade at Elizabeth Barracks, at which our Colonel kindly gave his full support presenting Operational and Long Service medals, rounded off our time in 11X in style.

With the move back to London District, and a return to State Ceremonial and Public Duties now firmly on our radar, the Battalion set its sights on the Maj-Gen's inspection in mid-March. With tailoring and drill the order of the day, the parade square at Elizabeth Barracks once again rang to the shouts from the Drill Sergeants as Guardsmen got to grips with the formats for Queen's, Windsor Castle and Tower Guards. Having both the Maj-Gen and Bde Maj as Welsh Guardsmen at our inspection was a memorable moment and a wonderful way to re-enter the fold of London District.

With ceremonial duties our principle focus, Palace Guards quickly became the norm, with several notable state events coming our way. Our commitment to support the memorable D-Day 75 celebrations in the same week as a very windy Queen's Birthday Parade, followed by the Garter Service in Windsor, saw all in the Battalion dedicated to major large-scale parades during the high summer.

And yet, with the Queen's Birthday Parade barely over, and summer leave sniffing at the

heels of despair, we got set for arguably our biggest challenge this year, our unit move to Combermere Barracks Windsor. One can't underestimate both the palpable sense of excitement of all in the Battalion, but also the sadness of those in the Household Cavalry. They had after all resided in Combermere for 200 years, mounting every major campaign from this Barracks; from Waterloo, through the Boer War, two World Wars, and into the wars of the modern era in Iraq and Afghanistan. One cannot take too lightly the significant effort that goes with a unit move, and only those who have undertaken one will fully appreciate the demand. But move we did, and in good order, with significant kudos owed to the Quartermaster's and Welfare Departments; over 150 lorry loads of kit, upwards of 50 families all carefully moved, and all done to the highest standard, notwithstanding the fact that half the Battalion had to pack up early for the deployment to the Falklands in August. But, now settled in Windsor as the autumn leaves fall from the ancient oaks in the Great Park, all are conscious of the wonderful opportunities our new residence offers; the park on our doorstep, life (and night-life) in the town, proximity to the Castle for guard mounts, and of course the fact that the M4 and M25 are but 5 minutes from the front gate mean that finally, we have a place to call home that all are happy with.

And yet as half the Battalion settles into the Royal Borough, the other half maintains the UK's standing support to the security of the Falkland Islands. An extended grouping centred on No 2 Company are now well into their 4-month tour and have been met with rapturous praise wherever they have been

on the Islands. Along with the inevitable live firing on Onion Ranges, routine life at Mount Pleasant, and of course essential battlefield tours, the men of the island of the mighty have conducted several long-range patrols to the far-flung corners of the islands, being met with all the hospitality generations of young Welshmen have experienced. Pots of tea by peat burning Agas, slices of fruit cake in warm kitchens, and Welsh flags quickly run up wind lashed flagpoles are par for the course from the grateful islanders that the men have met. But, as ever no one stands still for too long. While one half of the Battalion battles with the inimitable South Atlantic winter, the other is beginning its preparation for its deployment to the jungles of Belize early next year – what more proof required of the many and varied facets of life that being a Welsh Guardsman affords.

With all the unique demands that life on public duties brings, time spent letting off steam playing sport, conducting essential Adventure Training and extracurricular activities still has a firm place in the life of the Bn. With an eye on what makes Welshmen so world renowned, we have rebuilt the Battalion Rugby team, re-established the Choir and run a series of successful boxing events. And as ever, along with these and a myriad of other sports and activities, trips and events that we have undertaken, those in the Battalion remain indebted to the generous and continued support from our trustees.

And so, with the prospect of exercises in Belize and Kenya and a host of other activities, we look to 2020 as our development year ahead of a planned Operational Tour in 2021. While numbers remain tight, our recruitment efforts are beginning to have an effect and the dividends of some significant investment will soon be felt. The latest batch of some 60 Trainee Guardsmen at Catterick will hit the Battalion just in time to help Troop our Colour in June 2020; surely the highpoint of any Battalion on public duties, and something we now all have firmly in mind as 2019 begins to draw to an end.

# THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

Y DDRAIG GOCH DDYRY CYCHWYN - THE RED DRAGON GIVES A LEAD



1

Maj Davies  
 Lt Leonard  
 2Lt Anscombe-Bell  
 2Lt Burfiend  
 WO2 Scarf  
 CSgt Cunningham  
 Sgt Hiscock  
 Sgt Braithwaite  
 Sgt Rutledge  
 LSgt Gurung AGC (SPS)  
 LSgt Lovell  
 LSgt Pickersgill-Jones  
 LSgt Williams 70  
 LSgt Williams-Day  
 LSgt Viavalevu

LCpl Ceesay 09  
 LCpl Collins  
 LCpl Divavesi  
 LCpl Dyer  
 LCpl Knill  
 LCpl Macaulay AGC (SPS)  
 LCpl Noyes  
 LCpl Thomas 76  
 LCpl Phillips  
 LCpl Williams 22  
 Gdsm Bastable  
 Gdsm Campbell  
 Gdsm Clarke  
 Gdsm Cleave  
 Gdsm Deemer

Gdsm Green  
 Gdsm Griffin  
 Gdsm Hunt  
 Gdsm Jacobs  
 Gdsm Jackson  
 Gdsm Jackson  
 Gdsm Kinsey  
 Gdsm Milne  
 Gdsm Morgan  
 Gdsm Murphy  
 Gdsm Nabukebuke  
 Gdsm Namakadre  
 Gdsm O'Brien  
 Gdsm O'Connor  
 Gdsm Podmore

Gdsm Powell  
 Gdsm Ryan  
 Gdsm Sandall  
 Gdsm Scott  
 Gdsm Smith 35  
 Gdsm Smith 85  
 Gdsm Sinclair  
 Gdsm Tennant  
 Gdsm Thomas  
 Gdsm Underhill  
 Gdsm Valentine  
 Gdsm Wannell  
 Gdsm Watson

2019 for The Prince of Wales's Company has been characterised by a return to traditional activities, going back to basics on many fronts after the complexities and demands of an operational tour and all that it entails. Adventurous training, sport, freedom parades, battle camps and ceremonial duties have been the hallmark of the year so far.

In December a re-orbat of the Battalion was carried out with the priority for manpower going to the specialist platoons. This resulted in a much-reduced Prince of Wales's Company, reliant instead on a steady flow of new Guardsman from the Guards Training Company in Catterick. Despite our smaller size we maintained continuity with many of the key posts filled by the incumbents from the tour.

The focus for the very beginning of 2019 was to get everyone away on adventurous training. This saw individuals mountain-biking in Scotland and a good proportion on the Battalion ski trip in Austria which was generously funded by the Trustees.

At the beginning of the year the final pieces of Op TORAL 6 were put to bed as we welcomed the Prince of Wales to Elizabeth Barracks where he presented the medals to his Company, taking the time to talk to everyone as he did so. This was a real privilege and showed just how important the Company is to him.

The very next day we moved to Cardiff for the Homecoming Parade and were well-received by the people of Cardiff as we marched through the centre of the city with bayonets fixed. The Company was inspected by the Lord Mayor and had the opportunity to meet Welsh rugby legends Sam Warburton and Ryan Jones at

the reception in the Arms Park afterwards.

Now that the tour in Kabul was firmly in the rear-view mirror our attention turned to resuming ceremonial duties and the requisite Major General's inspection. Much time and effort was spent ensuring that trousers were the correct length, tunics fitted, curbchains sat correctly and plumes were just the right shape. After jumping through the hurdles of the pre-inspections the day itself went well and The Prince of Wales's Company was ready to take up its duties guarding the Royal Palaces and the Tower of London.

The privilege of mounting the Battalion's first Queen's Guard for several years fell to us with the Commanding Officer, Battalion Second in Command and Adjutant as the officers of the Guard. We then settled in to a steady period of guards, commuting back and forth to Wellington Barracks from Pirbright. One of the highlights from the State Ceremonial and Public Duties period were the D-Day celebrations in June where many of the Jam Boys took part in the Guard of Honour in front of Her Majesty, heads

1. *Winners of the inaugural Evison Cup, inter-company sevens.*
2. *The Mayor of Wrexham inspecting the Company on the KAPE tour.*
3. *LCpl Dyer getting to know the police on the Company initiative day.*



2



3



of state from around the world including those of the USA, France, Canada and Germany as well as a huge TV audience. In anticipation of our own Troop next year we provided street-liners for this year's Queen's Birthday Parade. Around these ceremonial events members of the Company have been taking part in a multitude of other events, the articles for which can be seen later in the magazine.

In June the Company won the inaugural Evison Cup, an inter-company rugby sevens tournament. Although the first-choice team was so strong that it formed the majority of the Battalion's sevens team a few weeks later, many of the more inexperienced members of the Company, some of whom had hardly played rugby before, also enjoyed a good run out.

By June Op TORAL 6 seemed a very distant memory as we were given the opportunity to spend two weeks in Sennybridge focusing on section and platoon level activity on our CT1 (Collective Training Level 1) exercise. This was a much-anticipated break from ceremonial duties where individuals could go back to basics and freshen up their infanteering skills. Section commanders had the opportunity to run through section lanes and the platoon commanders conducted advance to contacts and deliberate attacks. Although this CT1 exercise was our most concentrated period of green soldiering this year, individuals and teams have been supporting activities army-wide throughout the year. One such task involved members of the company supporting the SAS on a counter-terrorism exercise – a

definite change of scene to their normal activities!

At the end of July the Company moved, along with the rest of the Battalion, to Combermere Barracks in Windsor. After many enjoyable years in Pirbright the anticipation was palpable as we moved into a new barracks on the outskirts of an iconic town. The Company is now well-settled and enjoying its new home, particularly given the convenience for carrying out Windsor Guard duty.

The summer period saw a significant changeover of personalities within the Company with the Company Second in Command (Lt Luca Vincenzini), Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CSgt Greaves) and several of the Platoon Sergeants all leaving us. The team in place now will take the Company to Belize in February next year for six

weeks of jungle training.

After summer leave we initially received eight new Guardsmen for whom their first few weeks in the Welsh Guards were slightly unrepresentative of the general pattern of life. A few have managed in their first five weeks to squeeze in a Windsor Guard, an initiative day in London with evening smoker, a KAPE tour round Wales and finally, five days trekking in the mountains of Oman!

In early September the Guardsmen and Lance Corporals were released into central London in small groups on a development day with nothing more than a list of tasks requiring initiative, confidence and ingenuity and with strict instructions to achieve their tasks without getting arrested! Having accomplished their missions



3

everyone returned to Windsor for an enjoyable smoker at the sports pavilion, making the most of the last of the summer weather.

The following week we set out on our KAPE tour, receiving a fantastic welcome in the towns of Wrexham and Carmarthen as we exercised our Freedom (more in the KAPE tour article later in this magazine). Given the great weather, rapturous welcome, activities in the sidelines and the opportunity to show off to friends and family back in Wales, it was without doubt one of the highlights of the year for the Company.

Just 10 days later Lt Jonny Leonard departed with five others from the Company on a week-long expedition to the Dhofar hills in Oman, Exercise Desert Dragon. For one new Guardsman, in his fifth week in the Battalion, it

was also his first time on a plane, adding greatly to the excitement. There will be more expeditions to come for the Jam Boys over the course of the next twelve months.

Not to be outdone in the organisational stakes, Sgt Rhys Rutledge, Number 2 Platoon Sgt, has organised a week's development course, in conjunction with the police, for youths susceptible to taking part in crime. Called Defeat, Don't Repeat this takes around 30 individuals under the age of 18 to Longmoor camp for a week where they will be put through their paces and take part in confidence-building exercises in an effort to inspire them to make the most of their lives and turn away from crime.

The Jam Boys also formed the nucleus of the large Guard of Honour outside the Houses of Parliament for the State

Opening. It was exciting to be a part of this given the extra interest surrounding the event and the opportunity to march past the Queen in the quadrangle of Buckingham Palace at the end.

2019 has been a year of variety, challenges and great excitement for the leading Company. As we approach the end of what has been a varied year we look forward to a hugely exciting 2020 with increased manning and some excellent exercises in Belize and Kenya on the horizon.

1. Sgt Rutledge during an attack on a glorious day in Sennybridge.
2. LSgt Williams 70 after a job well done on battle camp.
3. Wrexham KAPE - Ready for inspection.

# NUMBER TWO COMPANY

GWYR YNYS Y CEDYRN - THE MEN OF THE ISLAND OF THE MIGHTY



Maj Fenton  
 Lt Ward  
 Lt Powell  
 2Lt Haines-Henderson  
 2Lt Richardson  
 WO2 McEvoy  
 CSgt Sale MC  
 Sgt Brown  
 Sgt Ducie  
 Sgt Powell  
 LSgt Asare-Bediako  
 LSgt Burrows-Jones  
 LSgt Duffel  
 LSgt Langley  
 LSgt Martin  
 LSgt Tancock

LCpl Bond  
 LCpl Brace  
 LCpl Coy  
 LCpl Dean  
 LCpl Jones 94  
 LCpl Lucas  
 LCpl Patel  
 LCpl Prothero  
 LCpl Rai  
 LCpl Rowlands-Bell  
 LCpl Thapa  
 LCpl Tucker  
 Gdsm Al-Ekely  
 Gdsm Blackstone  
 Gdsm Cattell  
 Gdsm Cobb-Evans

Gdsm Collins 09  
 Gdsm Davies 72  
 Gdsm Doyle  
 Gdsm Durkan  
 Gdsm Graham  
 Gdsm Griffiths 86  
 Gdsm Gronow  
 Gdsm Hamer  
 Gdsm James  
 Gdsm Jenkins  
 Gdsm Jones 46  
 Gdsm Jones 73  
 Gdsm Krajewski-Moore  
 Gdsm Lamond  
 Gdsm Maclauchlin  
 Gdsm Nightingale

Gdsm Owen 97  
 Gdsm Owen 98  
 Gdsm Owen 56  
 Gdsm Peacock  
 Gdsm Sherlock  
 Gdsm Twose  
 Gdsm Wilkinson  
 Gdsm Williams 46  
 Gdsm Williams 21  
 Gdsm Williamson

**W**ith State Ceremonial and Public Duties sandwiched between two operational deployments to Afghanistan and the Falkland Islands, the Men of the Island of the Mighty have truly embodied the dual role of a Guardsman in the past 12 months.

Number 2 Company's return from Afghanistan in early December 18 signalled the end of the Battalion's deployment on Op TORAL 6; the main effort of the last 18 months was over, and fresh challenges awaited. The first task was a major restructuring of personnel. Many who had served with 2 Company in Kabul went to Support and 3 Company to work in specialist platoons. And so the company that came back from some well-earned post-tour leave in January 19, looked rather different to the tight-knit company that had been forged through 18-months of training and operations together. I am sure many will agree with me in saying that the silver lining of this shake-up, is that 3 Company and Support Company will certainly be better off for having a strong core of Men of the Island of the Mighty amongst their ranks!

The first remedy for the new-look 2 Company was some bonding on Adventurous Training. 30 or so of 2 Company were put through their paces on the Battalion Ski Trip in Alpendorf, Austria - many enjoying their first-time skiing. The slopes and après bars proved the perfect re-introduction to work following six weeks of leave. Having skied hard and swung from the ceilings whilst listening to Austrian megamix après tunes, we all returned refreshed and ready to meet the next challenge - the Major General's Inspection.

It had been three years since the company had last served on the Blue Line. The older hands dusted-off and squeezed into

their tunics. But most in the company had to be measured-up for what would be their first experience of ceremonial duties. CSM Jefferies and CQMS 'former Drum Major and all round drill guru' Johnson whipped the company into shape with intentions of exceeding the Major General's high expectations; needless to say, their efforts paid off, with the Company mounting its first Windsor Castle Guard the very next day and a Queen's Guard soon after.

The period between the Inspection in March and our Battle Camp in June was a blur of State Ceremonial and Public Duties. Although 2 Company had personnel on duty for 10 out of the 14 weekends over this time, there was respite for some members of the company. LSgt Burrows Jones deployed to Belize as part of a Short-Term Training Team (STTT), teaching the Belizean Defence Force promotion hopefuls on a JNCO cadre. And Lt O Clarke deployed to Saudi Arabia as an Urban Warfare Instructor, also as part of a STTT, imparting his knowledge to crack Saudi troops. Both experiences are written about elsewhere in this Journal.

Other highlights for the company this year included the inter-company sports competitions. 2 Company was extremely well represented in the boxing by Lt Ruscombe-King, Gdsm Gronow, Gdsm Cobb-Evans and Gdsm Durkan. Gronow and Cobb-Evans both valiantly won their fights, but there would only be one winner in the headline bout between the two heavy-weights -



1. Members of No 2 Company, with a few imposters, on the slopes in Alpendorf, Austria. All in this group went from snow ploughing on day 1, to skiing (or controlled falling) down black slopes by the last day. L-Rt: LSgt Lewis, LSgt Williams Day, LCpl Dean, Lt Ward, Gdsm James, LCpl Bilkey, Gdsm Maund, LCpl Lucas
2. Gdsm Cobb-Evans receives his victor's trophy from the Commanding Officer.
3. Lt Ruscombe King and Gdsm Durkan, both 4 PI, battle it out in the ring.
4. 2 Company dismounting a Queen's Guard.



Ruscombe-King v Durkan. It was the fight everyone wanted to see – 4 Pl Comd v 4 Pl Gdsm. Ruscombe-King was full of confidence. His intimidating stare-down of Gdsm Durkan as he entered the ring would have unsettled a lesser man, but not Durkan. He landed two vicious right hooks soon after the opening bell and the fight was stopped in the first round. Durkan might have won the fight, but Ruscombe-King did prove that his face was stronger than Durkan's hand! The company remains immensely proud of our four fighters who took to the ring that night.

The inter-company rugby 7s competition was not fruitful for 2 Company, despite LCpl Lucas' best efforts. Although we had a strong team on paper, we were unable to avoid the wooden spoon on this occasion. The only, albeit significant, consolation was our victory over The Prince of Wales's Company. Well done to LCpl Lucas who captained the side, and all those that took part.

Amidst the backdrop of company sports, mounting guards and street lining for

the Queen's Birthday Parade, we had to keep a weather eye on getting ready for 2 Company's main event of 2019 – deploying to the Falklands as the Roulement Incremental Company in August. 2 Company reconstituted itself as 2 Company Group for the deployment, with familiar faces from 2 Company on Op TORAL 6 welcomed back into the fold. Our pre-deployment training culminated with a two-week Battle Camp in Brecon in June, with the highlight for most being the aviation assault using a Chinook helicopter. This time away from the Blue Line was a welcome break for everyone, and it allowed us to focus on basic field craft and section level training that would prove to be so important in the Falklands.

2 Company had a week and half left in-camp on returning from battle camp. Not wanting to waste any time, we managed to cram into these ten days: a unit move from Pirbright to Windsor; final preparations for deployment; and one last Queen's Guard before hanging up the bearskins until December. It truly was a gargantuan effort that capped-

off a very busy four months. Well-deserved summer leave followed, allowing us all to remind our loved ones what we looked like before heading 8,000 miles south to the Falklands (this deployment is the subject of another article in this journal).

There has been a wholesale change of personalities within 2 Company since returning from Op TORAL. Maj Beare departed for MOD Main Building; WO2 Jefferies returned to Afghanistan (again) as part of the Infantry Advisory Team on Op TORAL 7; CQMS Johnson moved on promotion to take-over as CSM Sp Coy; Capt Elletson (2ic) is now the Regimental Signals Officer; Lt O Clarke left 5 Pl for HQ LONDIST as Aide de Camp to the General Officer Commanding London District; Lt Ruscombe-King, Sgt Small, LSgt Parry LSgt Duffell and LSgt Millens are all now in training establishments; LSgt Langley moved on promotion to become the Guards Para Pl Sgt; and many others moved elsewhere in the battalion or wider Army. We wish you all well. Meanwhile: Maj Fenton arrived in August; WO2

(CSM) McEvoy returned from instructing at RMAS; CSgt Sale MC took-over as CQMS; Sgt Ducie SG became 4 Pl Sgt; and we welcomed three new Pl Comds – 2Lts Haines-Henderson, Richardson and (now Lt) Powell. The majority of this new team should guide 2 Company through the deployment to the Falklands, the Queen's Birthday Parade in 2020 and the Battalion's overseas exercise in autumn 2020.

By the time you read this, more personalities will have changed over, 2 Company will have returned from the Falkland Islands, and we will be preparing once more to march up and down Buckingham Palace forecourt for a stint of Public Duties over Christmas. Here is to the Gwyr yns y cedyrn, past and present!

1. 4 Platoon enjoy a Platoon Day out at Ninja Warrior Aqua Park in Windsor.



# NUMBER THREE COMPANY

FY NUW, FY NGWLAD, FY MRENIN - MY GOD, MY LAND, MY KING



1

1. Number 3 Company mounting Guard at Windsor Castle.

Maj Kendall COLDM GDS  
 Capt McNeil Love  
 Capt Clarke  
 Capt Andersen  
 Lt Vincenzini  
 WO2 Hughes  
 CSgt Cummins  
 CSgt Evans  
 CSgt Pearce  
 Sgt Bladen  
 Sgt Browning  
 Sgt Doyle  
 LSgt Brown  
 LSgt Chambers  
 LSgt Davies

LSgt Buretini  
 LSgt Everett  
 LSgt Forgan  
 LSgt Haines  
 LSgt Morgan  
 LSgt Moseley  
 LSgt Retallick  
 LSgt Roberts  
 LSgt Roos  
 LSgt Williams  
 LCpl Bilkey  
 LCpl Couling  
 LCpl Duval  
 LCpl Goodwin  
 LCpl Goss

LCpl Hall  
 LCpl Howells 28  
 LCpl Howells 27  
 LCpl Jones 73  
 LCpl Jones 13  
 LCpl Jones 71  
 LCpl Kwateng  
 LCpl Phillips  
 LCpl Robins  
 LCpl Sandison  
 LCpl Watters  
 LCpl Williams (88)  
 Gdsm Al-Ekely  
 Gdsm Dade  
 Gdsm Davis 82

Gdsm Davies 14  
 Gdsm Davies 37  
 Gdsm Emanuel  
 Gdsm Hender  
 Gdsm Howells  
 Gdsm Jones  
 Gdsm McBride  
 Pte Reynolds AGC (SPS)  
 Gdsm Roberts  
 Gdsm Taylor  
 Gdsm Toombs  
 Gdsm Walker  
 Gdsm Williams 45  
 Gdsm Williams 93



1



2

1. *Surprising dog walkers across Surrey.*
2. *'Hearts and Minds' - Community Engagement in Windsor.*
3. *It doesn't always rain in Sennybridge.*
4. *The Recce Platoon still smiling after two days underground.*
5. *A spot of mid-week paragliding.*

Returning from operations is always an interesting experience, whether because you realise that much is the same, or whether because you are suddenly aware of how much you have changed. It was therefore a relief to many that it still rained a lot in Pirbright, the local pub was still a two mile walk away, and that the accommodation block showers continued to rotate on 'heating strike'. However, the elixir of almost six weeks leave, with a subsequent trip to sample the delights of Alpine Skiing in Austria, quickly energised tired souls returning to Wales for some very well earned post-operational stand-down.

It was also a time for significant structural change, with many of the Company moving on to fresh pastures, including the Company Commander, Company Sergeant Major, Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS) and most of the Platoon strengths. Reverting to form the ISR Group (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) had necessitated a wholesale change in manpower, and it was therefore the sight of many 'busy trollies' and a rather stressed CQMS which greeted those returning from local, and far-flung adventures. 2019 also presented another challenge, that of returning to the Blue Line, a very different role from the operational cycle we had just left. Although we would of course continue to maintain our readiness as front-line Infanteers, our primary focus was to be the delivery of State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD). This is no meagre challenge and, with the daily reminders from the Sergeant Major of the impending Major General's Inspection, we set to work. Tunics were fitted, tweeds were adjusted, boots were bulled, bearskins were washed, Drill Sergeants were

bribed and, without really knowing how, February passed and the day arrived. Needless to say, we sailed through, with the endless hours of preparation and drill acknowledged by all who attended.

I could continue to sit on my sandbag and tell tales of Guards, but, as many of you will be only too aware, it is a ceremony which has stood the test of time, with the enduring excellence of the Guardsmen maintaining a national heartbeat too metronomic for storytelling. It would perhaps be better for me to say just how hard the Guardsmen have been working, and to doff my literary cap at their continued panache in delivering such a high profile role. There have, however, been two notable excursions, one half-way down the Mall as we street-lined for the Queen's Birthday Parade, and secondly to Portsmouth, where we were on parade for the 75th D-Day Anniversary. The emotional faces of those who had taken part in the landings, against the backdrop of plumed bearskins served as a stark reminder of the values and traditions we uphold, as well as the family

nature of the Regiment, as enduring today as it was over a hundred years ago. Indeed, I hope many of you will come to London, or find time to watch on TV, as we Troop the Regimental Colour next June.

Although the bearskins have put in more mileage than their original owners, the year has offered many other opportunities. Two members of the Company have deployed to the Middle East, their bespoke skills in great demand amongst the training cadres of our international partners, whilst we have most recently supported the 2 Company deployment to the Falkland Islands with both LSgts Forgan and Morgan. Indeed, many of the Company are shortly to deploy to the South Atlantic in order to reinforce the final live firing exercise, an opportunity to hone skills learnt this year and to pay their respects to those Welsh Guardsmen who went before them. There might also be a slight chance of a beer or two, perhaps even that of an hour's fishing, all freedoms ensured by former and current readers of this magazine!

This deployment will represent the final collective training of the year, one that has seen a build-up from almost a standing start. The Reconnaissance Platoon, now happily ensconced in rather fetching t-shirts, had welcomed 16 new arrivals in January, willing volunteers for their cadres, most of which seemed to be spent underground. Their new-found skills were aptly demonstrated when the Commanding Officer of the Royal Anglian Regiment, searching fruitlessly for his Snipers in a rain sodden Sennybridge woodblock, almost fell straight through the roof of their observation

post, stopped only by the gruff warning from the hidden aperture! Indeed, the platoon has had many successes, from excellent passes on the JNCO course by LCpls Phillips (65) and Williams (88), to the recent completion of the Recce Commanders' Course by Sgt Bladen. LSgt Brown is currently sharing a hole (on the same course) on Salisbury Plain with the future Platoon Commander, Lt Andersen, so it is safe to assume that the Platoon is well on its path to being ready for our test exercise in Kenya next Autumn.

The Anti-Tank Platoon has been similarly active, with Capt McNeill Love and CSgt Cummins delivering a fractured cadre plan around the heavy summer ceremonial rotation. With notable course successes, including a praiseworthy 2nd place for LSgt Moseley on the Detachment Commanders' Course, the Platoon looks on track for the challenges of 2020. I had wondered a little about the internal morale at the start of our Summer Battle Camp, but the replacement of grim stoicism by broad smiles, on learning the Platoon Commander and Platoon CSgt were 'down to the axles' in the Land Rover, quickly displaced any fears. All new members of the Platoon are now 'Javelin Gunners', taking their place as mentors for those whom we will recruit this winter.

Becoming a Sniper is a badge of honour and the Platoon goes from strength to strength, with two members passing the demanding Sniper Operators Course, and the Platoon Commander posting a strong success on the Commanders' version. Limited range time has been mitigated by dedication, with an impressive 2nd place garnered by our team





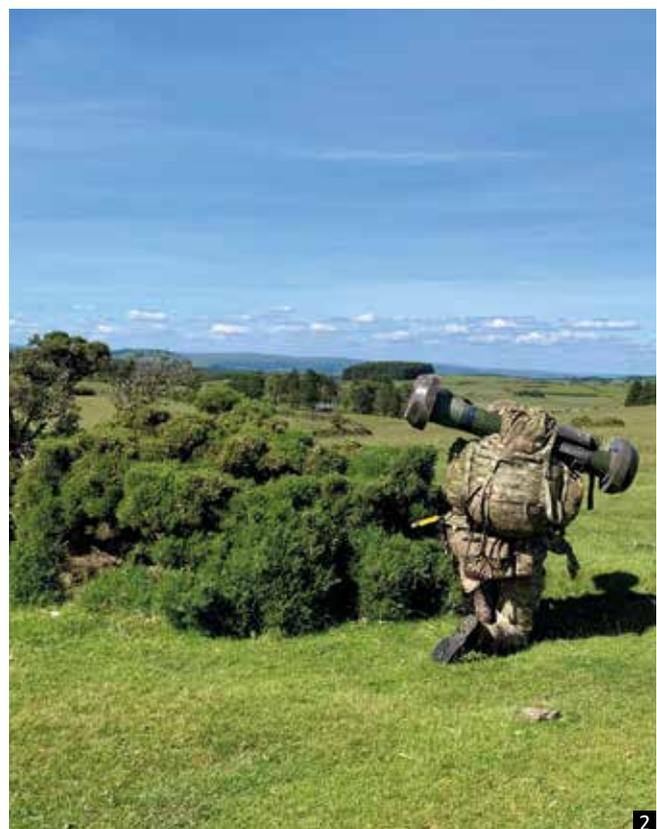
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in the Household Division and Parachute Regiment Competition. There is much to look forward to, and with successful pairs now established, we are on the path to reinforcing success. Very strong recruitment into the Battalion will allow us to cherry-pick some top shots, so watch this space!

As if this all wasn't enough, the Little Iron Men have found time to win the Battalion Crossfit competition, as well as wiping the floor in 5 a side football. We are deploying a number of the Company to Brunei in October, soon to return as Jungle Warfare Instructors, while we will form a significant part of the Guard of Honour for the State Opening of Parliament, Brexit and 'Extinction Rebellion' notwithstanding. There has been some skydiving, a few rather gusty days of

paragliding, a couple of forays to support exercises in Kenya, whilst outside the Battalion there have been call-ups for the Infantry Football team for both Gdsm Davies (14) and LCpl Williams (88). The Company Sergeant Major has even managed to get away to Chile, leading the Army Enduro Team to its highest ever International placing. In short, as life motors towards Christmas and a busy 2020, the Company can reflect, if only briefly, on a year of success, at home and abroad, in the public eye and sub-surface in Sennybridge!

1. Supporting exercises in Kenya.
2. 'Take a Knee!' Crossing Wales with a missile!
3. The cadres start.
4. African Tin village. Dawn in the bush.



2





WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

# SUPPORT COMPANY

NAC OFNA OND GWARTH - FEAR NOTHING BUT DISGRACE



Maj McDougall RWELSH  
 Capt Minihan  
 Lt Wilkinson  
 WO2 Johnson  
 DMaj Crew  
 CSgt Oldham  
 CSgt Qaimuri  
 Sgt Griffiths 04  
 Sgt Potts  
 Sgt Rees  
 Sgt Shaplaid  
 LSgt Davies 89  
 LSgt Evans 94  
 LSgt Jones 57  
 LSgt Lewis 39  
 LSgt Purvis  
 LSgt Rowlands

LSgt Singahteh-sambou  
 LSgt Skates  
 LSgt Van Eyssen  
 LSgt Price 51  
 LCpl Dennis  
 LCpl Dammeh  
 LCpl Gassama  
 LCpl Hughes 41  
 LCpl Matthews  
 LCpl Morgan 60  
 LCpl Siwale  
 LCpl Smith 05  
 LCpl Todd  
 LCpl Waqanisaravi  
 Dmr Asamoah  
 Dmr Hillman  
 Dmr Jones 92

Dmr Hughes 91  
 Dmr Power 61  
 Dmr Price 83  
 Dmr Parry  
 Dmr Roberts 69  
 Dmr Sarpak  
 Dmr Thomas 75  
 Dmr Woodward  
 Dmr Brain  
 Dmr Bowden  
 Dmr Evans 10  
 Dmr Grimshaw  
 Dmr Maund  
 Dmr Roberts 69  
 Dmr Roberts 03  
 Dmr Trematick  
 Gdsm Korosaya

Gdsm Burchill  
 Gdsm Bastable  
 Gdsm Davies 60  
 Gdsm Edwards 84  
 Gdsm Green  
 Gdsm Healy-Roberts  
 Gdsm Jones 14  
 Gdsm Kemp  
 Gdsm Lynch  
 Gdsm Mitchell  
 Gdsm Qaranivalu  
 Gdsm Rowlands 75  
 Gdsm Stott  
 Gdsm Smith 70  
 Gdsm Turner  
 Gdsm Woosnam

With Support Company being reformed in early February post Op TORAL 6 and a well-earned leave, Company Sergeant Major Young and I found ourselves with an experienced group who looked forward to rejuvenating their specialist skills. Support Company began the year with the Mortar Platoon, Machine Gun Platoon, Corps of Drums (Assault Pioneers) and Signals Platoon (moved to HQ in June 19).

In order to re-establish the esprit de corps required to gel the company, the primary focus was on integrating the new members of the company and getting familiar with the equipment again. Although the majority of the platoons had been placed with other company groups for TORAL, there had not been any opportunity to train and live fire on the specialist capabilities that support company offer. Like a Mortar Officer on a cheeseboard, the platoons were eager to get out on the ground and familiarise themselves with their weapon systems.

The Mortar Platoon was the first out of the blocks and conducted a three-week Mortar Cadre in Otterburn led by CSgt Oldham. The platoon conducted dry and live firing training which culminated in a 4-day live firing package. The extreme weather and a heavy blanket of snow tested the platoon during the final week, with only a hot ration pasty to keep them warm. In order to continue its reputation, the platoon also conducted a heavy carry detachment competition which reminded the commanders just how hard being a light role mortar platoon on the move can be.

This left the remainder of the platoons to concentrate on preparing for the Major General's Inspection, Op TORAL Medals Parade and the Freedom of Cardiff Parade where Support Company had

the honour of being inspected by Sam Warburton.

In late March, the Communication, Information Systems (CIS) Platoon ran an Infantry Platoon Radio Operators Course (IPRO). This course is designed to qualify a junior Guardsman to act as a platoon radio operator and also to prepare him for future signals courses such as the Regimental Signaller Course. This course was run in conjunction with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards CIS Platoon and was a great opportunity for inter-Household Division co-operation. The course syllabus covered operating BOWMAN radios, setting up antennas of different sizes and basic command post routine. In total, ten Guardsmen completed the course with five from the Welsh and Coldstream respectively. Top student went to Guardsman Williams 93 from the Reconnaissance Platoon. The end of the course also saw the end of both Capt Tom Campbell-Scofield and WO2 Hughes (RSWO) tenures as they moved on, the wealth of experience and the camaraderie they brought to the platoon will be sorely missed.

1. Corps of Drums
2. CSM Johnson and Maj McDougall on QBP
3. Mortar and MG Platoon QBOs on Battle Camp Sennybridge.



The Corps of Drums (self-claimed hardest working platoon in the battalion) led by Drum Major Crew were desperate to get out on ceremonial duty and display their skills. Newly trained Drummers; Power, Hughes, Woodward and Price integrated into the platoon and were immediately mentored by Sgt Rees and Drum Major Crew. After morning PT the COD would lock themselves in the practice hall and would not be seen again until the following morning (although they could be heard). On 14 March the COD were out for the first time in front of the crowds of Buckingham Palace and did the Bn proud. It really does prove that hard work pays off!! A tight group, the COD do find time when not mounting duties to get out and have been to both Thorpe Park and Go Karting where Sgt Rees perhaps could give Lewis Hamilton a run for his money.

Battle Camp in June required the Machine Gun and Mortar Platoon to be attached to Number 2 Coy Group in order to prepare for the Falklands deployment in August. The Battle Camp was an excellent opportunity for the company to get out of camp, take a rest from ceremonial duty and stretch its legs. Sgt Shapland was in his element and I think he would prefer to live in a woodblock full time rather than live in camp (as long as there were no accommodation fees). The exercise was low level with the aim of revising and reminding the section level infantry skills. As always, Sennybridge offers the perfect environment and over the ten-day exercise, the platoons conducted several section attacks, recces and were able to revise their fieldcraft. In August both platoons deployed to the



1. Sam Warburton Inspection during the Battalion Homecoming Parade in Cardiff
2. Machine Gun Platoon – Capt Lewis and Sgt Shapland
3. Mortar Cadre Otterburn
4. Sp Company Evison Cup Team

Falklands and you will be able to read and see what they got up to in the FIRIC article.

Although we have been very busy there is always time for inter-company sports even if players are almost literally getting off the bus from Queen's Guard. Support Company perhaps having some of the bigger members of the battalion was very much looking forward to the Evison Cup, until we found out it was 7s rather than 15s. However, we managed to sweep aside the other companies and then met The Prince of Wales's Company in the final. Unfortunately Support Company were not able to win the final but did ourselves proud by holding our own against a team that had a few Army level players.

Sp Coy always attracts the best officers and SNCOs (in my opinion anyway), over the year we have had to say

goodbye to Capt Lewis, Evans and Lt Davidson who were all popular characters in the coy. CSM Young has moved on to ATC Pirbright and I know he misses the spirit of Support Company and is replaced by CSM Johnson who is maintaining the high standards. The next year should be even more exciting with the Trooping of the Regimental Colour and the build-up to exercise in Kenya.

On reflection whilst writing this article I am proud of what the members of Support Company have been able to achieve this year and yet again proves that Welsh Guardsmen are able to deliver to a high standard in the face of adversity even though the Company Sergeant Major is forever the pessimist!





WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

# HEADQUARTER COMPANY

OFNA DDUW, ANRHYDEDDA'R BRENIN - FEAR GOD, HONOUR THE KING

Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher	CSgt Cunningham	LSgt Jones 89	LCpl Williams 32
Maj Aldridge	SSgt Kittle	LSgt Lewis	LCpl Williams 07
Maj Butler	CSgt Evans	LSgt May	Gdsm Adekoya
Maj Campbell	SSgt Foody	LSgt Morgan	Gdsm Arnold
Maj Lampl	CSgt Fuller	LSgt Mottram	Gdsm Boswell
Capt Bowen	SSgt Harrison	LSgt Muteti	Gdsm Dudley
Capt Byrne	CSgt Marsh	LSgt Roberts	Gdsm Evans
Capt Clarke	SSgt Woodhouse	LSgt Smith	Gdsm Faulkner
Capt Clarke	CSgt Vuevueika	LSgt Stevens	Gdsm Fitzgibbon
Capt Dinwiddie	CSgt Wilks	LSgt Stock	Gdsm Greenaway
Capt Dietz	Sgt Barkley	LSgt Vuniyaro	Gdsm Hughes
Capt Elletson	Sgt Davies	LSgt Wells	Gdsm Mason
Capt Evans	Sgt Davies	LSgt Williams	Gdsm Meredith
Capt Griffiths	Sgt Edwards	Cpl Rana	Gdsm Openda
Capt Limbu	Sgt Frowen	Cpl Weedall	Gdsm Phillips
Capt Taylor	Sgt Hillier	LCpl Anderson	Gdsm Powell
Capt Razzall	Sgt Hughes	LCpl Butler	Gdsm Rees
Capt Roughley	Sgt Jakes	LCpl Elsom	Gdsm Ringerval
2Lt Dury	Sgt Lucas	LCpl Francis	Gdsm Strudwick
WO1 Parry	Sgt Millins	LCpl Fitch	Gdsm Thomas
WO2 Badrock	Sgt Morgan	LCpl Gurung	Gdsm Ward
WO2 Cope	Sgt Naicobo	LCpl Hawxwell	Gdsm Woods
WO2 Cofie	Sgt Ntege	LCpl McKay	Pte Baker
WO2 Evans	Sgt Parry 26	LCpl Moriarty	Pte Gurung
WO2 Geen	Sgt Pienaar	LCpl Mujungu	Pte Gurung
WO2 Heath	Sgt Soko	LCpl Pun	Pte Sherwood
WO2 Lewis	Sgt Thompson	LCpl Putty	Pte Stafford
WO2 Mott	LSgt Adams	LCpl Regan	Pte Valentine
WO2 Owen	LSgt Atkins	LCpl Singh	Cfn Brotherson
WO2 Parry	LSgt Clowes	LCpl Siviter	Cfn McCarthy
WO2 Walton	LSgt Ceesay	LCpl Sullivan	Cfn Strutton
CSgt Buller	LSgt Horrell	LCpl Thomas	
CSgt Bick	LSgt Jones 78	LCpl Wiffen	
SSgt Chamberlain	LSgt Jones 88	LCpl Wonnacott	



1



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It has been a very busy and exciting twelve months for Headquarter Company. We have seen the focus switch from sustaining the Battalion on operations to supporting them on our move to London District from 11 Brigade, and with delivering prestigious State Ceremonial duties. This year's events included the departure from Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright and new beginnings in Windsor. What was a nostalgic moment for our friends the Household Cavalry Regiment, leaving Combermere Barracks after 215 years, a period steeped in history - was a win for us.

Throughout the last year, key elements of the Company moved on to pastures new and we saw a change of appointments across each of the departments and Company Headquarters. We said goodbye to Major Frankie Howell and his family after what was to be his last 2 years in the Army serving with the Welsh Guards. He now resides in the leafier part of Chelsea, London where he is employed as a Master of Invalids at the Royal Hospital. WO2 Parry from his time as Company Sergeant Major and now into the Quartermasters Department as Regimental Quartermaster (Maint). WO2 Parry took over from WO1 Davies who had been successfully selected for promotion and appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Honourable Artillery

Company. We welcomed the arrival of WO2 Walton, Grenadier Guards, as the new Company Sergeant Major and CSgt Buller from his time as the units G1098 SNCO into his new appointment of Company Quartermaster Sergeant. The Quartermaster Department said goodbye to Major Butler; now Company Commander and welcomed back Major Campbell as his replacement, who has returned from his time with the London Regiment. They said farewell to Capt Pollard who has left the Army after 27 years' service as a proud Welsh Guardsman. He was replaced by Capt Bowen as the new Quartermaster (Tech). Finally, we welcomed back Capt Taylor from his appointment as the Academy Sergeant Major, the most prestigious (non-commissioned) appointment

at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Having just put down their kit from Op TORAL the Master Tailor had everyone lined up for sizing and fitting into Home Service Clothing in preparation for the Major General's Inspection and State Ceremonial duties. Having passed the inspection with flying colours, the attention soon switched to the Unit Move.

Life became very busy in each of the departments. Everyone had their challenges and the pace of life saw a change in gear. Soon MFO boxes appeared and the taking down of pictures began. That said, we still managed to brush off the rugby boots and dig out the gumshields. The Evison Cup Rugby 7s gave the old and bold a golden opportunity to relive their youth. With an average age of 34, some of us knocking the average up more than others – it was seen as their World Cup! Mentally, we had the younger members of the battalion against the ropes. With some strong performances and moments of genius; albeit short lived and not to mention good use of rolling subs, we managed to reach the play-offs for the Evison Plate. With a dogged attitude, grit and a fearless approach mixed with flair and experience, we managed to

hold off Support Company in the dying moments and limp away as proud Evison Plate winners. Not only did we shine on the rugby field, we also had similar success on the football pitch as the Company battled back from a shaky start to make it to the final. Guided by Company Sergeant Major Walton, the team were narrowly pipped to the trophy by a strong Number 3 Company team.

We will soon see members of the company returning from the Falkland Islands. 2020 brings new challenges and opportunities as our men and women deploy to Belize in support of The Prince of Wales' Company. The Communication Installation Systems (CIS) Platoon will be put through their paces on the Command and Staff Trainer exercise and then we look forward to Trooping the Regimental Colour on the Queen's 94th Birthday Parade. We then leave Horse Guards Parade for the open savannah of Kenya. Exercise ASKARI STORM is to set the condition for future deployment.

What the company doesn't have in youth, it has in spirit and character; never a dull moment!

1. Evison Cup Team
2. Company Headquarters Founders day Chelsea Hospital



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1. Capt S G Bowen, Sgt Morgan 44 and Maj A Campbell remembering the Fallen, Ecurie, France.
2. Not for the first time QM(T) comes off his bike
3. The team with ex-South African International Thinus Delpont
4. To me, to you" The 1LO team sorting out the clothing store



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## Quartermaster Department

by Captain S Bowen Quartermaster (Technical)

Just 5 days after returning from Afghanistan, we walked straight into a Logistical Support Assurance and Inspection (LS&I). The then Quartermaster, Maj Milly Butler, busily organised the department and with minimum time to dust ourselves off we managed to pass the inspection with flying colours.

Excellent coordination from the Master Tailor CSgt L Wilkes, Sgt Cunningham and the remainder of the Tailors Shop saw the Battalion pass Major General's Inspection. This is testament to the work done behind the scenes by the Quartermaster's department while the Battalion was deployed.

With Major General's inspection out of the way, the department was soon working hard with many different tasks; RQMS(M) WO2 Parry 95 tackling G4 lead on the Battalion Battle Camp.

On return from Battle Camp the focus switched to the handover of Elizabeth Bks Pirbright, and the battalion move to Combermere Bks Windsor. The move was conducted seamlessly, and this was down to the work of Sgt Cunningham who worked tirelessly between Elizabeth Barracks and Windsor.

No sooner had we settled into our new surroundings, following the handover of Pirbright, we were preparing for the deployment of No 2 Company to the Falklands. RQMS(T) Owen using his vast experience having been involved in the British Army's uplift to Afghanistan, made sure No 2 Company's freight left on time for the Falklands. Also, the department has

LSgt Muteti deployed to the Falklands Islands supporting Number 2 Company as the Ammunition storeman.

The Department has said goodbye to Sgt Cunningham from the G1098 as he moves on to become the CIS CSgt and we welcome in his place Sgt Davies 83 from 3 Coy.

In September, both myself and Maj Andy Campbell took part in Rugby Rides 75 to mark 75 years since the Allied Forces landed on the beaches of Normandy. We cycled from Arras to Brussels following in the tank tracks of the second battalion who liberated Brussels in September 1944. The route took 2 days on mountain bike culminating with a veterans rugby match against Dendermonde RFC to honour the fallen. With bodies both saddle sore and battered, Maj Campbell's special bum butter was in high demand!

Moving from 3 Regiment RLC SSgt Foody was posted back into the Battalion after 3 years away being able to serve in the battalion again as his first choice is a great pleasure for him. In July LCpl Gurung received a well-earned selection for promotion to Corporal and is posted to Brunei in December for two years.

## Light Aid Detachment by Staff Sergeant Kittle

While preparing for the Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) and Logistic Support Assurance and Inspection (LSA&I) and other Battalion commitments in the near future, the Quartermasters dept will continue to push forward robustly towards Christmas leave with deployments to Belize and Kenya next year to look forward to, as well as the Battalion ski trip.

During September, the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) were once again exceptionally busy! 4 members of the LAD deployed the Falkland Islands supporting the Battalion during their stint as the Falkland Islands Reablement Infantry Company (FIRIC). LCpl McKay (Vehicle Mechanic (VM) Class 1) is leading the team consisting of 3 VMs and 1 class one armourer (LCpl Thomas). The LAD sub-unit has taken over a fleet of 31 vehicles, some of which required a serious amount of maintenance before being available for the various taskings required of them. Repairs have included windscreen changes, axle repair and various levels of engine repair. The lack of available spares and the Antarctic winter conditions has made working on the vehicles a particularly arduous task, however the VMs have excelled in typical REME fashion, keeping a high availability of vehicles during the deployment so far. The extreme cold has caused a few issues with the range of weapon platforms being used, however with innovation and a dose of REME guile, these were successfully overcome to keep the kit in the hands of the user.

Back in the UK, the remainder of the LAD has been very busy completing the set-up of the

workshop. Sgt Thompson recently commissioned the inspections bay ready to conduct vehicle MEIs (Mandatory Equipment Inspections). He has also spent an extended amount of time backloading a plethora of vehicle platforms to Babcock Defence Support Group (BDSG) in order to conduct essential maintenance and repairs not possible due to manning constraints. LCpl Anderson, who is the LADs lifting tackle representative, has worked tirelessly conducting inspections on a variety of lifting tackle. Inspection databases and records have been created during these checks and this ensures that any lifting tackle used by the Battalion is safe for use by competent persons using the equipment.

With the Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) and other Battalion commitments on the near horizon, the LAD will continue to work tirelessly toward Christmas with exciting deployments to Belize and Kenya next year to look forward to.



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5. Op FIRIC LAD Wksp
6. Cfn's McCarthy & Strutton working on a BV206 in the Falklands.
7. BV206 Repair



**Regimental Administration Office (RAO) Department**

by Second Lieutenant R Drury, Adjutant  
Generals Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)  
Detachment Commander

The last twelve months have been an exciting and busy period for the Adjutant Generals Corps (Staff and Personnel Support) - AGC(SPS) detachment as they have been a part of the Unit move to Windsor. We have seen members of the detachment come and go and provide administrative support to the battalion while deployed.

This year has seen a change in the RAO with Capt K Limbu, the new Detachment Commander and finally a new RAWO (Regimental Administrative Warrant Officer) WO2 S Cofie. The year started very well as Lance Corporal A Singh was awarded the Apprentice of the year award in recognition of his hard work and dedication during his time on the AGC (SPS) Business administrator apprentice scheme.

The past year has also seen members of the detachment deployed to the Falklands Island to support FIRIC, Pte H Reynolds complete his All Arms Physical Training Instructors course, LCpl C Macauley represent the battalion and AGC football team with SSgt Woodhouse representing the AGC in the Army Athletics Championship.

The Detachment is looking forward to next year where it will continue to support the Battalion in Windsor and while deployed.



1. LCpl A Singh receives his Apprentice of the year award.  
2. The AGC Detachment enjoying a well-earned day out.

## Welsh Guards Regimental Aid Post (RAP) by Lance Corporal L Haxwell, RAMC

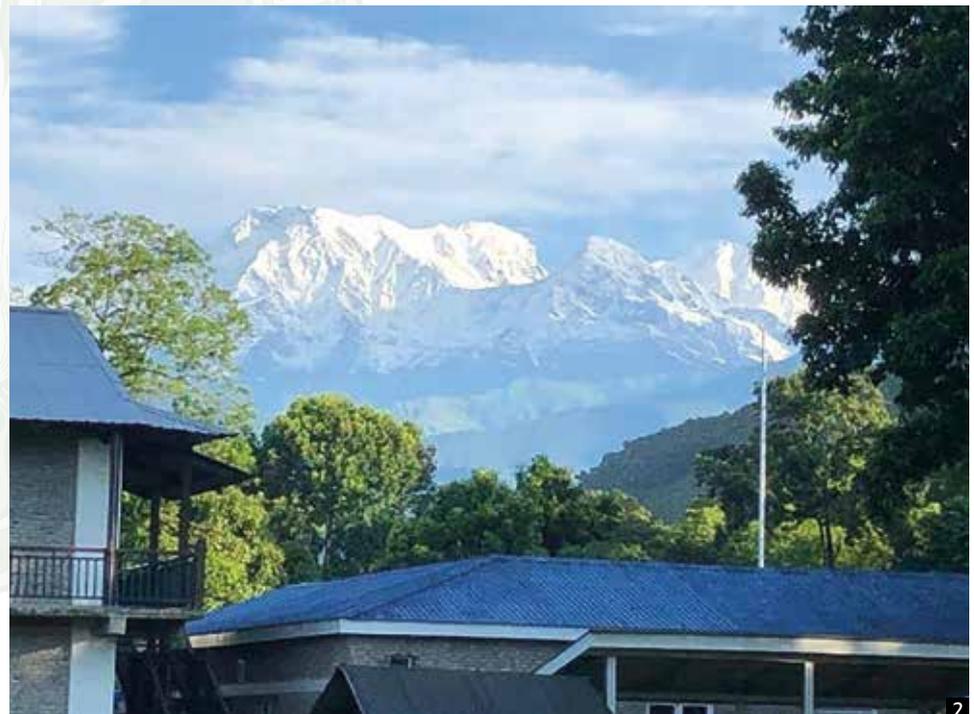
Since our move from Pirbright to Windsor the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) has been in busy preparation for the Battalion's up and coming deployments and we currently have two medics deployed to the Falklands and one in Nepal.

LCpl Wiffen and LCpl Wonnacott are both deployed to the Falklands for 4 months providing cover in the Medical Centre running the sick parades and routine medical appointments, whilst also providing Real Life Support cover on Onion range working alongside the Air Rescue team.

Cpl Stock is deployed to Nepal for 6 weeks, where he is assisting in the regional selection for the British Gurkhas Nepal. He is working within the medical centre carrying out basic medical screening and checking

documentation for the recruits, which enables them to move on to the next phase of their selection process.

The Medical Officer left the Battalion in August and was replaced by Dr Golta who is a civilian locum Doctor who has a vast amount of experience working within the military.



1. LCpl Wiffen having fun in the snow (Falklands)
2. Views from camp (Nepal)



**Communications & Information Systems (CIS) Platoon**  
 by Captain G F Elletston, Regimental Signals Officer

The CIS Platoon has had a busy time since returning from Op TORAL. As with every other department the initial focus was on the transition to State Ceremonial Public Duties, but after the Major General’s review the focus returned to the core business of the platoon which is to enable Battle Group communications.

In good Household Division spirit, we ran a combined Infantry Platoon Radio Operator course in order to train Guardsman how to use communication systems employed by the Welsh Guards and members of the platoon have been sent on a variety of courses in Bovington to increase their understanding and ability from Guardsman up to the new Platoon Commander.

At present we have 4 members of the platoon deployed to the Falkland Islands supporting Number 2 Company. This is a good opportunity for signallers to practice their core business and enable long range

communications in a hostile environment.

The next focus of the platoon is the upcoming Ex MAYAN WARRIOR in Belize to support The Prince of Wales’s Company which is guaranteed to provide a good challenge.

In between overseas exercises the platoon had been enabling Combined Arms Staff Trainer in Catterick and had another planned for March. This keeps everybody busy and will get the platoon into good shape for the upcoming Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya in 2020.

1. *Members of the CIS Platoon giving a farewell presentation to Capt Campbell-Schofield*

# BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS



1. The Band on the heel in Belgium

MAJ S HALLIDAY  
 WO2 D HATTON  
 WO2 KD BAILEY  
 CSGT HOLT  
 CSGT EVANS  
 CSGT SMOUT  
 CSGT BLUE  
 SGT FOMES  
 SGT MERCER  
 SGT EVANS  
 SGT BARNETT  
 SGT CLARK  
 SGT THOMAS  
 SGT LIGHTFOOT

LSGT WILCOX  
 LSGT GURNEY  
 LSGT WING  
 LSGT COLE  
 LSGT MILWARD  
 LSGT BENHAM  
 LSGT ELDER  
 LSGT LACEY  
 LSGT LOVELL  
 LCPL LOCKWOOD  
 LCPL LIBBY  
 LCPL DILLEY  
 LCPL RAMPLIN  
 LCPL MASON

LCPL HIRST  
 LCPL POTTS  
 LCPL BIRKETT  
 LCPL DANN  
 LCPL COETZER  
 LCPL ARMSTRONG  
 LCPL AUSTWICK  
 LCPL COOK  
 LCPL ELDER  
 LCPL SHEPHERD  
 LCPL HOWARD  
 MUSN GELDART  
 MUSN PHILP  
 MUSN COLEMAN

MUSN STOWELL  
 MUSN MILES  
 MUSN FINNEY  
 MUSN OYENIRAN  
 MUSN LAWLOR  
 MUSN HERMAN  
 MUSN MUSTO  
 MUSN WATSON  
 MUSN GRAHAM  
 MUSN BUCKNELL



## Band of the Welsh Guards

by Musician J Lawlor

**T**he Band of the Welsh Guards has had another busy but exciting year of State Ceremonial duties, concerts and recruiting events; all with the ambition of inspiring the next generation for the Corps of Army Music (CAMUS).

Firstly, the band would like to thank our former Director of Music, Major David Barringer MBE, for his exceptional leadership and inspiration throughout his short tenure with the band. Major Barringer leaves us on a posting as SO2 Transformation and Plans and will become the new Principal Director of Music (CAMUS) towards the end of the year. Therefore, it gives us great pleasure to announce our new Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday who joined us in August after successfully leading The Band of The King's Division for four years. Major Halliday is thrilled to be leading the band and thus fulfils his dream of directing a Guards Band.

As always, recruiting is an integral part of the calendar. Our first workshop of the year was at Westgate School in Hampshire where we provided a presentation about life in the band, followed by a joint concert with the pupils. Similar events included a workshop at the London College of Music. These events are an excellent opportunity to recruit some exceptionally talented music students.

Our first engagement of the year with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was in February during the medal parade at Pirbright; where the Battalion was presented medals from the Regimental Colonel, His Royal Highness The Prince of

Wales, following operations in Afghanistan. The following day we provided musical support during the Battalion's homecoming parade through the City of Cardiff. We were greeted by thousands of well-wishers as the public turned out to show their support to the Battalion. Personal thanks were received by the Mayor of the City, and Major General BJ Bathurst CBE, the Deputy Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. Other significant events included the Welsh Guards return to public duties in March and providing entertainment for the tenth anniversary of the [Lieutenant Colonel] Rupert Thorneloe memorial polo match, held each year in Kirtlington Polo Club, Oxfordshire.

Performing in Wales as part of the Band of the Welsh Guards will forever be a privilege and we are always astounded by the support we receive. Following February's freedom parade in Cardiff, we remained in the city for the highly anticipated SW7 Charity event - the final Sam Warburton testimonial

dinner. The Welsh Guards Brass Quintet provided entertainment throughout the dinner before the charity raffle commenced with a set of premium prizes. It was fascinating to hear the stories and experiences from the former Wales and British and Irish Lions Captain. The evening ended as the band performed a selection of iconic Welsh music; Tom Jones' Delilah resonated throughout the pavilion as the dinner guests took to their feet for one last chorus, a glorious evening was had by all.

For St David's Day this year the band were in Brecon. We began the day with a service at Brecon Cathedral followed by us leading a Battalion marching detachment and members of the Welsh Guards Association as they paraded to the Wellington Hotel in the centre of Brecon to be presented with their traditional Leeks. From there we led the parade to the Theatr Brycheiniog for refreshments, and the location of our St David's Day concert in the evening. The audience packed into Theatr Brycheiniog with everyone excited to hear some

traditional and new Welsh music. An enormous applause was received for our Principal Trombone, Sergeant Andrew Mercer for his magnificent solo performance of Diversions on Calon Lan written by our brilliant Composer in Residence, Tom Davoren.

Following our time in Wales, we returned to the practice room at Wellington Barracks in preparation for another exciting project. In early April we recorded an album with the wonderful Rebecca Nelson, a classical - crossover singer and reservist in the Royal New Zealand Navy Band. We were very excited to see this project come into fruition after nearly two years in the making! Full proceeds from record sales will be donated to charity, UK sales will be donated to Help for Heroes and other sales will go to The Kiwi Māia - a new charity set up by Rebecca to help military and emergency services personnel. We are very excited to see the final product due release in June 2020.

After a productive few days in the recording studio, the band returned to the parade square for the Academy Sergeant Major's 'Dine out', at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. It seemed fitting to play a selection of Welsh Music for WO1 Taylor (Welsh Guards) as his posting at the Academy came to an end.

From the parade square to the concert hall we travelled; this time to the London College of Music to accompany Sergeant Andy Lightfoot in his final solo recital at the university. It was an exhilarating performance of the highest standard and a real showcase of the talent within the Corps of Army Music.

Over the past six months the band have been very fortunate to perform at three live sporting events. The Ashes at Lords, the iconic Wales v England Rugby fixture in Cardiff and The FA Cup

Final at Wembley. This was a spine-tingling occasion for even the non-sporting fans in the band. May 18th - Manchester City against Watford; the band advanced under the bright lights of Wembley Stadium, 90,000 screaming fans, a sea of yellow and black stripes amongst sky blue. We played Blue Moon and a selection of Elton John classics as the crowd sang along, it was a truly electric atmosphere pitch-side.

The summer months are always a very busy time for the massed bands, none more so than the first week of June which includes both the Household Division Beating Retreat and Her Majesty's Birthday Parade. This year, taking the salute at the Beating Retreat was The Duchess of Cambridge and Dame Kelly Holmes whom is also honorary Colonel of the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment (RACTR). It is always an honour to form the centre of the massed bands for these world-famous engagements on Horse Guards Parade. Also, in July we performed a marching display at Lancaster House with The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter taking the salute.

Our final concert of the summer was at the much-anticipated Household Division Music Festival. We were greeted by a large audience at the Guards Chapel square, playing a selection of music from 'Stage and Screen'. We were thrilled to premiere a new work by our Composer in Residence, Tom Davoren, entitled 'Rising Remixed', a piece based upon our regimental quick-march. This would be our final engagement with Director of Music, Major Barringer MBE.

This year we have been fortunate to welcome many new members to the band. New recruits from Kneller Hall included Musicians (Musn) Stephen Bucknell, Rebecca Musto and Amy Herman. Amy



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is originally from Pontypridd in South Wales and is thrilled to be joining the Welsh Guards. Lance Corporals (LCpl) Rose Coetzer, Dave Cook and Stephen Shepherd join the Woodwind Section from The Band of the Scots Guards. Earlier this year LCpl Shepherd won the CAMUS 25 Solo Competition, a competition organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of CAMUS. It featured some of the best musicians from CAMUS and we are delighted to welcome him to the Saxophone Section. Also joining the Woodwind Section is LCpl Austwick from the Royal Artillery Band and Musn James Graham from the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps. New additions to the Cornet Section include Lance Sergeant (LSgt) Maria Lacey from the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps and Colour Sergeant (CSgt) Rich Evans who brings a wealth of experience having previously served in numerous bands. LCpl Matt Howard from the Band of the Royal Armoured Corps joins on Tuba and Musn Watson from The Band of the Bugles and Rifles also joins on trombone. Other new members include LCpl Armstrong and LSgt Benham, both having rejoined CAMUS. LSgt Benham previously served in the band for 24 years and we look forward to his new chapter with us.

Over the course of the year we expressed our thanks and best wishes to a number of musicians leaving the band. Sergeant (Sgt) Dave Farnworth left us in the spring having taken a promotion with the Band of the Parachute Regiment. Sgt Farnworth spent a number of years as Principal Oboe and we wish him all the very best in his new role. We experienced a big loss to the Trombone section as LCpl Phil Bannister was posted to Winchester to begin his new posting with the Band of the Bugles and Rifles. Other postings included Musn Jerelle Jacob to the RAF Music Service

and Musn Alex Salter who joins the Band of the Scots Guards. Sgt Neil Browett has been a valuable asset to the Cornet Section and also joins the Scots Guards on promotion. After a 13-year tenure with the band, Musn Bedwyr Morgan was posted to the Band of the Scots Guards. Bedwyr is originally from South Wales and is a hugely patriotic Welshman, and during his leaving-speech expressed the honour it had been to wear the Welsh Guards uniform. Another formidable character is LSgt John White, who had spent his entire 15-year career in the band. John's highlights included tours to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Germany to name a few. We wish him well and look forward to working together again during the massed bands of the Household Division. CSgt Tony Johncock left us in the summer after having spent 23 years in the Army and a total of 31 years in military music. Some career highlights included tours to the United States, Australia and New Zealand in addition to 19 Queen Birthday Parades. CSgt Johncock was a fine flautist and mentor within the band with a vast amount of knowledge of the job. He continues his fine career with the Band of the Scots Guards. CSgt Graham Atterbury will be greatly missed in the Clarinet Section and by all within the band. Graham enjoyed his time with the Welsh, Scots and Irish Guards Bands and the Band of the Royal Logistic Corps spanning a career of 23 years. He also spent a two-year posting at Kneller Hall as a training instructor. We wish him well on his retirement. Our final best wishes go to CSgt Richard Hunter who has retired after 25 years with the band as a percussionist. He played at many high-profile and large-scale State Ceremonial events, including The Queen Mother's Funeral and the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France. Furthermore, he also established the Band Branch of the Welsh Guards Association and played a leading

role in the organisation of the centenary events for the band.

We look forward to the future under the new direction of Major Halliday and are always determined in our pursuit for

musical excellence. The Band of the Welsh Guards are forever committed to providing the best musical support for State Ceremonial events, the wider Army and the Welsh Guards Regiment ~ Cymru Am Byth.



1. The Band alongside the Band and Drums of Gwent and Powys Cadet Force.
2. The Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday MA LRSM ALCM
3. Sergeant Chris Clark with musicians from the Jordanian Army. Sgt Clark recently deployed to Jordan as part of a Short Term Training Team to provide musical training and training in instrument repair.
4. The Band performs to the crowds prior to the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium.
5. Battalion Homecoming Parade Cardiff
6. St David's Day Parade through the narrow streets of Brecon
7. Band concert St Peters Church Carmarthen
8. Colour Sergeants Evans and Smout with students from the David Hughes School in Anglesey. The Band spent the day with the children holding musical workshops.
9. Supporting the Welsh Guards Centenary Anniversary celebrations, St John The Baptist City Parish Church, Cardiff.



**The Band in Brussels**

**A**lthough the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Brussels is covered elsewhere in this publication, this is a bands-eye view of our involvement.

On 3rd September 1944, 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion Welsh Guards liberated the town of Halle, before advancing to Brussels that same evening. The Battalion were the first unit to arrive in the Capital and liberate the city from four years of German occupation. 7 Days later the entire country would be free from the Nazi-regime. This year was the 75th anniversary of that liberation and the Band of the Welsh Guards were very excited to be invited

to Brussels to represent the Welsh Guards on such a momentous occasion.

On Tuesday 3rd September 2019, exactly 75 years to the day, the band marched through the town of Halle, en-route to the monument for a memorial service. We were welcomed by a large gathering of people who had turned out to pay their respects. During the wreath laying, there were speeches and accounts of the events that took place that day and

as the service came to a close, the Colours and Standards were lowered as Sergeant Chris Clark sounded the Last Post. Following the service, we marched back through the town centre and formed up on the bandstand in-front of an excited audience. It seemed as though the entire town had turned out to greet us! We provided a small concert of familiar tunes where the audience applauded emphatically after each number. They were thrilled with the evening’s entertainment.

The following morning, we travelled to Brussels, to The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Congress Column. Within the tomb, an unidentified World War 1 Belgian soldier is buried. Today there is a memorial at the tomb which commemorates Belgian servicemen and women killed in World War I and all conflicts since. Music was provided from the Belgian Navy Band as senior figures laid wreathes. This included Group Captain Fowler (RAF), UK Defence Attaché to Belgium and Luxembourg, and the Regimental Adjutant Welsh Guards Colonel Bonas.

During the afternoon we provided musical entertainment in Parc du Cinquantenaire, a short distance from the magnificent arch (pictured) and a convoy of 75 historic and present-day vehicles passed through the iconic archway, reconstructing the route that was taken by the allies in 1944. Hundreds of people were gathered in the park square for the celebrations. Following the parade, we were invited to a reception at the Royal Army and Military History Museum to which we received a warm welcome. The hospitality of the Belgian people was second to none and it was a pleasure to continue to strengthen the bond between the Welsh Guards and Brussels.



1. *Welsh Guards Band and Regimental Adjutant in front of the Arcades du Cinquantenaire, the monumental triple arch in the center of the Cinquantenaire Park, Brussels.*
2. *Bandstand performance in Belgium*

# DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

## DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS AS AT 1 JANUARY 2020

### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Colonel-in-Chief	Her Majesty The Queen
Colonel of the Regiment	His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	Major General R J Æ Stanford MBE
Regimental Adjutant	Colonel (Retd) T CS Bonas
Assistant Equerry	Captain CW A Ross
Assistant Regimental Adjutant	Major (Retd) M E Browne BEM
Director of Music	Major S Halliday MA BA(Hons) LRSM ALCM

### 1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher	Commanding Officer
Major JW Aldridge MBE	Second-in-Command
Major CJP Davies	Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Major CSN Fenton	Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Major B Kendall COLDM GDS	Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Major MI Butler IG	Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Major AW McDougall RWELSH	Officer Commanding Support Company
Major A Campbell	Quartermaster
Captain EJ Clarke	Adjutant
Captain TWJ Evans	Operations Officer
Captain JP Gill	Operations Officer B
Captain MRC McNeill-Love	Anti-Tank Platoon Commander
Captain WD Clarke	Intelligence Officer
Captain GF Elletson	Regimental Signals Officer
Captain SG Bowen	Technical Quartermaster
Captain R Beckett COLDM GDS	Motor Transport Officer
Captain AL Griffiths	Training Officer
Captain J Byrne GREN GDS	Unit Welfare Officer
Captain CA Taylor	Regimental Careers Management Officer
Captain EWD Andersen	Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Captain TS Minihan	Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Lieutenant JDG Leonard	Second-in-Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant SA Ward	Second-in-Command Number Two Company
Lieutenant LMF Vincenzini	Officer Commanding Anti-Tanks Platoon
Lieutenant J Wilkinson	Officer Commanding Machine Gun Platoon
Lieutenant OMF Powell	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant JH Anscombe-Bell	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant S Burfiend	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant WO de R Richardson	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant JJD Phillips	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant TRP Haynes	Platoon Commander Number Two Company



## EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL	Former CGS, CDS
Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE	UK Military Representative, NATO HQ, Belgium (wef May 20)
Major General RJA Stanford MBE	Senior British Loan Officer, Oman
Brigadier GAJ Macintosh CBE	MOD
Colonel GR Harris DSO MBE	Colonel GR Harris DSO MBE Asst Head Russia & Europe Directorate of Int Sy and Policy, London
Lieutenant Colonel BPN Ramsay OBE	SO1 J5 Africa PJHQ
Lieutenant Colonel GCGR Stone	Brigade Major, HQ Household Division
Lieutenant Colonel DWN Bevan MVO	Asst Joint Forces Attaché, British Embassy, Washington USA
Lieutenant Colonel JD Salusbury	Commanding Officer Yorkshire Officers' Training Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel ML Lewis	Commanding Officer, Recruiting Group
Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent MBE	OP BLACKWELL, Somalia
Lieutenant Colonel TA Smith	Commanding Officer, Specialist Weapons School
Lieutenant Colonel TJ Badham	SO1 Doctrine, ACSC, Shrivenham
Lieutenant Colonel AF Bowen	DCOS Sandhurst Group
Lieutenant Colonel JD Livesey	SO1 J35 Hostile States MAB
Major AJ Salusbury	Academy Adjutant, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley
Major E Mathieson	Instructor, Maneuver Captains' Career Course, Fort Benning, USA
Major TC Spencer-Smith	COS/ SO2 G3 A, Generate, Land Operations Command
Major BJ Figgures-Wilson	SO2 DS Warminster, RMA Group
Major D Pridmore	SO2 G4 Mentor in the ANAOA, Op TORAL
Major CHL Beare	SO2 Strategic Engagement ACGS/ MOD
Major AJH Dunlop	OC Two Company, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards
Major GC Charles-Jones	Executive Officer, Oxford OTC
Major AL Hughes	DCOS HQ ITG
Major JM Young	German Armed Forces Staff College
Major AL Major	SO2 Coalition Interoperability PJHQ
Major MJ Wright	SO2 KSQA Loan Service Dhofar, Oman
Major AW Budge	OC Guards Company, ITC Catterick
A/Major JR Farmelo	SO2 J5 HQ European JSU Casteau, Belgium
Captain ER Emlyn-Williams	SO3 Air/ Land Integration, RAF Odiham
Captain D Luther-Davies	SO3 ISTAR, HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade, Colchester
Captain JP Marsden	Platoon Commander, RMA Sandhurst
Captain JO Dinwiddie-Choat	SO3 Operations, Deployments and Commitments, Home Command
Captain AJN Smith	Saudi Border Force Partner Capacity Building Mission
Captain JWB Webster	Military Advisor Defence Section, British Embassy, Riyadh
Captain OFA Alsop	MOD
Captain TR Campbell-Schofield	Instructor, Infantry Battle School, Brecon
Captain JJC Lewis	SO3 G5 ADF Sp Div, Specialist Weapons School, Warminster
Captain PDE Razzall	OP GLANCE
Captain O Clarke	ADC to Major General Commanding the Household Division and London District
Captain JJ Jones	Second in Command, Chavasse Coy, 1 ATR, Pirbright
Captain E Griffiths	Second in Command, W Company, AFC Harrogate
Lieutenant EJ Scott-Bowden	Platoon Commander, ATR Pirbright

## INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, CATTERICK

Lieutenant FFB Ruscombe-King	Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company
Lieutenant G Davidson	Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company

\*This list is not complete as one Officer has declined to have his name published

# DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF

## DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2020

### REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant 25106903 W02 J Davies

### REGIMENTAL BAND

Band Master 25103180 W02 D Hatton

Band Sergeant Major 24710515 W02 K Bailey

### '1ST BATTALION

Regimental Sergeant Major 25067519 W01 ME Parry

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main) 25079695 W02 RW Parry

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech) 25105675 W02 JM Owen

Drill Sergeant 25122844 W02 RJ Heath

Drill Sergeant 25141529 W02 DR Lewis

Recruiting Warrant Officer 25102725 W02 DP Cope

CSM The Prince of Wales's Company 25085915 W02 CD Scarf

CSM Number 2 Company 25188733 W02 J McEvoy

CSM Number 3 Company 25124239 W02 DT Hughes

CSM Headquarter Company 25171950 W02 D Walton

CSM Support Company 25157883 W02 RJ Johnson

Company Sergeant Major In Musketry 25176931 W02 DLR Evans

Master Tailor 25095800 CSgt LC Wilks

Drum Major 25116333 CSgt AMF Crew

### EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

United States Army Sergeants Major Academy 25044310 W01 DS Morgan

Royal Military School of Music RSM 25061898 W01 M Ridgeway-Buckley

Honourable Artillery Company RSM 25066690 W01 A Davies

London Central Garrison 25088682 W01 S Peters

RQMS RMAS 25036627 W01 G Williams

Validation Warrant Officer ATC(P) 25102911 W02 RS Young

Afghanistan 25114097 W02 M Jefferies

# HONOURS AND AWARDS 2019

## KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER (GCVO)

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank GCB LVO OBE DL

## KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER (KCVO)

Major General BJ Bathurst CBE

## COMMANDER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (CBE)

Acting Brigadier GAJ Macintosh OBE  
Senior Military Advisor to the Jordan Armed Forces

## OFFICER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (OBE)

Honorary Colonel A Peterson  
Honorary Colonel Cadets Wales

## MEMBER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (MBE)

Lieutenant Colonel KFN Roberts CAMUS Former Senior Director of Music Household Division and Director of Music Band of the Welsh Guards

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (MSM)

25044310 WO1 (RSM) DS Morgan 1st Battalion

## LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Major JW Aldridge MBE 1st Battalion  
25176931 WO2 (CSMIM) DLR Evans 1st Battalion  
25173650 CSgt CL Greaves 1st Battalion  
25164475 LSgt DA Haines 1st Battalion  
25157883 CSgt RJ Johnson 1st Battalion  
25177517 Sgt GM Hillier 1st Battalion  
25141529 WO2 (DSgt) DR Lewis 1st Battalion  
25168351 Sgt GF Sale MC 1st Battalion  
25133852 Sgt A Shapland 1st Battalion

## CLASP TO LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Captain S Bowen 1st Battalion  
25028683 Sgt JA Davies 1st Battalion

## ACCUMULATED CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL

25095800 CSgt L Wilks 1st Battalion  
25134399 LSgt TL Viavialevu 1st Battalion

## LA LEGION D'HONNEUR

2738263 Gdsm BL Waters joined the Regiment in April 1942 and landed in Normandy in June 1944.

2734113 Gdsm S Elsbury joined the Regiment in February 1936 and landed in Normandy in July 1944.

## CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF COMMENDATION

25031018 LSgt PA Duffy  
Regimental Support Team (RST) North

## COMMANDER HOME COMMAND COMMENDATION

25086085 LSgt K Jury  
Regimental Support Team (RST) South

## GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING LONDON DISTRICT COMMENDATION

25067519 WO1 (RSM) ME Parry  
Awarded whilst employed as the Regimental Recruiting Warrant Officer

## COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES AFGHANISTAN (Op TORAL) and CHIEF MENTOR COMMENDATIONS

25171488 CSgt G Evans 1st Battalion  
25177517 Sgt G Hillier 1st Battalion  
30169765 LSgt A Asare Bediako 1st Battalion  
25134379 LSgt D Braithwaite 1st Battalion  
25227294 LSgt N Mottram 1st Battalion  
30146855 Gdsm W Asamoah 1st Battalion  
30181061 Gdsm J Meredith 1st Battalion  
30141423 Gdsm S Qaranivalu 1st Battalion  
25191316 Gdsm P Evans 1st Battalion

# TRAINING AND EXERCISES



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## Battle Camp 2019

by Captain AL Griffiths, Battalion Training Officer

Following a very busy period of State Ceremonial events in June the Battalion hung up its bearskins and tunics and dusted off their webbing to deploy to Sennybridge in the heart of Mid Wales for a two-week Battle Camp. The aim of the training package was to allow all personnel the opportunity to concentrate on low level skills and drills operating up to Platoon level.

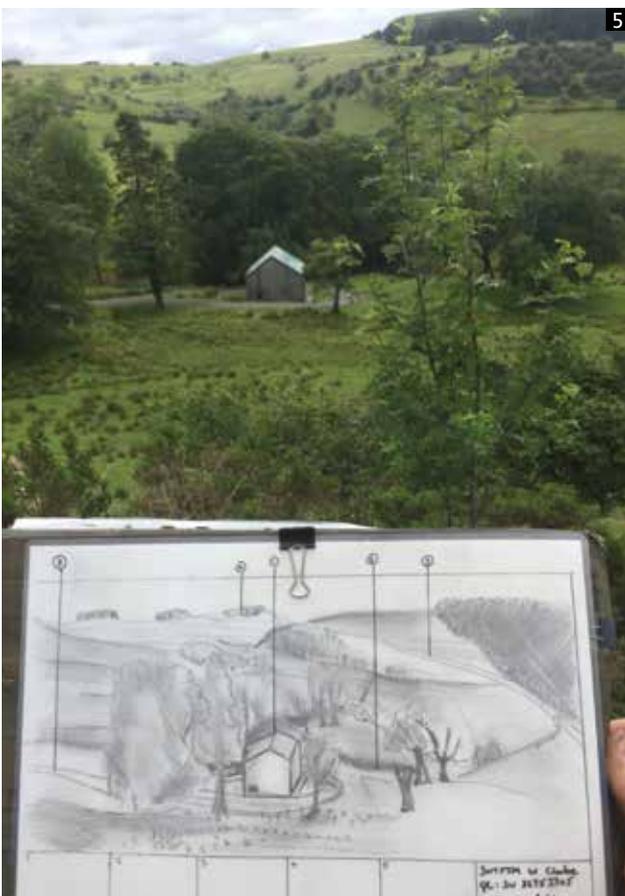
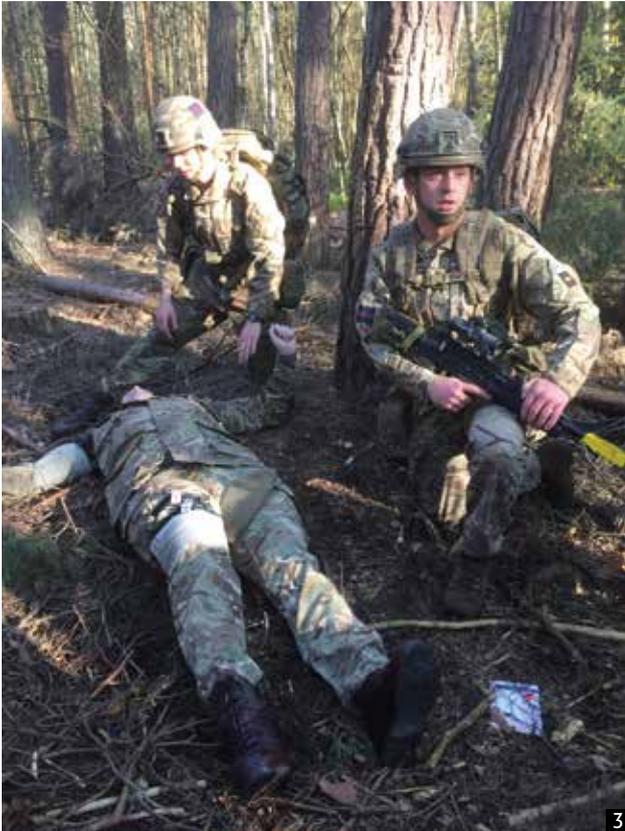
The companies deployed for the first week into harbour areas. Number 2 Company and Support Company trained together ready for their deployment later in the year to the Falkland Islands as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRC). The Prince of Wales's Company concentrated their efforts on basic soldiering skills while Battalion Headquarters were based in Sennybridge Camp conducting Battle Group Planning. Number Three Company operated at platoon level conducting their annual platoon cadres. Being in Wales afforded the opportunity for some 200 youngsters from Military Preparation Courses in North and South Wales to visit the Battalion on exercise. Several stands were set up allowing the visitors a chance to interact with serving Guardsman, get an insight into Battalion life and hands on the kit and equipment the modern-day soldier uses.

Following a successful week of Dry Training and living in wood blocks it was time to transition to Live Firing ranges for the final part of Battle Camp. With glorious sunshine in our favor we marked the

transition of phases with a Battalion Field Service led by our Padre. This saw the whole Battalion come together in one location. The Field Service was followed by a hearty BBQ and hog roast. The chefs must be commended for their hard work as it was warmly received by all especially after a week on rations.

For the final week of Battle Camp Number 3 Company returned to their platoon cadres which saw the Recce and Javelin Platoons occupy Observation Posts (OP's) and the Snipers conducting various stalks. The remainder of the Company's moved into farm locations and conducted three days of Live Firing. The ranges were planned in a way that they tested the skills that were taught in the first week. Concurrent to the ranges, Battle Group Headquarters deployed into the field and started fine tuning their planning skills working from the deployed headquarters.

All in all, there was a lot to be gained from deploying away from Elizabeth Barracks for two weeks. The Guardsman most importantly got a well-deserved break from Public



Duties and the opportunity to hone their skills in the field environment. Whilst Battle Camp 2019 concentrated on Basic Field Soldiering skills we have now set the foundation to build on this come next year (2020) when we deploy again working at Company Level.

1. LCpl Bilkey sets out an HF directional Antenna, demonstrating the Recce Platoon's competence in communications.
2. MISTAT and 9-Liners are sent over the net during a Battle Casualty Drills stand.
3. LSgt Brown and LCpl Williams 88 (3 Coy) look after a casualty.
4. The Sniper Platoon teaches a lesson in sketching, there are some talented artists in our midst!
5. An example sketch of an objective building. A picture paints a thousand words for the commander.
6. Model building is a crucial skill. Here the Recce platoon show the rifle companies how it's done.



**The Army Foundation College (AFC), Harrogate**

by Captain E Griffiths Welsh Guards  
 Second In Command Waterloo Company,  
 Army Foundation College

**T**he Army Foundation College (AFC) has been thrust into the public eye in recent times with Channel 4's documentary, Raw Recruits.



It follows the stories of several Junior Soldiers as they make their way through the course and pass out into Phase 2 training. For those of you who are not familiar with the TV show or what this organisation does, this article will bridge that gap in knowledge.

As a 16-17-year-old school leaver with minimal or no formal education qualifications, entry into a job that can offer stability and career progression can seem far away. However, the AFC takes 16 to 17 year old school leavers and turns them into a trained soldier in the space of either 49 or 23 weeks. The 49-week course (including eight weeks holiday) for those joining the infantry, Royal Armoured Corps/Household Cavalry, Royal Artillery and some Royal Logistic Corps roles and the 23 week course (including three weeks holiday) for those joining courses

with longer Phase 2 training – these are Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Adjutant General's Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Army Air Corps and some Royal Logistic Corps roles.

Upon starting at the AFC, the Junior Soldiers are trained on Army 'green' skills, from how to prepare a locker for inspection to how to conduct a section attack in the field. On top of the traditional 'green' skills that the Junior Soldiers get taught, however, is a comprehensive education training programme. Depending on the level of education that the Junior Soldiers arrive with will dictate the level of education that they conduct during their time at the AFC. The education ranges from GCSE equivalent qualifications to BTEC further education qualifications.



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The training programme varies greatly for the Junior Soldiers. Some days may be education-heavy whilst others might be purely military skills orientated, with navigation lessons or PT for example. Throughout their training, the Junior Soldiers find themselves transformed from total civilians, used to spending most of their time on electronic devices, to being partially trained soldiers, ready to tackle the challenges and demands of their Phase 2 training.

1. Battle Preparation
2. Why things are seen
3. Judging Distance in Catterick Training Area
4. 25m Range zeroing in AFC Harrogate
5. Individual Fire and Manoeuvre in Catterick Training Area.



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## Army Training Centre Pirbright ATC(P) (The Guards Depot 1959-1993)

by Captain JJ Jones Welsh Guards

Chavasse Company Second in Command,  
1 Army Training regiment

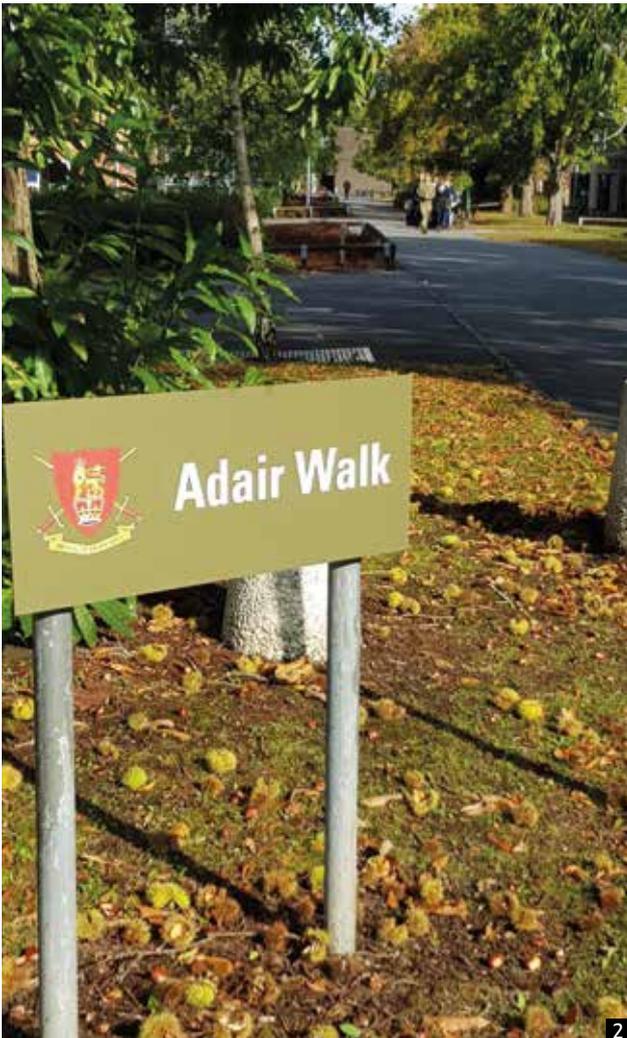
The Guards Depot a place that for many of us has been deeply ingrained within our psyche and we often look back, in most cases with fondness and memories of the camaraderie and friendships that have endured throughout the years, and sometimes with a wry smile we might think of the sandhill, the sisters, bayonet assault course and who cannot forget the Adair (Who Dare's) Walk.

This short article will not compare the Guards Depot to the Army Training Centre, to be honest there can be no comparison, but it will give a brief history, insight and overview of the Army Training Centre, Pirbright.

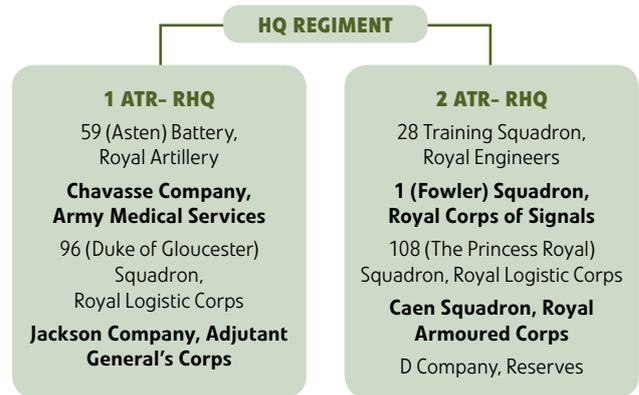
Training Regiments were formed: Pirbright, Lichfield, Basingbourn and Winchester, under command of HQ Initial Training Group (HQ ITG). This didn't mean the end of Guardsmen training at Pirbright but only that their training was no longer phase 1 and 2 combined but now separate. Phase 1 (Known as the Common Military Syllabus - CMS) at Pirbright and Phase 2 was at Catterick. On the 17th April 2008, Army Training Regiment Lichfield closed. This meant that the Army Training Regiment Pirbright was expanded to become the Army Training Centre Pirbright, consisting of a HQ element and two Army Training Regiments. The Army Training Centre Pirbright currently has nine training sub-units as follows:

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARMY TRAINING CENTRE PIRBRIGHT

As you will be aware, the Guards Depot moved to Pirbright from Caterham in 1959 however it wasn't until August 1968 that the Guards Depot moved into the newly built Alexander Barracks, which was officially opened by Countess Alexander of Tunis on 25 September 1969. Sadly 1993 saw the closure of the Guards Depot and on the 1st April 1993 four Army



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**THE COMMON MILITARY SYLLABUS (STANDARD ENTRY) PHASE ONE TRAINING**

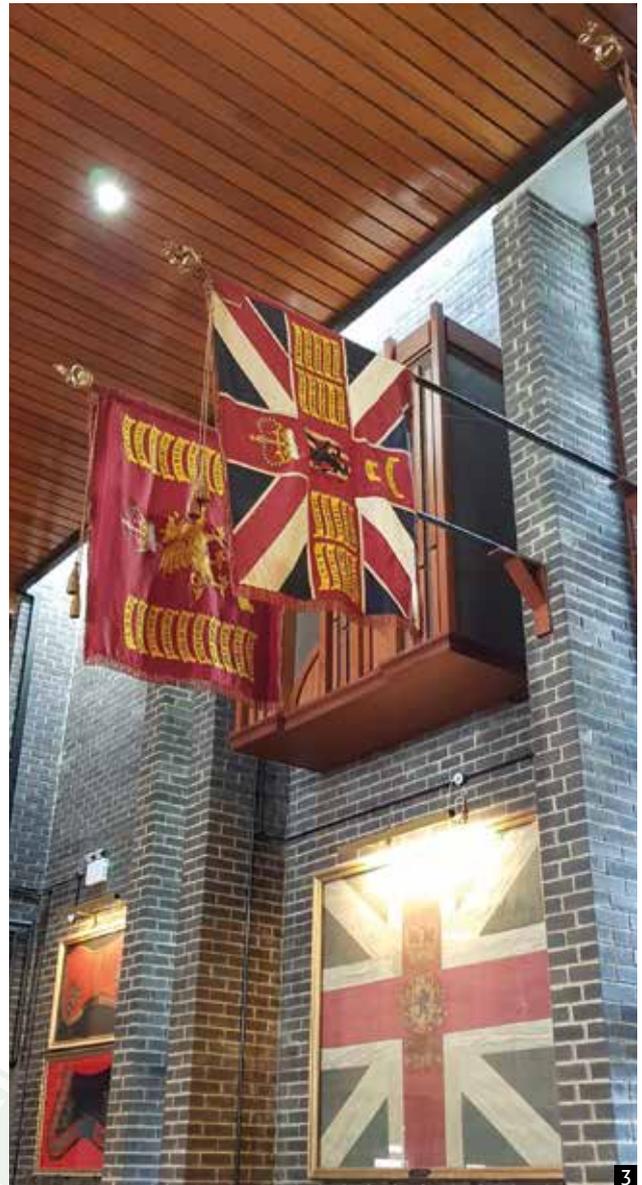
The CMS is 14 Weeks long and is essentially designed to train all recruits to be a soldier first, regardless of Cap Badge or Corps. Provide the necessary skills, instil discipline and the core values. The course content will be familiar to all; Fitness, Fieldcraft, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), Battlefield Casualty Drills (BCD), Adventurous Training, Realities of War (Battlefield Study – Ypres) and of course Drill, the corner stone of military discipline and teamwork.

Weeks 1 – 5 are very much built on inspiring and informing the recruits and building the military character. Attestation and induction, skill at arms and an introduction to core military skills. CBRN, BCD, map reading, values and standards, basic fitness assessments. They will deploy on two Exercises, Ice Breaker and First Nights. Exercise Ice Breaker is a one-night non-tactical teaching exercise, two-man shelter, personal hygiene and admin in the field. Exercise First Nights is a two-night teaching exercise conducted in a tactical setting. They are taught admin in the field, camouflage and concealment, feeding in the field, duties of a sentry, care and maintenance of equipment, maintaining standards of personal hygiene (revision)

Weeks 6 – 10 concentrates on building and developing the core military skills and Personnel Development. Live firing on the Ranges and on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) The recruits visit the barracks where they will conduct their trade training and at this point if they would

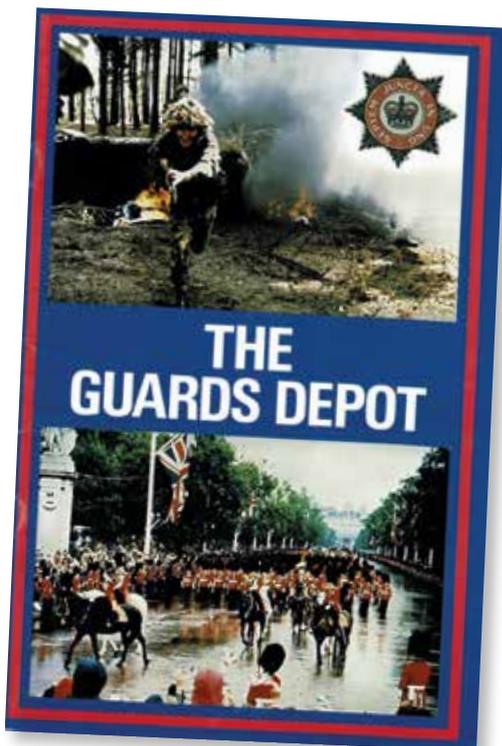
like to change Regiments or Corps they may do so however it is not guaranteed. The Drill test is at the start of week seven and includes a formal inspection, an assessment of foot drill at the halt and on the march and the recruit’s knowledge of Arm or Corps. This is all conducted under the watchful eye of Drill Sergeant (DSgt) Young, Welsh Guards. Exercise Half-Way is the third exercise in the CMS. It is a three-night teaching and testing exercise conducted in a tactical setting using tactical scenarios. They will learn basic actions, admin in the field, patrolling, stalking, captured persons (CPERS) handling training, cam and concealment, judging distance, reaction to effective enemy fire, target indication, individual fire and movement and pairs fire and movement. All the above will be assessed and if the recruits are not at the required standard they will be re-taught. If they still fail to meet the required standard they will be Back-Classed (go back in training a few weeks). Week nine the recruits go to Ypres for a realities of war package named, Ex VALIANT SPIRIT. This is a tour of battlefields where the Qualities of a British Soldier have been displayed, this reinforces the core values and standards of the British Army. This period is finished off with the start of their summative testing for both CBRN and BCD. These are Practical and Knowledge tests and ensure that they fully understand the procedures and drills to be carried out on different types of casualties and they can operate within a CBRN environment.

Weeks 11 – 14 is confirm and challenge. All recruits deploy to Sennybridge Training Camp for a weeks’ worth of adventure training including, high ropes, climbing, kayaking, potholing and





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walking amongst the Brecon Beacons. Followed by a week of concentrated Live Firing; application of fire, limited night visibility (LNV), annual combat marksmanship test (ACMT), close quarter marksmanship (CQM) and a CBRN shoot. Ex Final Fling is their last exercise, and is fully tactical with Platoon Commanders,

Platoon Sergeants and Section Commanders are in role throughout. Ex Final Fling is designed to confirm all skills taught throughout CMS. Patrol harbours, tactical movement, patrolling techniques, deliberate and hasty attacks (advance to contact), framework operations, carry out counter explosive ordnance

procedures, operate within a CBRN threat. The final 36hrs is fixed on battle procedure, reces, orders, rehearsals and a field service. Finishing with deliberate sequential section attacks. Week 14 is preparation for the pass off parade, a slow build-up of rehearsals after rehearsals and more rehearsals, overseen again by DSgt Young. All the effort, sweat, emotions, learning of new skills, teamwork, building of lifelong friendships concluding with a well-deserved parade. Of course, they are not Guardsmen, but they are, well trained and highly motivated soldiers at the start of their military careers.

Although there are no longer trainee Guardsmen at Pirbright and long gone are the 1800hrs shinning parades, sitting on the edge of your bed in coveralls reading regimental history, endless hours of laying polish into the floor and swinging the bumper, left to right. Washing kit in the sink and ironing uniform dry ready for locker inspections. Bedding blocks that to the eye of a young recruit is

perfection but nowhere near, the standards of the inspecting Platoon Sergeant. The flurry of recruits rifting themselves up and down the Adair walk under the glare of the duty Non-Commissioned Officer. However, the Household Division is far from forgotten, the Guardsman weathervane stands proud, high above the former Guards Company HQ. The Chapel is crammed with battle torn colours, plaques and dedications. A wonderful reminder of the division's connection with Pirbright is the stone that is laid into the wall of the nearby canal, The Brigade of Guards 1942. And of course, with Late Entry Officers, Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers still posted to Pirbright reciting stories of old and implementing The Household Division Way of Doing Things, Pirbright will not forget.

1. Guardsman weathervane standing proud, high above the former Guards Company HQ.
2. The infamous Adair walk today
3. Regimental Colours still hang in the chapel
4. Cross located inside the chapel
5. Brigade of Guards 1942 sign
6. Cover of the Guards Depot Pirbright Official Handbook from 1988



**Recruit Training 2019 Guards Company 2nd Battalion Infantry Training Centre (Catterick)**

by Captain EWD Andersen, Welsh Guards

**Company Commander: Maj A W Budge WG**  
**Company Second in Command:**  
**Capt R Kilvington COLDM GDS**  
**Company Sergeant Major WO2 K Tomlinson IG**

**Welsh Guards permanent staff 2018/19**

Capt E Andersen Davidson	Capt M McNeil Love Lt F Ruscombe-King	Capt T Minihan Lt G CSgt Grieves
Sgt Jones 09	Sgt P Small	Sgt Rowlands 99
LSgt Bishop	LSgt Brown 68	LSgt Frost
LSgt Love	LSgt Okeke	LSgt Parry 26
LSgt Parry 91	LSgt Pickersgill-Jones	LSgt Roberts 72
LSgt Williams 43		

The last twelve months have seen a whole host of changes across Guards Company both for the permanent staff and recruits in training. The Company Headquarters changed over with Maj Alex Budge (WG) replacing Maj Garry Dunning (SG) in August last year. Capt Daniel O’Neil (IG) handed over Company Second in Command to Capt Rick Kilvington (COLDM GDS) and WO2 Griffiths (IG) handed over Company Sergeant Major to WO2 Tomlinson (IG) in spring of this year. The continual churn of instructing staff has seen the company welcome the latest batch of Welsh Guards platoon commanders, sergeants and section commanders to the Infantry Training Centre (ITC).

After a lot of hard work from Regimental Support Teams across the country and improvements made to the contracted recruiting process, the Company is now a very busy place. For the first time since the Op HERRICK era all nine Training Teams in the Company are on course and due to pick up a full complement of recruits at the start point from current manning forecasts. This is vital to the manning of the Battalions of the Foot Guards and will no doubt alleviate the burden on those already in their Battalions.

In the Platoons those new to the job hit the ground running and they have quickly adapted



to the implementation of the new Combat Infanteer's Course 18 (CIC18) with considerable success. The newest iteration of the CIC has seen platoons adopt the Army's new Role Fitness Test which no longer discriminates age or gender with one standard for all. This is required as currently three female Trainee Guardsmen are undergoing training and will be given a fair and impartial chance at passing the course. The course also integrates the latest weapon systems such as the New Light Anti-armour

Weapon (NLAW) as well as the Glock 17 9mm service pistol.

Methods of instruction have also been updated with help from the new Prowise presentation system which enables recruits to fully interact with the course content and lessons online, via a touch screen presentation board that can link to their smart phones or tablets.

Since January seven Guards platoons have started running with CIC18 and the benefits

of the progressive physical training programme are already visible. A drop in injuries is contributing towards an increasing number of recruits completing training. So far this year 32 Welsh Guards recruits have joined the Battalion with a further 57 currently in training. Numbers are looking increasingly healthy across the board – platoons of 40 plus recruits is once again becoming the norm within the company. The efforts of the regimental recruiting team, in particular WO2 Cope, Sgt Duffy and Sgt Jury must be noted for their tireless hard work - is not going unnoticed in Catterick.

As well as familiarising themselves with the new course programme, Trainee Guardsmen have been getting to grips with some of the latest kit. Every new Trainee Guardsman is equipped with Virtus load carriage equipment on week one of training meaning that for the first time in decades recruits are using the very same equipment as those serving on current operational deployments. Gone are the days of constructing daysacks out of rocket-pouches and wearing

body armour that wouldn't look out of place in the Guards museum!

As is always the case there have been a few fortunate individuals within Guards Company who have been able to travel far and wide. Capt Tom Minihan (WG) recently returned from EX LONGLOOK in Canada where he was lucky enough to join the Canadian Army on an arctic exercise. The Guards Company team won the world pacesetting competition with LSgt Rowlands 99 winning the highly coveted 'best sticker' prize. LSgt Williams 43 successfully completed P Coy selection enabling him to join Guards Parachute platoon in the future.

1. Recruits wait to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter while on exercise.
2. Recruits conduct casualty drags as part of the new infantry Role Fitness Test.
3. Recruits conduct building clearance using marker rounds (commonly known as 'simunition' rounds) which can leave a good bruise if your drills are not sharp enough!



## Belize - Short Term Training Team

by Lieutenant GR Davidson, Second in Command Support Company

**T**he Welsh Guards deployed a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) to Belize in March 2019 to deliver a Skill at Arms (SAA) cadre to the Belizean Defence Force (BDF), the team consisted of 4 LSgt's and 1 Officer.

We deployed alongside 2PARA who were completing Mayan Warrior, they were to be our real-life support throughout the deployment. When we arrived in Price Barracks, Belize City in the early hours of the 22nd March, it didn't take us long to find the pool on camp where we recovered from the 29-hour journey.

On the 25th March forty three Corporals and Lance Corporals from across Belize arrived ready for the course, for the most part they hadn't received much instruction or education in their careers to date and

were incredibly excited and eager about the prospect of being instructed by British Army Instructors, their desire to learn was remarkable. The course we had designed was fairly busy as we wanted to maximise the time we had with the troops, this meant that PT often took place before 0630 in the morning, but to be honest we could not have trained any later as the temperature was frequently hitting the high 20's before 0800. The students on the course found a new love for our PTI - LSgt Williams 70 from The Prince of Wales's Company, surprisingly

they even enjoyed it when he threw in the occasional log race! It was clear to see that they enjoyed pushing themselves, they were also overly competitive and were all keen to prove to LSgt Williams and the team they were the fittest. The course ran over the weekend until the 5th April; with the development rate we saw from the students over the two-weeks being remarkable. Their desire to learn throughout made it much easier for the training team. The course finished with everyone passing the summative assessments and all students receiving a SAA certificate from the British Army. That evening we were invited by the students to join them for a BBQ and some beers, it was really clear to see how much it meant to them to be trained by us, and all evening the training team were being mobbed for photographs.

For the second part of the deployment we delivered basic infantry training to Alpha Company, First Battalion at Fairweather Camp in Punta Gorda. Punta Gorda is the most southern town in Belize and is a 300km drive from Belize City. Fortunately we were able to secure a Toyota 4x4 to make the drive which passed through 4 national forest reserves, we were even lucky enough to lay eyes on the West Indian Manatee as we passed the Sibun Forest Reserve. The journey was truly remarkable and allowed us to see a huge amount of the country we were in. A fortunate stroke of serendipity occurred when we arrived at Fairweather Camp as the team was met by Lt Dorrick Tun, one of the BDF platoon commanders in Alpha Company. Lt Tun and I were in the same platoon at Sandhurst and unsurprisingly hadn't seen each other since, however we were soon reminiscing about



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our training under one of the mango trees growing on camp. Whilst at Fairweather Camp we delivered a basic PJNCO (Potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officer) Cadre to all Privates and LCpls in the company, focusing on PT, Field Craft, tactics and navigation. A thoroughly enjoyable 3 weeks in an extremely remote and stunning setting. Fairweather Camp was surrounded by hills covered in dense jungle; it wasn't uncommon to be kept up all night by the surrounding fauna. We were informed whilst we were staying there that they had never received any training from other nations this far south and they had never known a British Unit to stay at Fairweather Camp; it was a real honor and a privilege to be invited down

and stay with them for a few weeks.

The end of the deployment was spent exploring the local islands off the East coast of Belize, we soon found out that we were fortunately out there at the right time to see sting rays, turtles and nurse sharks at the renowned Shark Ray Alley in the Hol Chan marine reserve.

1. *The training team with A Company in Fairweather Camp.*
2. *LSgt Williams 70 from the POW's Company delivering a SAA lesson.*
3. *LSgt Burrows-Jones from Number 2 Company demonstrating weapon handling skills.*



### Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company

by Major CSN Fenton, Officer Commanding Number 2 Company

Capt (Retd) Mason kindly shared his reflections of the battalion’s war and of his return to the Falklands for St David’s Day 35 years later in the 2017 Journal.

Capt Mason concluded that ‘1982 was no picnic, but it was definitely worth it’. 2 Company was fortunate to be given the opportunity this year to contribute to the continued protection of the Islanders’ sovereignty that Capt Mason and his colleagues selflessly restored in 1982.

The character of soldiering has certainly changed, and

our mission was fortunately very different to the battalion’s in 1982, but the nature of land operations remains unchanged. The camaraderie of soldiers in the 2 Company Group has kept spirits high as temperatures plummeted; interactions with the Islanders have made our time away from families and friends worthwhile; and our achievements during the





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three-month deployment have only been made possible with the support of Tri-Service and civilian colleagues at home and here in the Falklands. The importance of establishing, nurturing and protecting relationships can be easily overlooked, particularly with the ever present Sirens calling one back to the office computer!

2 Company was tasked with providing the Roulement Infantry Company (RIC) in the Falklands between Aug and Nov. We would not have been able to do the job alone, so 2 Company Group (2 Coy Gp) was formed with personnel from all five companies, and attachments from the Household Cavalry and King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. Most of the Coy Gp participated in 10-days of pre-deployment training in Sennybridge. It was sufficient time to prepare 2 Coy Gp for our reassurance and deterrence tasks. But it is hard to believe that this was

the same amount of time, on the same training area for the battalion to prepare for war-fighting as part of 5 Inf Bde's Ex WELSH FALCON in Apr 82.

Our deployment in early Aug went without incident, mainly due to CSM McEvoy's meticulous attention to detail and the hard work of CQMS Sale and the QM(T)'s team. Following a much quicker journey than our forbearers, despite a 24hr delay in South Cerney transit accommodation, 2 Coy Gp was able to conduct a Relief-in-Place with A Coy, 3 PARA in-time for the flag-change on 9 Aug. We quickly established a three-way weekly rotation of patrols, training and Quick Reaction Force (QRF) that would be familiar to those who have previously deployed with the RIC. Two rifle platoons from 2 Coy and a composite platoon of mortars and machine guns from Support Company will have spent the first nine weeks of the deployment



on this rotation. While QRF duties have provided great opportunities for individual development (fitness, signals training, public speaking, and FIFA 18 skills), the platoons have understandably found time spent away from Mount Pleasant Camp (MPC) on patrols or training, more rewarding and enjoyable.

We still have lots to look forward to with six weeks remaining before our hand-over to the Grenadier Guards on 18 Nov. We will keep-in mind the actions and sacrifices of our forebearers when under our ponchos on the final exercise, as we walk the ground at Goose Green, Mount Harriet and Tumbledown and during a field service at Fitzroy. The editor might permit me to write about these events for the 2020 Journal. But until then, a few members of 2 Coy Gp who have spent more time away from MPC than I, have provided insights into 2 Coy Gp's deployment so far:

**Opportunities in the Falklands**  
**Gdsm Griffiths, 4 Platoon**

Soldiers need to keep their mind and body occupied. The facilities at Mount Pleasant Camp (MPC) are great, but there is more to the Falklands than MPC to occupy the time in-between patrols, training and QRF. A few weeks into our deployment myself and the other members of 2 Company Group took part in a Battlefield Study of Sapper Hill, one of the last actions of the 1982 War. We stood at the base of the Hill exposed to the freezing cold gale force winds and snow, listening as a Gdsm described the events of 14 Jun 82. We learnt about how the Welsh Guards and Royal Marines conducted an aviation assault onto Sapper Hill, fought their way up it and took it. No sooner had they taken the hill than the call came through that the war had ended, the

Argentinians had surrendered. Conducting Battlefield studies like this really hits home the hard facts about why we are deployed over here.

We have also had an opportunity to run a Half Marathon. While deployed this time last year on OP TORAL 6 we ran 13.1 miles to coincide with the Cardiff Half Marathon happening at home. This year, again overseas, we decided to do the same sort of thing. Our eyes had been opened to the sheer strength of mind and body needed to fight across the harsh terrain and to cope with the punishing weather here in the Falklands. So Sapper Hill, overlooking Port Stanley, was the perfect place to finish our Half Marathon. At 1100hrs on the 5th of October we started out from the Falkland Island's Defence Force compound, 35lbs on our back and with a very strong wind temporarily blowing in our favour. The course took-in some of the most scenic parts

of Stanley Common, including Gypsy Cove and Stanley waterfront, before heading inland towards Sapper Hill. Our graft might have killed off our legs for a few days, but we have raised in excess of £1200 for the Welsh Guards Charity, and it provided us with better understanding of what it means to be "mentally and physically resilient."

**RIC Patrols:**  
**Fitzroy Settlement**  
**Gdsm Wilkinson, 5 Platoon**

We have to patrol as sections once every three weeks around parts of the island. We do this to reassure the locals, provide assistance to landowners and to gather information for our HQ. On our first week we were ordered to go to Fitzroy. Upon arriving, we were met by the farm managers Gilberto and Suzie, who put us up in their sheep shearing shed for the week.



It was very comfortable, we were out of the wet and windy weather conditions famous in the Falkland Islands and we had a Berco boiler to heat our rations and make hot drinks for the week.

We met another couple during our stay in the Fitzroy settlement, Phil and Carol. They were very welcoming. They invited us into their home making us cakes and cups of tea and coffee. It turned out that both of Carol's brothers were in the Welsh Guards and that she had been brought

up in Rhyl, two minutes away from where I live, so we had a lot in common and we had a good laugh. They also had a lot of interesting stories about their time on the island and we learnt a lot about the Falklands Islands and the war.

We went on a recce patrol on the second day along the coastline for 15 miles via the Welsh Guards memorial, stopping and taking a minute to pay our respects to those that lost their lives here 37 years ago. During the week on the settlement we helped

out Gilberto and Suzie around the farm, building fences and herding cows. At the end of a long week the section experienced another reality of living on a remote farm as we helped Gilberto to slaughter some of his prize cattle. With the butchering complete we were kindly invited to enjoy some of the meat over dinner in Gilberto and Suzie's home. And after a week of rations this was a very welcome treat for the boys. All in all, we enjoyed ourselves, learnt a lot and would happily go back anytime.

### **RIC Training Opportunities** **CSgt Oldham,** **Zic Mortar Platoon**

The training opportunities here for infantry are second to none. The Falklands offers arduous ground and often unforgiving weather, combined with plenty of time and space to conduct imaginative training. This deployment for most is a rare opportunity to have protected time and resources to conduct testing and enjoyable training. We have conducted training



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at Mount Pleasant Camp and when out on patrols, but most of our training and all of our live fire training will be conducted at Onion Ranges; a 14km<sup>2</sup> area of peat bogs, rock-rivers, mountains and undulating hills.

The rifle platoons will spend three weeks progressing from individual fire and manoeuvre up to platoon attack by night, while 6 Pl (mortars and machine guns) have been able to achieve complex live fire shoots. And it has provided the machine guns the opportunity

to live fire for the first time in over two years. We will culminate with an integrated guns and mortars night firing demonstration for the rest of 2 Company, before re-grouping with the rifle platoons for our five-day, live and blank, final exercise.

The ground, weather and challenging training area has thoroughly tested every soldier and it will result in us returning to the UK at a much higher standard and with junior soldiers well prepared for promotion courses. We will

have to make sure we maintain this standard until we deploy to Kenya in 2020.

1. *Onion Range*
2. *Patrol at Port Sussex*
3. *Onion Range CASEVAC ex*
4. *Patrol at Weddell Island*
5. *Charity Fundraising Half Marathon with the Lady Elizabeth Shipwreck in the background*
6. *4 Pl on Onion Range*
7. *The Half Marathon team finishes at Sapper Hill*
8. *5 Pl on Onion Range*
9. *Onion Range*





### The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Major AJ Salusbury Welsh Guards  
Academy Adjutant

**T**he Welsh Guards has good representation across the Academy and in Sandhurst Group Headquarters (a new 1\* command that includes the junior officer training pipeline of the Officer Training Corps (OTCs), the Army Officer Selection Board, the Academy, and Junior Command and Staff Course). Staff are employed in a variety of roles and in ranks ranging from Lieutenant Colonel to Colour Sergeant.

A common theme for all is the fast pace of life at Sandhurst, particularly for those directly responsible for training delivery. Incremental change continues to be introduced to ensure the delivery of effective training that is firmly grounded in doctrine and evolving best practice. As ever, the junior term reflects the need to transform individuals from civilian to soldier with the focus quickly shifting after five weeks to the development of leaders capable of operating

across the broad spectrum of operations characteristic of the land domain.

Due to the efforts of the wider regimental community and as an infantry regiment with a distinctive 'brand', interest from officer cadets in the Welsh Guards remains notably high which gives the regiment the privileged position of being able to offer places to some of the very best who commission from Sandhurst. Officer recruiting is clearly a team sport and we

remain very conscious of the hard work, particularly from regimental headquarters, that goes in to getting these high-quality individuals into the regiment.

The essential structure of the commissioning course remains unchanged with a year-long course split into three terms. However, reflecting to an extent the way in which the operating environment places a significant intellectual demand on our young officers and non-commissioned officers, the academic side of the course has unprecedented rigour. This allows for the accreditation of studies undertaken by officer cadets, which in turn is an attractive aspect of the course to officer cadets who might not have studied for a degree at university prior to Sandhurst.

Being such a high profile and world-renowned organisation, the defence engagement opportunities for the Academy are clear and Sandhurst has never

trained so many international officer cadets. This gives the commissioning course a truly international flavour and gets our officer cadets used to operating in conjunction with personnel from other nations and cultures, laying foundations for the upstream engagement tasks that young officers will undoubtedly be required to undertake during their careers (particularly if they commission into a regiment with units in 1st Division).

Sandhurst remains grateful for the quality of officers and non-commissioned officers that are sent here on the staff. While gaining enormously from the varied challenges that come with a tour at Sandhurst, they continue to underpin well the reputation of the regiment and the wider Household Division."

1. Welsh Guards staff at RMA Sandhurst: CSgt Hedges, WO1 Williams, Maj A Salusbury, Lt Col A Bowen, Capt J Marsden, CSgt Thomas



### Battalion Ski Trip 2019

by Lieutenant FFB Ruscombe-King  
Officer Commanding Number 4 Platoon

**O**n Saturday 26 January members of the Battalion left for the Austrian slopes. It would be the first of two trips conducted to Alpendorf by the Battalion over a two-week period.

A lengthy 23-hour journey saw the first batch arrive in the Austrian town, slightly weary from the journey but ready to go and after bedding into the delights of the very nice hotel the group were billeted at, we headed to bed in preparation for the first day of skiing.

Monday saw a beautiful 'blue bird' day with both the Ski Foundation 1 (SF1) and Ski Foundation 2 (SF2) groups ready to go on the first lift. Having met our instructors the night before, we were soon split into the four ability groups that we were to spend the majority of the next week in. A brief warm up of

press-ups and lunges was conducted before we aimed head first down the slopes. The SF2 groups spent much of the day being assessed on ability and how well we could 'find our edges', while the SF1 groups under Lt Sebastian Ward and Sgt Richter spent the day finding their feet on the skis. By the end of the day both groups had skied for roughly 6 hours a piece and were ready for a well-deserved break at the bottom of the slope.

As the week progressed, the groups really began to be pushed by the instructors. The SF2 groups were pushed to not only 'find their edges'





but to ski off-piste in the fresh powder of the back country. This took place on both the first week and second week. It consisted of lessons on avalanche risk, the use of specialist equipment to find those trapped under the snow and the basics of ski touring and skiing off-piste. The day then moved into skiing off-piste in the back country of the resort. Skiing through the trees and then into the powder fields, for those with limited experience, was something they are unlikely to forget. As the groups carved fresh tracks in the powder, it was easy to forget that in skiing, what goes down must come back up.

After a quick rendezvous at the bottom, we began our two and a half hour climb back to the top of the mountain. However tiring this was, the views and the experience made up for it with all members positively beaming by the end. As we were being worked hard up the mountainside, the SF1 groups continued in their ski development phase. The absolute beginners now began on blue runs while the intermediate beginners started on the red slopes. With both groups coming on rapidly, and with the instructors setting black slopes in their sights the groups had to keep it up.

In both weeks it was on the 4th day that we really built on the foundations developed over the preceding days. As the SF2 groups headed onto the steeper black runs around the resort the SF1s consolidated on the reds with a view to then being able to tackle a black run by the end of the day. This was to be arguably the most successful day with both sets of groups becoming more and more confident with the steeper runs. The SF2 groups also

began to incorporate the use of their poles in skiing off piste and indeed on the steep blacks, a skill that saw us not only being able to control the speed of movement but also look incredibly smart when skiing down. By the end of the 4th day the intermediate beginners SF1 group had successfully skied down their first black run, a momentous achievement for those who had only skied up to a week before the trip.

The final part of both weeks involved a free ski period. This was a ski without the instructors, simply with their groups, a demonstration of the amount that specifically the beginners had come on. With the day done and the skiing finished the groups retired to the après bar that was by now well acquainted with the Welsh Guards for a celebratory beer and a good laugh. Having spoken with everyone who went on the ski trip, the overwhelming consensus was that it was fantastic. From the level of instruction through to the conditions of the slopes, everyone not only learned a huge amount but also had a fantastic time and it is with great thanks to all those involved, not least the Regimental Trustees for their continued support in subsidising this annual event, that I conclude this article.

1. Week 2 Group Photograph
2. NAAFI break ski style
3. From Left: Maj Davies (OIC), Phil (SF2 Instructor), Dave (SF2 Instructor), Lt Ward (SF1 Instructor), Sgt Richter (SF1 Instructor), CSM Jefferies (2IC), CSM Scarf (2IC)
4. From Left: Phil (SF2 Instructor), Dave (SF2 Instructor), Lt Ward (SF1 Instructor), Sgt Richter (SF1 Instructor)
5. From Left: CSM Jefferies (2Coy), CSM Scarf (POWs), Ski Instructor Dave
6. The view from the top





**Welsh Guards Officers’ Mess Ski Trip 2019**

by Captain GF Elletson, Regimental Signals Officer

The fourth annual Officers’ Mess ski trip took place in Avoriaz, France. The turbulent year of 2018 saw the overwhelming majority of the Battalion away on operations and for many officers this meant nearly eight months away from their loved ones.

The Officers’ Mess Ski trip is so much more than a weekend skiing, it is a reward for the previous years’ work and an excellent opportunity for the Mess to bond, integrate and share time with our families. Importantly, it is also an opportunity to welcome new officers to the Mess. This year we were delighted to include Major Alex McDougall (Royal Welsh), Major Ben Kendall (1st Battalion Coldstream Guards), Second Lieutenant Oli Powell and Second Lieutenant Jonny Leonard.

Avoriaz is a charming purpose-built, pedestrian-only ski resort (much to our surprise when we were greeted by horse and sled as transport to our accommodation!). The resort is perched atop a cliff overlooking Morzine, a view that can only be described as utterly captivating. Avoriaz village sits within the stunning Portes Du Soleil ski area which straddles the border between the Alps and the formidable ‘Mur de Swise’. In addition, it is overlooked by the ‘Dent du Midi’, ‘Dents Blanche’ and





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1. Pit Stop
2. The team from the Welsh Guards Officers' Mess and guests
3. A view into Switzerland from France. We were lucky with the snow!
4. Perfect views, perfect snow!
5. Spoilt for choice!
6. We did manage to squeeze in a bit of time to have a good lunch.

Mont Blanc, which makes Avoriaz an incredibly scenic resort.

Twenty-five officers and their partners set off from Pirbright for the 4-day weekend. Owing to the broad range of skiing previously conducted, the group tended to break off in to sub-groups of equal ability during the day, but breakfast and supper were always taken together. Having been split over three locations whilst deployed and with some officers remaining in the UK, it was super for one and all to be together again, particularly over a beverage or two!

The skiing was fantastic; Avoriaz was kind enough to order a large 'dump' of snow just prior to our arrival and as such, the trip enjoyed deep snow (in addition to beautiful, bright blue skies) for the first three days. The expression 'powder hunting' became synonymous with bruised egos and one or two stories of daring 'après ski'. It was unanimously agreed that the French side offered beautiful skiing but that the jaunts into Switzerland provided variety, lovely lunches and eerily empty pistes.

The trip had a fantastic dynamic, complemented by a broad spectrum of rank. The senior Officer in attendance, the Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Bonas, held the Officers' Mess tiller splendidly steady, skiing every day and joining the junior officers by night, a fine example to us all. I know I speak for all who attended when I say that the weekend facilitated our readjustment from operations and allowed us to enjoy one another's company outside of work. These opportunities and the attendees on them make the Welsh Guards Officers' Mess the very, very special place that it is.

In sum, the Portes Du Soleil area offered fantastic skiing, the trip provided a perfect opportunity to integrate new members of the Mess and for existing members to bond. The Welsh Guards Officers' Mess is incredibly grateful for the support of the Trustees for this wonderful trip, the value of which will never be under-estimated. Long may it continue.



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**TELEMARK – THE FREE HEEL LIFE**  
**Ex TELEMARK TITAN and the Inter Services**  
**Snow Sports Championships**

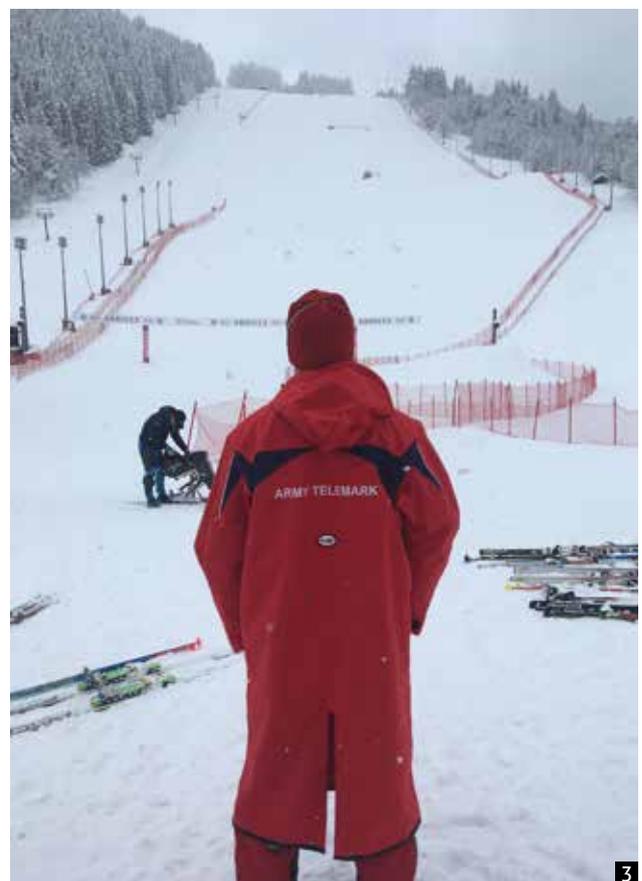
by Captain AJN Smith, SO3 ExPlans  
 Mission Training and Mobilisation Centre

On 12 January 2019 Ex TELEMARK TITAN (Ex TT) formed up in Pralognan-la-Vanoise (PLV), France, being the Army, Navy and British Telemark Championships rolled up into one.

Telemark, although the original form of skiing, is little known (although it is currently going through something of a renaissance) and as such does not attract the same sort of numbers (or funding) as alpine, its modern-day equivalent. The large spread of competitors (110 in total) ranged from the smartest Guardsman to the scruffiest of civilians, making for a great atmosphere in the small village of PLV for the duration of the exercise.

Telemark originated in Telemark in Norway thanks to the father of skiing, Sondre Norheim, who created the concept as a way of getting around the snowy mountains. The free heel allowed for easy skating and climbing of hills/ mountains, and with skis on his feet it was also easier to descend.

Ex TT is a two-week long race camp in PLV with many of the instructors coming from the World Cup circuit. Although open to all levels



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it is recommended that participants have skied before due to the complexities of the telemark style and the challenges it presents as a form of downhill skiing. The main difference from regular alpine is that the heel is not fixed into the ski binding (the reason telemark is also

known as free heel skiing) and on every turn the downhill foot is lunged forwards, making it an incredibly physically demanding sport. As one Officer on Ex TT was overheard saying "There are two sure fire ways to ruin a good trip - ski racing or telemarking, and we're doing

both! Fixing the heel would fix the problem" - but by the end of the racing there was no doubt he was a complete convert to the challenge of telemarking.

The racing itself is made up of three different disciplines - the Giant Slalom (GS), the Sprint and the Classic. Unlike alpine racing where there is just a piste and gates to negotiate, telemark racing attempts to incorporate all the aspects for which it was created. Both the Sprint and the Classic races include GS gates, purpose-built jumps at intervals down the course, a banked 360 degree turn and a skating section (which can include flat, slight downhill and slight uphill). To assist with the skating section, a telemark racer races with long skate poles (same height to

length ratio as for biathlon skiing) which unfortunately yields them unwieldy through the GS gates. The GS race only includes the jump, with no skating or banked turn.

There are also time penalties to be contended with. Shortly after leaving the start box the racer crosses a blue line painted in the snow, after which he/she is expected to be in telemark style. The requirement is to have one boot length between the heel of the lead foot and the toe of the rear foot (failing which a one second time penalty is added on to the race time). Additionally, if the racer fails to transition smoothly between each turn in telemark style, a one second time penalty is once again applied. Not jumping the required distance over the jump will also incur



a three second time penalty and not landing from the jump in a telemark position incurs yet another one second time penalty.

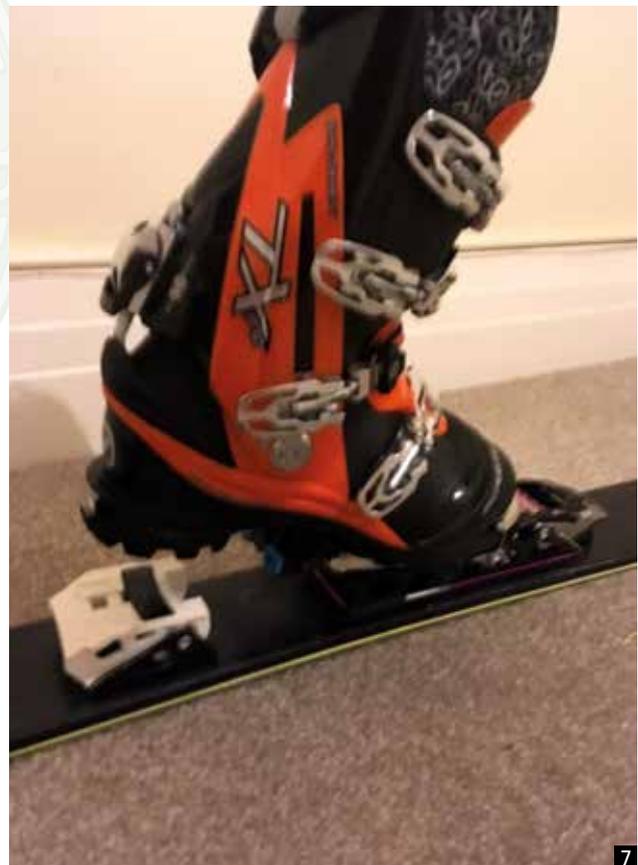
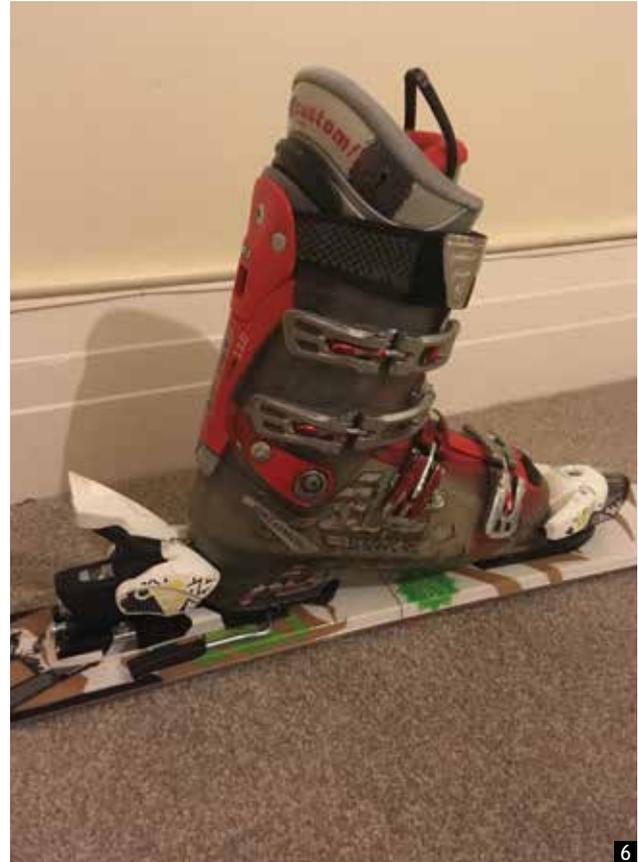
Week one of the camp was all about training (and some powder skiing during days of heavy snowfall). The training included everything from on-piste skiing and basic technique improvement to the race training which included gates, jumps, banked turns and skating. For me, this was the first time that I had ever received any instruction on telemark skis so the benefit was huge. The end of week one saw the qualification race, a race for all those who had never previously raced telemark (including myself) and thus did not hold any seeding points. The idea was for these novices to be separated into those who would compete in the Championship race series and those who would compete in the Development race series. This race was completed on the piste where the Development races would take place and I was pleased to qualify for the Championship series.

Week two saw the actual races and it was evident that everything had become more serious, as the ski preparation room in the basement of the hotel was suddenly full every evening. For each event, telemark racing requires all racers to complete two inspections of the course before competing; the first to inspect the course and gates and the second to inspect the jump (also the banked turn and skating section if part of the race). All racers are required to go over the jump during the second inspection so that the race committee can determine the position for the distance line to be cleared. This is normally set so that

only about 10% of the racers will actually clear it and will therefore not incur the three second time penalty.

The first race of the week was the Championship GS race, which was competed for over two runs of the course. After the first run I was in 27th place (out of 72 racers in the Championship series) and finished the second run in 26th (7th place in the Army). After a rest day (whilst the Development series got under way) it was time for the Sprint race (including the GS gates, jump, banked turn and skate). The Sprint is the shortest of all the races and was again competed for by 72 racers. After the second run I was again in 26th place overall and 7th in the Army. The following day came the Classic, the longest and most challenging of the telemark races. It includes all the same aspects as the Sprint, but everything is bigger, longer and tougher. Unlike the GS and Sprint, it is only competed over one run and I finished in 26th place overall again but this time was 8th in the Army.

After all the racing was finished it was time for a team mountain race. This has now become a regular part of Ex TT where teams of three complete in an uphill race. Each member of the team climbs up the mountain along the set course before ripping their ski skins off at the top and skiing down as fast as possible to release the next member of the relay. I, as the lone Welsh Guardsman and the lone infanteer, was teamed up with a bearded civilian and a female competitor from the Navy. I am pleased to report we didn't come last but finished in the middle of the field. Other achievements of note for the author at the end of Ex TT were finishing as the top





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infanteer, most improved from the infantry and fastest first year racer from the infantry.

After the three Championship races I was placed 8th overall from the Army. Army funding for telemark provides for only a team of 7 (rather than the 9 permitted to be sent to the Inter-Services Snow Sports Championships - ISSSC) so I sadly missed out by a single place from being selected for the team.

However, due to a compassionate issue I received a call from the Army Team Captain a couple of days later offering me a place on the team and fortunately my Chain of Command were able to release me to compete at the ISSSC and to receive my Army Colours.

The ISSSC took place in Méribel between 2-8th February 2019.

The sponsored event is huge and a great experience and I commend it to anyone who has aspirations to do any kind of competitive racing. The UK Armed Forces take over the resort and the spectacle is truly impressive, with skiing and snowboarding to match. This year also included a team from the Australian Defence Force who make the pilgrimage every 3 years. The races covered include all telemark disciplines, all alpine disciplines and all snowboard ones (including slope style, parallel GS and boardercross) and this year featured over 150 competitors from across the three Services. Overall there were 22 telemarkers at the Championships (9 from the Navy, 7 from the Army and 6 from the RAF).

The race slope in Méribel is bigger, longer, steeper and more challenging than the

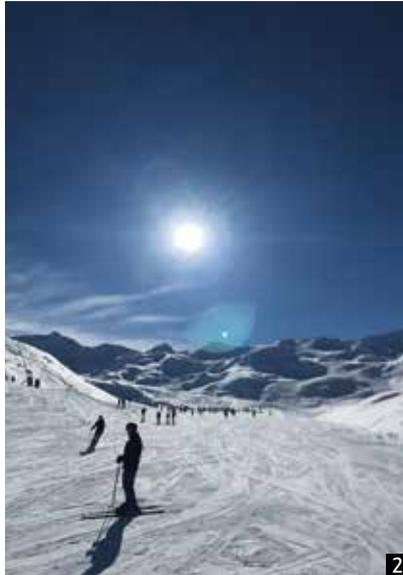
one in PLV and for myself it proved to be a steep learning curve as I needed to be ready after just one practice afternoon on the piste before the competitions started. For the telemark races there was the GS, Classic and Sprint with a team side-by-side GS race on the last day which did not count towards the overall team results. The racing was of a much higher level in Méribel but some great skiing and results for the Army team were to come, although we were sadly pipped by the Navy team for the telemark overall trophy. The first race, as in PLV, was the GS where I was placed 8th overall and 3rd in the Army team. This was followed up by the Classic race where I managed a 10th place overall and 4th in the Army. Between the Classic and the Sprint I also had the chance to act as a fore-runner to test the course for the night parallel

GS event that was being run for all the sponsors - it was great to be able to ski a run without any pressure but arriving in a packed out finish area as the sponsors prepared themselves. The next day was the Sprint - unfortunately a poor day for me personally, as I was off the pace slightly and finished in 12th overall and 7th in the Army.

The ISSSC was a great finish to the racing season. Although it was my first season of racing, it proved to be a personally successful one, with the real prospect of further improvement next year. I would like to think that next year two or three other Welsh Guardsmen will be able to join me so that we can compete as a team on Ex TT with equal success - unless any other Infantry teams decide to turn up I fancy our chances of becoming the best infantry team present!

My thanks go to both Regimental Headquarters and the Battalion for agreeing to support me this year. Also, to the Army Telemark set up which invested in me and believed in me enough to take me to the ISSSC. Bring on next season!

1. Capt Adam Smith preparing for his first race on Ex TT
2. Capt Adam Smith racing Ex TT
3. Capt Smith looking up the final pitch of the race slope in Méribel
4. LCpl Munns Int Corps (back left), LCpl Sharp REME (back right) and Capt Smith (front centre)
5. Méribel view
6. Showing the standard alpine binding
7. Showing the telemark binding with the free heel
8. Start of the Sprint race in Méribel



**Ex WHITE GAUNTLET 2019 (The ARMCCEN Annual Ski Trip)**

by Captain JWB Webster

SO3 DCC at the Combat Communication Information Systems (CIS) School  
The Armour Centre (ARMCCEN)

I have been based at The Armour Centre (ARMCCEN) in Bovington for almost nine months now and it has been an interesting and fulfilling time thus far.

Being part of a very small Infantry conglomerate in an otherwise Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) dominated camp, it is imperative to ensure you make the most of all team bonding and social activities to ensure complete involvement and dedication. This is not only to shed the Infantry in a good light, but also to ensure that I make the most of my time down here and make new acquaintances as it seems the size of the Army these days means you are highly likely to bump into those you worked with before again which could always be of use.

With this in mind, I applied and was fortunate to gain a space to complete some skiing adventurous training in order to develop on my Ski Foundation 2 course that

I completed three years ago with the Battalion under the fine teaching of Lt Col Tom Smith. I travelled as part of the first group to Val Thorens and was placed in the expert group for development.

Val Thorens is the highest resort in the Alps and we were fortunate enough to have some great weather and snow throughout the week. The first day, however, was less than ideal with atrocious visibility and whilst most of the population of the resort retired to a warm fire and chocolat chaud, our group decided to go to the top of the mountain and down the longest, steepest black run around. This really was a lesson on defensive skiing 101.

Thankfully the next three days



produced blue skies and fresh powder which resulted in some fantastic days of skiing and the group really began to develop and gain confidence throughout. Our group had a plethora of experience and different backgrounds ranging from an LE Lieutenant Colonel down to a LCpl which led to some good fun banter and different opinions on where to go for a beer after the skiing was complete.

The group was able to practice all aspects of their skiing, from moguls to off-piste to jumps in the park, all thankfully without many cuts and bruises along the way. The aims of Adventurous Training were very much met throughout the week, especially the building of team spirit and taking soldiers out of their

comfort zones. Especially when someone with vertigo was stuck on a high chairlift in a blizzard for half an hour!

All in all, it was a highly successful week that brought a change of scene and a tactical pause to the grind of routine that is in place in a training establishment. In terms of the future, I hope to pass my Ski Leader 1 course next year, then hopefully return to Battalion to help teach on one of their future trips.

1. Great visibility!
2. Significantly improved conditions made for some great days skiing.
3. Making sure the Regiment are well branded on the slopes.
4. Carving practice at speed.



## Exercise FROSTED BLADE (Val D'isere, France)

by Lieutenant GR Davidson, Platoon Commander

### Week 1 – Deploying and Training

The Welsh Guards Alpine Team deployed on Exercise Frosted Blade (Ex FB) in December 2018. The team was entirely made up from people who deployed on Op TORAL, thus ensuring everyone was very much looking forward to being away ski racing for 30 days. The first week saw the team settle into Val D'isere and was made up of technical training in the day, it allowed everyone to find their skiing legs again but for Gdsm Griffiths from Number 2 Company it meant putting ski boots on for the first time. After just 4 days' instruction, Gdsm Griffiths was

skiing red runs with the rest of the team; a testament to the quality of instruction and Gdsm Griffiths' tenacity to learn.

### Week 2 – Gates Training

During week 2 the team were introduced to gate training. For most of the team this was the first time they experienced skiing through gates and down a set course. The training was intense and saw the team spend up to 8 hours a day on the slopes. The competitors were broken down into 14 groups based on their skiing ability, with the top groups spending more time on the gates and the lower groups

focusing more on technique. This progression in training allowed LCpl Prothero from Number 2 Company to start demonstrating his skiing potential, even catching the eye of the Infantry coaches. The exercise was not limited to the slopes, however. During week 2 of the exercise, all the team captains were invited to host the mayor and other senior figures within the town to show our appreciation for hosting the Infantry year on year.

### Week 3 – Christmas in the Alps

For the Christmas period, all teams were given the option to either go home for four days or stay in the resort and experience a Christmas in

the Alps. The Welsh Guards decided that a Christmas in the Alps was an opportunity that could not be missed. The team enjoyed some down time from training and spent a couple of days free skiing around the Espace Killy ski area – they could ski the entire area in two days. On Christmas morning, the team had bacon sandwiches and exchanged their 'secret santa' gifts before heading up to enjoy a Christmas Day ski. The conditions over the Christmas period were surprisingly warm with perfect blue skies and the team enjoyed long lunches on the mountain.

### Week 4 – Race Week

The Christmas period was over before we knew it and the team were straight back



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into training for two days' final preparation before the race week began. The Welsh Guards Alpine Team broke down into an A and a B team comprising of 4 men each. The B team had a separate race schedule which started 2 days earlier and for the first race LCpl Knill from The Prince of Wales's Company had bib number 1 meaning he was to be first man down the mountain. He dealt with this pressure excellently and managed to finish inside the top 10 for the Giant Slalom race. LCpl Jones from Number 3 Company who was also racing for the B team performed exceptionally well and as a complete novice finished inside the top 50, earning him the 'most improved' skier award within the team.

The A hill race week kicked off with the Giant Slalom event which saw the top 130 skiers from the Exercise racing on a particularly icy slope. The Welsh Guards A team competed very well, Gdsm Smith 70 from Number 2 Company skied himself into the top 60 which helped push the Welsh Guards team into the top 5 teams. At the end of the race week, the Welsh Guards Alpine Team had displayed some very good individual and team skiing. As a regular team, they finished 3rd, which is the highest a Household Division Team has ever placed. This meant the team could return to the UK after a busy but enjoyable exercise with some medals and hopefully we have set the conditions for future teams to do even better!



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1. LCpl Prothero of Number 2 Company at the start of his Giant Slalom race.
2. Lt Vincenzini of The Prince of Wales's Company during the Downhill race on the famous Ok Orange run.
3. The Welsh Guards Alpine A team before their final race of the Exercise.



## Welsh Guards Sea Fishing Team

by Sergeant Rees

Over the last year the Welsh Guards sea fishing team has been established and has started to take shape.

Sgt Rees, who has been a keen fisherman for 25 years has been the driving force behind the team and has even had a pair of his own personal rods built with the Welsh Guards cypher in Household Division BRB colours; he is certainly flying the flag for the Battalion on the beaches of Wales.

Sgt Rees, CSgt Thomas 90 and LSgt Roberts 25 fish together regularly. The majority of team fishing is conducted on weekends, sports afternoons and fishing for the Army



Angling Federation (AFF). As a consequence of operational commitments in 2018 the team missed the majority of fishing matches but is hoping to make a regain this year with an ambition of competing in Army matches and finishing high in the overall Army rankings for 2019.

Sgt Rees and CSgt Thomas 90 fished off Selsey Beach, West Sussex in Jul 18 and had a very productive session, catching 12 Undulate Rays; CSgt Thomas caught an impressive 5lb Bass which can be seen in photo 1 below and Sgt Rees caught an Undulate Ray that weighed just under 13lb making this a specimen Ray. All fish were returned to the water to live and fight again another day.

Congratulations must go to Sgt Rees, who fished as part of a 4-man Army team on Herne Bay in Kent. It was a difficult match as the tide was against them and the wind

flattened the sea. By the end, Sgt Rees had caught a Bass weighing just under 2lb and two Thornback Rays weighing around 4lb each which won him biggest fish and second place for the Army.

Sgt Rees also fished the league one match for the Army on Chesil Beach, Dorset. The conditions were rough with a very strong South Westerly wind making it very difficult to cast and see bites. All 20 Anglers struggled that day, but Sgt Rees did manage to catch an impressive 14lb Undulate Ray (Photo 2) giving him second place again and biggest fish of the day. Sgt Rees is doing very well considering it's his first-year fishing at Army level.

On 3 Jan 19, Sgt Rees, CSgt Thomas 90 and LSgt Roberts 25 headed down to the Jurassic coast for the first session of 2019 where they fished Chesil Beach. Chesil Beach is an 18-mile-long beach that can be very challenging but rewarding if you put the time in. They arrived there at 0800 after a long drive from Pirbright. It was a cold morning with frost on the shingle and a bitterly cold South Westerly

wind, but that did not stop the determined Sea Fishing Team. They started catching as soon as the bait hit the water, Dog Fish and Whiting kept their rod tips rattling throughout the day. As darkness fell, Sgt Rees had a bite on his rod and knew straight away what fish had bitten, as he struck and reeled the fish in he felt the nodding of the fish's head and told the lads "It's a Cod," he knew before it even arrived on the shingle. CSgt Thomas and LSgt Roberts ran down to the shore line and landed the fish for Sgt Rees, a beautiful 5lb Cod. This saw the end to another productive session and a promising start to 2019 for the team, who are hoping that more Welsh Guardsman will want to meet them on the shoreline in the future.

1. Sgt Chris Rees with a 3lb spotted ray.
2. Sgt Chris Rees with a 12lb smooth hound caught on crab from Chesil Beach.
3. Sgt Rees with a brace of cod caught on a boat trip off the Welsh coast.
4. Sgt Chris Rees with another smooth hound off Chesil Beach.



**Welsh Guards Golf Association 2019**

by Martyn Griffiths 52

It is with a hint of sadness that I write and submit these notes for the Welsh Guards Magazine as I have now handed over the responsibilities of managing the Association Golf.

Hopefully whoever the person or persons who take over might be (Steve Gelly and Paul Conlon (awaiting confirmation at time of going to print)) these two I have known for many years and I know they will do a fantastic job and drive the success of the association forward. I have no doubt whatsoever that they will enjoy the task ahead as much as I have and will have the same support of all the members, which has been second to none and made the job [at times] easier!

Once again, the association has grown stronger at each meeting with somebody new attending at nearly every competition and I would say we are now up to 30 members with the Battalion sending players to compete as and

when they can be spared. We had 4 meetings again this year starting off at South Pembrokeshire (West Wales) where Rob O'Rourke is a member. We then headed to the Glamorganshire (South Wales) and from there to Newport Golf Club (East Wales), finishing up at Holywell Golf Club (North Wales) where Ben Thomas is a member. It was particularly good to see a lot of different faces winning the prizes this year - it really is getting very competitive.

The Results of the meeting were as follows:  
**South Pembrokeshire Golf Club - 29th May.** For those interested in playing at this course we would highly recommend it, the welcome we received was superb.

**Winner with 37 points**

- Ryan Jayne

**Runner up with 36 points**

- Shane Pullen

**Third place with 33 points**

- John Badham

**Nearest the pin**

- Robert O'Rourke

**Longest drive**

- Martyn Griffiths

**Winner of the two's comp**

- Robert O'Rourke

(receiving £20)

**Glamorganshire Golf Club – 26th June.**

Our second meeting was again held at the Glamorganshire Golf Club. This was our third visit to this club it really is a no brainer to keep returning to this wonderful club - with the outstanding deal they give us, we couldn't ever play at a better club.

There were some great scores on the day as the wind was gusting above 40k!

**Winner with 33 points and the recipient of the John Powell Trophy**

- Robert O'Rourke

**Runner Up with 31 points**

- Derek Mangan

**Third place with 30 points**

- Martin Topps

**Nearest the pin**

- Martin Topps

**Longest drive**

- Derek Mangan

**Winner of the two's comp** - Mark Horwood (receiving £12)

And no, it wasn't a typing error there was a familiar name missing on the list of prizes?

**Newport Golf Club – 24th July.**

Our third meeting was held at Newport Golf Club, it was fair to say this was probably the best welcome we have ever received at a Golf Club. They even called us all together to give us a brief (it brought back memories to muster parades for some!) and it was at this stage they presented us with a souvenir plate with the club's badge. It is hoped we can be as favourable and present them with a Welsh Guards Plaque when we return in the future. The weather was also very kind and the sun came out in a blaze.



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**Winner with a great score of 40 (new handicap given)**

- Paul Conlon

**Runner up with 35 points (familiar name back again!)**

- John Badham

**Third place with 32 points (and attending for the first time)**

- Mike George

**Nearest the pin**

- Ryan Jayne

**Longest drive**

- Richard Tudball

There was no winner of the two's comp so £18 rolled over to the North Wales Meeting

**Hollywell Golf Club – 28th August.**

Our final meeting was again held in North Wales at the Holywell Golf Club - Ben Thomas is a member here.

Again, the welcome we received from the club was exceptional and I have to thank the staff for the way in which they coped with all the amendments to the numbers, even up to just before tee off time! The catering staff were brilliant so thank you Holywell Golf Club I am sure we will return.

There was a very clear winner in the challenge for the Welsh Guards Golfer of the year and so he could enjoy the day without too much concern of being overtaken! However, just as we were having our bacon roll and cup of tea and getting ready for the off, the weather turned for the worst and it started bucketing down with rain! It didn't dampen the spirits or resolve of the golfers who all just got into their wetsuits and cracked on with playing. By the time the last two groups went out the sun had made an appearance and it became reasonably pleasant conditions which played a big part in the results as not only did he win the meeting, but he became Champion Golfer of the year.

The Results of the meeting were as Follows:

**Winner with 37 points (and recipient of the Eflon Jones Trophy)**

- John Badham

**Runner up with 36 points**

- Ben Thomas

**Third place with 34 points**

- Robert O'Rourke

**Nearest the pin**

**(a guest of Roy Gardiner, we had to give him the prize as it was 6 inches away from a hole in one)**

- Barry Cross

**Longest Drive (we thought Robin Malcolm had it in the bag but to find out his drive was beaten by Martin he must have had less than 100 yards into the green a superb shot)**

- Martin Topps

**Winners of the rollover two's comp**

- Robin Malcolm, Danny Lewis, Robert O'Rourke, Barry Cross, Roy Gardiner and Ben Thomas all receiving £7 each

So, after adding all the points up from the season there was a clear winner and having had an outstanding season in his year as Club Captain we congratulate John Badham in Defending his title as Welsh Guards Golfer of the year and recipient of the Colonel Malcolm Trophy for 2019 well done John.

For those who are not aware this was my last meeting as the organiser of the Welsh Guards Golf competitions. Having done it for many years I felt the society has gone from strength to strength and it was a good time to hand over to someone else to bring it forward with fresh ideas. I was saying a quick thank you to the members when I was halted in my speech to be presented with what I can only say was a remarkable gift from all the golfers; a golf bag in the Blue Red Blue Brigade colours with an embroidered Regimental Crest and badge with my name and last two numbers (52). It

was totally unexpected and left me lost for words.

However, the presentations didn't stop there and I was then presented, on behalf of the Welsh Guards Association, with a wall mounted framed replica of the Regimental Colours by Welsh Guards Association Secretary General, Maldwyn Jones and Robin Malcolm. Another truly remarkable gift to which I will treasure forever and display with pride. It was now impossible to speak and I was humbled by the generosity of everyone involved - thank you so much it was totally unexpected as I have always arranged the meetings for the love of the sport and the people who took part and would have continued on if it had not been for changes to my own employment patterns. I will always be on hand for advice for whoever takes on the mantle.

I would like to thank Robin Malcolm for attending and making the presentations and also Maldwyn for taking time out on his busy schedule

- hopefully we will see you playing next season?

I would like to thank everyone that has participated this year and the Welsh Guards Association Trustees for allocating the funding to purchase the trophies for each competition, it has been another successful year for the Golf Association, and long may it continue to thrive. I would also like to wish the players involved with the Colonel-in-Chiefs Cup good luck and let's defend the title we won last year.

In closing, one final thank-you to Martin Browne in assisting us with all the payments to the clubs - from all the members Martin thank you so much. We would all also like to wish Lyn all the very best in her progress after a difficult year for you both.

I look forward to actually playing some decent golf and challenging for the title next year without the added distractions of organising the events (the obvious reason I have not won for so long!)



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1. The Welsh Guards Golf Association, Newport Golf Club 2019
2. Ryan Jayne receiving his trophy
3. John Badham, Robert O'rouke, Shane Pullen, Arwyn (Johns very successful caddy)
4. Ben Thomas, Derek Mangan, Peter Richardson
5. Mark Horwood, Steve Gelly, Marty Griffiths
6. Paul Conlon receiving his Newport Golf winner's Trophy from Martin Topps
7. John Badham Receiving the Colonel Malcolm Trophy from Robin Malcolm as the Welsh Guards Golfer of the year 2019
8. Robin Malcolm presenting martin Topps a trophy
9. Martyn Griffiths being presented with his WG emblazoned blue red blue golf bag
10. Martyn Griffiths being presented with his framed Regimental Colour.
11. Richard Tudball being presented his trophy by Martin Topps



## Marathon des Sables

### 7 Strangers, 1 tent and infinite grains of sand

by Captain JO Dinwiddie-Choat, Operations Officer

Does one ever think “I love suffering”? It’s a rhetorical question but it is what infantry training teaches us; the elation of surviving an event seems to erase any memory of hardship encountered and somehow, we go from swearing at ourselves under muted breath and vowing to others that we will never sign up again, to “oh yer, great idea, I’ll do that with you, we can raise money for charity”.



Yet again, this is the situation I find myself in whilst climbing a particularly tall sand dune in Morocco. This article is an account of my experience on 2019’s Marathon des Sables.

As an officer, personal example is a key leadership trait that we are expected to demonstrate in the hope that others may take confidence from our exploits, “if he can do it, so can I”, so what better way than to enter a race coined as the “hardest foot race in the world” (I say that with tongue in cheek). Over the last few years, several members of the Battalion have entered the race, most famously Capt Tom Evans finished 3rd overall and achieved the accolade of ‘highest ever placed European’ - so as his contemporary, at least there was no pressure.

The Marathon des Sables [marathon of the sands] (MDS) takes place yearly in a northern portion of the Sahara Desert, in Morocco. In simple terms,

it is a six-day endurance race aimed to test a contestant’s independence, self-sufficiency and physical and mental capacity to endure heat and sand. A thousand competitors from around the globe flock to attempt the challenge yearly and it turns into a sociable event. The MDS was conceived and created by a verbose French man named Patrick Bauer in 1986, who, seeking solace and self-discovery, walked 300km over twelve days through the Moroccan desert. On completion, he set up the event to replicate the challenge he had faced.

The course is, on average, 254km long and varies in both length and terrain each year. A balance is struck between the total kilometers to be run and the proportion of those kilometers run on sand. In 2019, this balance was tipped heavily towards sand; a shorter course 40% of which was on soft dune sand. If you have ever tried to

run on a dry sandy beach you will understand the trials and tribulations of competitors as they attempted to traverse the course. The terrain in general is particularly spectacular in Morocco, with the juxtaposition between 1000ft rocky Jebel escarpments, searing salt flats and 200ft tall sand dunes. All of which make for a genuinely remarkable picturesque backdrop, which could be found on a Star War's film set.

During the race, contestants must carry all their food and equipment (with the exception of water, which is replenished at check points) to sustain themselves for the duration. So, in layman's terms, you have one set of clothing that you are running and sleeping in, a lightweight sleeping bag and as much calorific food as you can carry; all weighing in anywhere between 8-15kgs. It goes without saying that the principle of 'the lighter you are the faster you can go' is absolutely true in this case. It sounds simple, but if you add to the equation that you have mandatory safety kit to carry (including a venom pump!), night temperatures can vary from daytime by 20 degree centigrade, wind increases the chill factor at night and you are sleeping on the floor; you can very quickly end up carrying 14kg+ to maintain any form of comfort.

The real genius of this event is its social nature; a great number of extremely interesting people come together and help each other complete the event. Competitors are all placed in tent groupings of 7 or 8 with similar language-speaking strangers. The comradeship humans can generate in such a short period of time when sharing hardship is amazing; a lesson that we know well in the Army but should employ more in training, training

needs to be hard to fully develop our teams. Our tent very quickly got to know each other, we slept and ate side by side, there was no lloo for a number one and only plastic bags for a number two, tents were mixed male and female and so with most inhibitions destroyed by our lack of privacy, conversations were pretty open and liberal! I will genuinely never forget those I bonded with in tent 56 or in the race. I would like to name a few outstanding individuals who were genuinely inspiring to race with; and in so, proving that there is always someone worse off!

Annalene, a dour Edinburger in her 50s was fit as a fiddle, she had recovered from drug addiction and was one of our tent mates. She spent almost twice the amount of time walking as I did; the endurance required to walk for 10-15hrs a day and get up and do the same again is just staggering. Given this context, Annalene never complained and stoically joked about her experiences.

Kevin Webber was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer in his 50s, he was given months to live, yet in 2019 he completed his fourth MDS in a row, all whilst continuing to receive chemotherapy treatment during the race - you can't get more determined than that!

Ivan Castro, ex-Green Beret US Special Forces Officer was blinded by an IED blast on active duty in Iraq and was running MDS with a guide; he passed our Berber tent one morning being led by his guide and said to us "Brits, anyone seen my guide, I've been dragging him around all week!", the Army is definitely the only place that fully appreciates irony.

There were individuals missing limbs walking the MDS with



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prosthetics, octogenarians competing and even the real-life Forrest Gump, Englishman Rob Pope, who has run 15,700 miles across America four times and who raised £38,000 for charity whilst running the MDS. He modestly told reporters that it had been the “hardest race I have ever completed” and that due to his health he had “feared for the race and my life at stages”.

My own experience of the race was unspectacular; however I will endeavor to bring six days of running through a 40+ degree arid landscape to life. Every morning, we were rudely awoken at 0530 by local staff who collapsed our tent over our heads. Now open to the elements, I would blink at the sunlight, sit up, add cold water to a bag of dehydrated porridge and generally mooch around preparing kit in a state of half undress until 0730. Competitors congregated fifteen minutes before each morning’s start, the seven members of our tent always started together. The sound of ‘Highway to hell’ by AC/DC signified the 10 second countdown to the day’s mass start; a media helicopter whirled overhead kicking up dust as a thousand competitors passed under the blow-up archway, like a scene from Mad Max. This writhing mass quickly splintered into ability groups and I often found myself alone and chatted to those going my pace.

The ground always influenced the speed of our advance but after an hour the race had strung out 10km from front to back. I had underestimated the impact of the sand and heat on my feet and suffered with blisters early in the race, my feet simply swelled and rubbed in unusual places. The old Army adage “your feet are your morale” is absolutely true, my feet felt

like they were melting and so was my morale. Frankly, the blisters were nothing in comparison to neglecting your salt tablet intake. At the start of the race officials stress the importance of salt intake to prevent dehydration and sadly many competitors get it wrong. It took me two days to understand how much salt my body required and with my first day’s high expectations reduced to a walk for the last 10km, it simply stopped me in my tracks: a disappointing start.

On day two, popping salt tablets like smarties, the race hit the high dunes, an ever-shifting sea of sand towering up to 200ft. Going was tough and those who brought walking poles profited from use of their upper body. Two steps forward, one step back as we slipped and slid in sand. The misery went on for 23km and weirdly I enjoyed it; there is something encouraging about watching others struggle and suffer that gave one strength and allowed me to pass many who were clearly not of the same mindset. The tradeoff was felt on the subsequent salt flats, the sand played havoc and had created blisters on blisters, these popped as I hit the flats and I fell to a dark mental place for the remaining 9km. At the end of each day, the “doc trotters” or foot clinic was usually full and I would spend an hour or so daily in the queue to get a scalpel and some iodine to lance and clean my sore feet.

Day four is the long day, a double marathon taking in the beauty of the desert. What a day this is! Thirteen hours of running and walking in the baking sun, much of which was on sand. This time I did not enjoy the sand and my progress was reduced to a tab over the kilometers of heat reflecting sand. As the



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sun set a spectacular light display broke out over the mountains, a special moment in the race. The darkness was a lonely place, no one talked, competitors had been running for 4 days and now our heads were down determined to finish, I had only my head torch for companionship. Thank God Day 5 was a day off! Competitors spent this time recovering and encouraging finishers over the line.

On day six we crossed the start line with one marathon to go! By far the most enjoyable day,

my body had finally settled into routine, my feet had hardened significantly and therefore my pace improved. The final marathon took in the largest ascents over Jebel Oftal, the oasis of El Maharch and a mountain finish. A breathtaking day, remarkable finish and an unremarkable performance. After the first few days, I was very grateful to have finished the challenge in some resemblance of order. What a chance of a lifetime.

The wonderful thing about the Army and particularly

the Welsh Guards, is their willingness to invest in their people. I am incredibly grateful to the Welsh Guards trustees and my chain of command for supporting me to run the MDS and who support other serving members to attempt journeys that they would otherwise not have the chance to complete. I genuinely believe that it is these opportunities that form the bedrock of retention and ultimately make us better, more robust infantrymen.

1. Day 1: The start-line, helicopter overhead, ACDC's "Highway to hell" playing in the background.
2. Our tented accommodation
3. Day 3: Competitor's morning preparation after our camel hair tents had been taken down. Temperature about 20-25 degrees C at 0630. Author in RAB hat.
4. Day 5: Author after the double marathon on Day 4.
5. Day 6: 7 members of Tent 56, before the beginning on the final charity 8km event.
6. Sand, lot and lots of sand.
7. Tents as sunset.
8. Day 2: The seas of shifting sand.

## Mark Evison Foundation Memorial Golf Competition

by Lieutenant G Davidson, Second in  
Command Support Company

The 5th June 2019 saw the Mark Evison Foundation host its second annual Memorial Golf Day. Margaret Evison along with the rest of the Foundation invited old friends, families, colleagues and supporters of the Mark Evison Foundation to play at the wonderful Worplesdon Golf Club.

The Battalion were very kindly invited to send a team to play in what was sure to be a special day to all involved; the Battalion was represented by Lieutenant G Davidson, Company Sergeant Major D Walton, Colour Sergeant C Evans and Major A McDougall.

The weather was perfect so there were no valid excuses for bad golf, with Lt Davidson starting very strongly, scoring well and leading the charge on the opening holes. Just as Lt Davidson started to slip away, Company Sergeant Major Walton found his form and lead the team charge to secure some vital points throughout the challenging middle part of the course. Major McDougall had had a torrid first 12 holes, however, like magic, he seamlessly grasped control and lead the charge for the home straight which enabled the Battalion side to post a very competitive score. We were confident we had done enough to secure the trophy; however,

Mark's old school friends had an extraordinarily good round of golf and came in with a score of 59, 2 better than we had managed. Sadly, it was not to be, but we were more than happy with second place and a fantastic day out of the office.

It was a real privilege to meet some of the key personalities behind the Mark Evison Foundation and was truly inspiring to hear some stories of the amazing work they are doing to promote the development of young people in London state schools, especially in disadvantaged areas. In short, it was a fantastic day supporting an incredible cause that was inspired by a special Welsh Guardsmen. We are already looking forward to next year's meet!



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## The Lawson Cup Household Division Athletics

By Second Lieutenant R Drury  
Adjutant Generals Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)  
attached to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

A hot summer's day saw the battalion swap bearskins and bayonets for javelins and shotputs as they descend upon Harrow School athletics track to host the Household Division in the annual Athletics competition, the Lawson Cup.

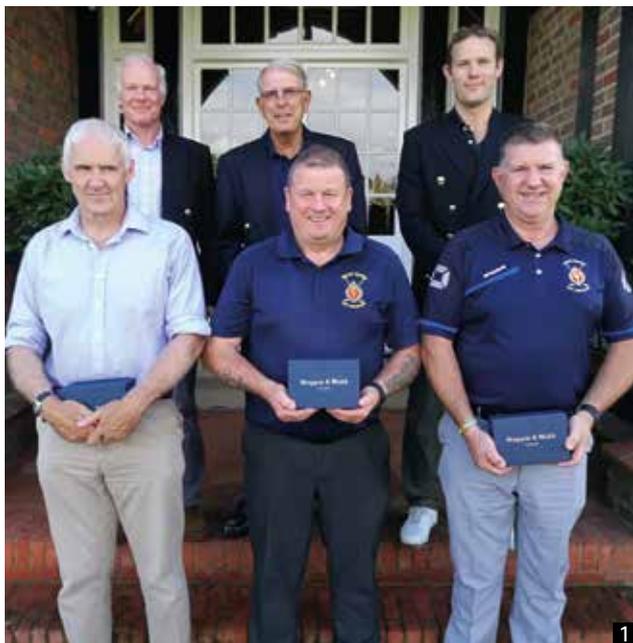
The team, under the watchful eye of team captain, Capt Griffiths arrived bright and early ready to perform for the large crowd dominated by supporters of the battalion. The team made a good start to the day picking up some strong results. Stand out performances included Gdsm Arnold producing a lightning performance in the 800m race comfortably finishing ahead of the field.

After a stop for lunch the action resumed and with the scorching heat starting to take its toll on everybody, Maj Ben Kendell stepped up to the commentary booth and got the crowd going again. The afternoons events saw success for Lt Vincenzini in the Javelin. The team's moral was high

going into the final event of the day the Prince of Wales relay, a gruelling event which saw a team of 7 sprint varying distances ranging from 100m to 800m the Welsh Guards team just pipped by a strong Irish Guards team at the death having to settle for 2nd place. Overall the team finished 4th a vast improvement on last year. A huge thank you goes out to Capt McNeill-Love and SSgt Harrison for organising the whole event.

1. Gdsm Arnold collecting his 800m medal
2. gt Edwards running hard on the Prince of Wales Relay
3. The team with the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major.





**Regimental Golf**

by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Bartle-Jones, Welsh Guards

This year’s season started on 24 April 2019 at Worplesdon Golf Club with the Household Division Championships, which are open to all members of the Household Division past and present.

It also included attached personnel for the first time. The Regiment had seven entries, which was a commendable effort. Steve Gelly and Robbie O’Rourke, came runners up in the handicap foursomes, with Robbie O’Rourke also claiming nearest the pin, and Andrew Morgan was runner up.

The Colonel in Chief’s Cup, which is the inter-regimental competition for the Household Division, had its early rounds on 2 May 2019 at Worplesdon. The competition is run on a ‘holes up’ system and at a quarter of the team handicap difference. There were only seven teams entered this year, so as holders, we had a bye through the first round into the semi-finals. This gave us the morning to practise. The scores were:

**Semi Final v Grenadier A.**

Martin Topps (8), Peter Richardson (13) - **Won + 7**  
 Steve Gelly (12), Gareth Evans 88 (12) - **Won + 5**  
 Robbie O’Rourke (9), Andrew Morgan (12) - **Won + 3**  
 Welsh Guards - **won +15**

The final, on 25 September 2019 was against our old rivals the Irish Guards. Though we had tried to field the semi-final winning team, unfortunately Gareth Evans 88 could not play due to operational commitments and Martin Topps managed to injure himself just days before the match and had to withdraw. In stepped Robin Malcom, and Charlie Ross who was able to free himself from his Equerry duties and fly from Scotland the night before. Conditions were not great and despite

some strong resistance (we still leading by 1 hole when our second pair came in) the Irish Guards came out on top due to their final pair score.

**Final v Irish Guards.**

Robin Malcom (6), Robbie O’Rourke (9) - **Won +2**  
 Charlie Ross (16), Peter Richardson (14)

**Lost -1**  
 Steve Gelly (11), Andrew Morgan (12) - **Lost -4**  
 Welsh Guards - **lost -3**

On 5 June, we took part in the Mark Evison Memorial Golf Day at Worplesdon. Sadly we could only find one team, with D-Day and Trooping rehearsals in full swing. There were approximately ten teams of four, with the best two scores on each hole to count. The Regiment came a very creditable second with 88 points. The team consisted of Andrew Morgan, CSM Daniel Walton, Lt George Davidson and Major Alex McDougall. We hope to avoid date clashes next year.

**The Captain’s Trophy.**

The Autumn Meeting of the Guards Golf Society at Royal

St George’s, was over the first weekend in September 2019. It was well attended, especially by young officers.

We now have officers running four fixtures, and the Membership Secretary, so any officers, past and present, interested in playing with the Society would be made most welcome.

**Golfing dates for next year:**

22 April 2020  
 Household Division Championships

30 April 2020  
 Preliminary rounds of the Colonel in Chief’s Cup

11/13 September 2020  
 Autumn meeting, Sandwich.

23 September 2020  
 Finals of the Colonel in Chief’s Cup.

1. *Welsh Guards Team; Back Row (L-R): Robin Malcolm, Peter Richardson, Charlie Ross. Front Row (L-R): Andrew Morgan, Robbie O’Rourke, Steve Gelly*
2. *Presentation of C-in-C trophy to the IG team.*



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### The Evison Cup

Inter Company Rugby Sevens Competition  
by Major A Campbell, Quartermaster

On the 12th June 2019, the Battalion took part in the Evison Cup, an inter-Company rugby sevens competition. The cup, which commemorates Lieutenant Mark Evison who was killed in action on Op HERRICK 10, is a cut down 105mm shell.

This year for the first time, the Evison Plate was also up for grabs. Run as a round robin event of ten minutes each way, culminating in the Plate and Cup finals of fifteen minutes each way, each Company entered a squad of up to 15 players. The squads ranged from Guardsmen who had just recently arrived at the Battalion to the old and bold who had worn the green and white hoops over many seasons- even the Commanding Officer and WO2 Scarf were lured out of retirement to don their boots!

The day started at 0830, with a dry hard pitch and fine weather, which promised to allow some fast running rugby- and the spectators were not disappointed. The first games were played at a frenetic pace, with some fantastic tries scored and some bone crunching tackles. With the extra space that having only seven players per side provides, play was end to end - ably controlled by the men in the middle CSgt G Green and Sgt G Lucas. There were some fine individual performances and notable mentions must go to Gdsm Brace Number 2



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Company, Gdsm Brain Support Company, LCpl Goss Number 3 Company and Lt Drury Headquarter Company.

Sometimes they say rugby can be a game of two halves - this was certainly a day of two halves! Torrential rain in the afternoon slowed the pitch down and turned the ball into a bar of soap but didn't dampen the spirits. The rugby was still of a very high standard and everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. Going into the final group matches everything was still to play for-although The Prince of Wales' Company had forged ahead, playing some attractive flowing rugby and scoring some well worked tries along the way.

The Plate final saw Support and Headquarter Companies vying for the silverware. After a closely fought match played in awful conditions, Headquarter Company managed to hold onto the lead they had built early on to lift the Evison Plate.

Ten minutes later, with a slight break in the rain the Cup final kicked off with Number 3 Company facing The Prince of Wales' Company. The Jamboys again showed the precision and class that had been building through the group stage and came away with the win.

Player of the tournament was awarded to LCpl Bilkey of Number 3 Company who put in some fantastic performances throughout the day. Top try scorer was Gdsm Nabukebuke of The Prince of Wales' Company and special mention must go to Sgt Doyle of Number 3 Company who sustained a nasty leg injury early in the tournament, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Off the back of the Evison Cup, a Battalion sevens squad was selected to participate in the Army Invitational Sevens in Aldershot a week later. With minimal training in between Guard Mounts, the Squad were beaten finalists - the future is bright.



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1. Runners up in the Evison Plate, Support Company.
2. The Commanding Officer talks to the Bn prior to the presentations.
3. The Commanding Officer presents the Evison Plate to the Headquarter Company team captain LCpl Putty.
4. Winners of the Evison Cup 2019, The Prince of Wales' Company.
5. Winners of the Evison Plate 2019, Headquarter Company.



## Welsh Guards Polo

by Major CJP Davies, Officer Commanding  
The Prince of Wales's Company

In what has been a relatively quiet year for Welsh Guards polo due to the multitude of activities taking place at work, we have nevertheless still managed to play in two cups and support other teams with our players.

Training this year has taken place at White Waltham Polo Club, near Maidenhead. This was a trek from Pirbright but allowed us to get some practice in at very good value.

We have managed to introduce one new player, Lt Jonny Leonard, during the summer, and plan to introduce a few more, including some Sergeants' Mess members, during the arena polo season.

Our focus this year, as with every year, was the Captains' and Subalterns', the main army tournament, which takes place at Tidworth Polo Club. Playing in Division II, we came

up against a good RAF team on the Saturday however some excellent teamwork and the impressive skill of OCdt Cadogan gave us victory and the mouth-watering prospect of a match against the Queen's Royal Hussars (QRH) the following day.

First, however, we had another match to play on the Saturday. We dashed across the country to Kirtlington Polo Club where we were joined by Maj Gen Talbot Rice and Capt Mossie Hamilton (Irish Guards) to play in the Rupert Thorneloe Memorial Cup on the tenth anniversary after his death. A very capable Kirtlington

side proved too much for us however it was an enjoyable match with plenty of support and overall a fitting tribute to Colonel Rupert.

The following day we returned to Tidworth to take on the QRH on the main pitch. It was a hard-fought match in which the score changed hands frequently however in the end, even with some magical play from George Cadogan, we narrowly lost. It was nevertheless a great weekend of polo and kept the Welsh Guards polo flag flying.

In the background, Welsh Guards support to Foot Guards polo has been strong. The Commanding Officer is the Chairman of Foot Guards polo and has developed the relationship with Guards Polo Club such that good Household Division players can now participate in Guards Polo Club tournaments for a very favourable outlay. In September the Foot Guards played the Household Cavalry at the Guards Polo Club in

an exhibition match on the occasion of the Major General's Cup. This Foot Guards team included two Welsh Guards players and played in the Welsh Guards colours.

Though our star player, Lt Oli Powell (2 goal) has been away for much of the season he has still managed to represent the Army and the Foot Guards, playing in the Foot Guards team that won the Inter-Regimental Cup against the Navy.

Overall, we have managed to squeeze the most out of the limited availability of our players and we look forward to continuing into the winter for the arena polo season where we intend to focus on introducing new players to this wonderful sport.

1. OCdt George Cadogan, Maj Alex Major, Maj Chris Davies and the Comd Offr at Tidworth for the Captains' and Subalterns' Tournament



### Welsh Guards Fight Night

by Major MI Butler Irish Guards  
Officer Commanding Headquarter Company

The Boxing Team rounded off 2017 in style by winning the Household Division Championships for the second time in its existence. All coaches, team admin and management could not have asked the boxers for more; each one deserved the accolade and support they received from across the Regiment.

But as ever, gloves were hung up and gum shields put away as we prepared to deploy on operations to KABUL. Boxing was kept alive throughout the year with training on pads, skipping and punch bags at each of the Force Protection locations. Individuals from platoons were encouraged by the deployed boxers to take part in training in order to learn a new skill and improve their overall fitness. Several people showed potential which started to build a new momentum and appetite for more competition on our return.

After some well-earned Post Operational Leave, we restarted the evening training sessions. This helped to get people back in shape and gave the coaches an opportunity to assess the boxers and to see what level they were at. The enthusiasm of those attending each of the training sessions was extremely encouraging as the prospect of the Battalion holding a Fight Night started to take shape. All boxers and coaches had proved their commitment by working around a very busy period of State Ceremonial Duties and getting ready for the





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Major General's Inspection. If they weren't training on the Pirbright Hills, Drill Square and boxing gym; they were running around Hyde Park and honing their skills and technique on the boxing pads in Royal Guardrooms. The boxers remained committed and before long, replacing their bearskins for head guards in the afternoon became the norm. LCpls Moriarty and Dennis had spent many hours developing the skills of those who chose to box into something credible. This year we have had a new breed of boxers who were keen to make their mark. With no time to waste; Sgt Lucas started to spin up the administration that would be vital to the events success. SSgt Harrison booked and received confirmation from the Army Boxing Secretary that we were clear to run the event, and the coaches were confident that we had enough boxers reaching the required standard to compete.

The Commanding Officer made several appearances on the more demanding training sessions; reliving his past experience of climbing into the ring as a young officer and facing a LSgt Nuku who was keen to make his mark; unsuspecting that this young officer would one day be in Command of the Battalion!

With everything now in place, there was little time for things to go wrong. We had to get all boxing and coaching cards in date and each boxer through their pre-fight medical. SSgt Harrison had the huge task of stripping out the gym to give Sgt Lucas the space he needed to set up for the evening. Soon we had everyone pulling together in support of the event; the Regimental Sergeant Major's wife had kindly offered to produce the programmes which contained a profile of each boxer and general

information regarding the event. The LAD team worked tirelessly to clear up the vehicle sheds which would be used for hosting; a very impressive turnaround, and now a venue fit for any VIP. CSgt Evans and WO2 Badrock negotiated a deal with Aramark, our catering and retail contractor, to deliver a great service.

Sgt Lucas' effort and hard work soon came to fruition. The arrival of medals, trophies, competition equipment and newly designed banners was confirmation that fight night was inbound. Soon we had a hive of activity, final checks of the ring, weigh-ins, medicals and rehearsals for all boxers' protocol. The DJ sound and light checks got the excitement going. We had our first preview of the evening's introductory video; produced by Sgt Lucas and starred the one and only Sgt Evans (Moose). The anticipation was mounting and soon after the Regimental Sergeant Major had made his introductions as the Master of Ceremonies, the first bout was underway. A fantastic first fight between Gdsm Cobb-Evans No. 2 Coy and LCpl Hughes Sp Coy. The room was lit up with cheers from all sides of the ring and the bar was set high. The evening was a resounding success. Welsh Guards Boxing was back in business and the Battalion once again had lived up to the expectation by putting on a real show of Welsh fighting spirit and true grit. The boxing team are looking forward to pastures new in Windsor and will continue to invest in Welsh Guards Boxing and support those wanting to progress further in the sport.



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1. Gdsm Durkin POWs Coy making his way to the ring
2. Gdsm Gronow 2 Coy Vs Gdsm Smith POWs Coy
3. Gdsm Faulkner HQ Coy coached by LCpl Moriarty HQ Coy and Gdsm Woosnam Sp Coy
4. Dmr Roberts receiving his award from the Commanding Officer
5. Dmr Roberts making his way to the ring
6. Gdsm Smith getting final instruction from his corner
7. The Regimental Sergeant Major waiting in anticipation as Master of Ceremony
8. Gdsm Williams 3 Coy declared winner
9. Gdsm Davies claiming victory over Dmr Roberts after a real show of fighting spirit of what was the fight of the night.
10. 2LT Ruscombe-King warming up to Gdsm Durkin
11. Gdsm Gronow Vs Gdsm Smith



## Chepstow Stampede Endurance Race

by Lance Sergeant Burrows-Jones

**A**long with 7 other keen runners, I embarked on a journey from Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright to the Chepstow racecourse, where the Chepstow Stampede takes place each year.

The Chepstow Stampede is a very muddy endurance Team race across a 10km track, crossing man made obstacles like horse hurdles as well as natural ditches and mud pits. It scales steep banks, has leg-burning hills and runs through water as well as running through the picturesque surroundings of Chepstow Racecourse and Piercefield Park, while taking in sections of the Wye Valley Walk. The Battalion had entered a team the previous year and had won and were keen to send a team this year to contest the first-place medal.

With very little time to train and with minimal fuss, we got a team together to compete in the race. As infantry soldiers this sort of race is our bread and butter, so the little training and short notice did not phase us. In the team of 7 we had 3 new Guardsman fresh out of training having only been in the Battalion for a month. It was a daunting but fun and rewarding experience for the new guardsman who performed very well having spent very little time with the team.

On that very cold autumn morning the team set off in the early hours, to get there in good time and have a warmup, ready to set off. The race was started with a burst from the horn and the team headed off with relish. One of the first obstacles that we encountered can only be described as a hay bale mountain, not a particularly difficult obstacle but nevertheless it got the

team blowing. The next obstacle was the worst as it entailed getting fully submerged in freezing water on an already cold day and then hauling ourselves out. After this we could see who our main competition was; the Royal Welsh and Rifles teams. The rest of the course we took in our stride until we came to a particularly muddy hill where a number of us came unstuck and lost ground to the Royal Welsh team with the Rifles team just behind us. The final obstacle which presented itself as a large wooded wall with ropes attached, where we managed to regain the lead. Through clever teamwork and a huge effort, we all clambered over the wall.

Throughout the race the team showed great courage, determination, teamwork and grafted from start to finish. With the lack of preparation, we were not expecting to come away with any silverware, and to our surprise the team ended up coming first for the second year running, an amazing effort from the guardsman at such short notice.

Many thanks to; LSgt Burrows-Jones, Gdsm Emmanuel, Gdsm Locke, Gdsm Scott, Gdsm Evans 10, Gdsm Tramatick, Gdsm Jenkins and Gdsm Ryan.



**The Army Enduro International Six Days Enduro (ISDE) - Chile - Oct 2018**

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Hughes (39)  
Great Britain, Army, Infantry and Welsh Guards Enduro Manager

**A** rmy participation in the International Six Day Enduro (ISDE) can be traced back to 1938 when a team of 3 riders contested the event held in Austria.

The competition has grown each year and is now often referred to as the 'Olympic Games' of off-road motorcycling. It attracts over 25 National Junior and Senior teams and around 80 club teams. Army team selection took place throughout the year and was based upon performance in the British Enduro Championships. This year, the pressure was huge, as a lack of support from the national governing body meant the Army riders made up the only competing GB team.

Held this year in Chile, logistics were always going to be a challenge! Using sea freight would have meant our bikes were in transit for 3 months either side of the competition, ruling out their use during the British Championships. We finally managed to secure a rental deal with Husqvarna, with brand new bikes a welcome sight for those accustomed to much pre-start tinkering. However, our suspension had to be taken with us, leading to a few strange looks as we boarded



the plane carrying 3 sets of forks and shocks in our hand luggage!

The competition is held over 6 days of racing, with each rider spending up to 8 hrs per day on the bike, all in average temperatures of over 30 degrees! Timekeeping is strict throughout, with penalties awarded to those arriving

late at their checkpoints. In addition, every day each rider conducts three special tests, consisting of 15-minute tracks timed to the millisecond, the results from which are used to justify the final day placings. For the team, accustomed to riding in National level competitions, it was a great experience to be competing against the World's best riders,



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most of whom ride full-time and under factory sponsorship. Indeed, the majority of competing teams had arrived with 2 or 3 45ft trailers packed full of spares. At least it wasn't difficult to find the Army Team, the pile of 8 grip bags representing all that we had brought! Needless to say, a Hearts and Minds campaign was started early, as it was clear we would require a few of the trailer goodies before long.

After 6 days of racing and some 45 hours on the bikes we were placed 5th of all club teams, finishing higher than a number of professional trophy teams. This represented the highest ever position for a UK Defence Motorcycling Team! Not only a great result but one truly shared across the Army, with rider representation from the Infantry, REME, Royal Engineers and RLC.

As befitted an Army Team, all made best use of the limited spare time available, with one or two cold beers shared amongst the teams. We were also lucky enough to be invited to attend the Royal British Legion Remembrance Dinner at the Ambassador's Residence, quite a setting amongst the greenery of the Santiago suburbs.

In summary, it was a fantastic 6 days of riding, made all the more enjoyable by such a high finishing position. However, nothing would have been possible without the support received from Units, who were always willing to release riders for training wherever possible. It is hoped that the sport will continue to flourish in the Army and, at a Battalion level, we are actively recruiting all the time. If you fancy having a go, please come and see the author!



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1. The Author with Team Army  
LCpl Coupland REME,  
Cpl Ellwood Elite Soldier  
Programme, SSgt Hicks RLC  
and Capt Carroll RLC
2. Team Army final race day,  
The author with SSgt Hicks,  
Cpl Ellwood, LCpl Coupland  
and Capt Carroll
3. On the tools, 18 minutes to  
change 2 tyres and service the  
bike at the end of a tiring day.
4. Opening Ceremony,  
Team Army represent GB
5. Cpl Ellwood, first Army  
Motorsport on elite sportsman  
programme testing the new  
Husqvarna 350



### Welsh Guards Enduro Team

by Warrant Officer Class 2 DT Hughes (39), Welsh Guards (and Army) Enduro Manager

2019 has been a busy year for the Battalion and hence the effect on Sport and Adventure Training (AT) has taken its toll and with Sgt Simons posted to HDPRCC (Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses) and the author busy with the ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) Company, things have been challenging, but despite this, the team has still managed to compete in 3 of the 5 British Championship rounds.

Sgt Simons has predominantly raced in the Wales and West series, a great performance resulting in a solid first place. Next season he will move up a gear, competing in the much more demanding environment of the Expert Class.

The team has also conducted numerous engagement tasks, including a visit to the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick and have subsequently welcomed a number of new arrivals to the team, and the promise of future medals looks good!





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In the wider picture, the team hosted the 2019 Army Motorcycle Championships, Exercise Hard Ride. With 97 riders from across the Army, Navy and RAF, and one international team travelling from Holland. Pirbright delivered the goods, ensuring riders experienced the worst weather Surrey could muster. It was a fantastic event, showcasing a wide spectrum of abilities, from a rider on the Elite Sport programme to one with only 4 hours experience!

to Portugal as part of the International six Days Enduro, representing GB at what is commonly referred to as the 'Olympics of Enduro'.

As ever the team are very grateful for the support we receive, without which we would be unable to continue competing. Please look out for us at events, as with a new training bike soon to arrive, and a coaching and mentoring programme taking shape, the team are looking to capitalise on the successes of this year throughout the 2020 season.



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The team have also been busy helping the Grenadier Guards set up their own Enduro Team. Team GG has taken form with 4 riders using the same model we instigated some 7 years ago. We wish them all the luck and look forward to competing with and against them in the future.

The team are now concentrating on servicing our machines and winter training to prepare for a full British Championship season in the new year. I will also be fortunate enough to deploy with the Army Team

1. WO2 Hughes tackles a log on the Hard Route during the Portsmouth 5 Hr Iron Man.
2. WG Families Day Pirbright, the Team jumped the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major
3. Welsh Guards Enduro Team host 97 Tri-Service riders at the 2019 Army Motorcycling Championships
4. gt Simons' bike ready for the Expert class next season.
5. Welsh Guards Enduro in action
6. Not as easy as it looks



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### 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Football Club (1WG FC)

by Colour Sergeant A Cunningham  
 Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Communication,  
 Information Systems Platoon

**The last 12 months have been a period of transition for 1WG FC. With the Battalion Deployed on Op TORAL it was a natural time for a change of management and supporting staff.**

The team said Goodbye to the Manger of 5 years CSgt Leighton Wilks and Football Officer Capt Mark Pollard and welcomed CSgt Ashley Cunningham as Team Manager and CSgt Kieran Cunningham a Battalion team member of over 10years appointed as his Assistant Manager with LSgt David Braithwaite as a coach. Keeping them all in line and appointed as the Football Officer was WO2 Daniel Cope.

The new team had plenty of time to build in preparation for the 19/20 season after taking a season off due to

operational commitments and a unit move to Windsor. This started with a friendly against 10 Signal Regiment which saw 1WG FC win its first game 4-2 in what proved to be a very open game. This was particularly encouraging for the new management team, as we had lost about 14 players from the 17/18 campaign for a numerous of reasons. After this match we had a short break whilst moving to Windsor.

The football, however, didn't stop for some members of the Battalion; in this period off,

Gdsms Jack Davies 14, broke through to be selected for the Infantry Football Team and the reports have been outstanding so far. CSgt Wilks is still a coach at the Infantry team, but we would as a team like to congratulate both CSgt Wilks on his appointment as a Team Coach at Reading FC Ladies Academy where he works alongside Reading and England's Ladies Fara Williams. What a great appointment as he continues his coaching pathway. Also CSgt Cunningham was appointed as Head Coach at Non-League Side Eversley & California FC. Both showing that opportunities and support given at Regimental level, can allow you to push on through the ranks at civilian clubs at a good level.

Over the coming 12 months, the team will continue to go through a period of transition with new faces joining the team weekly. The 19/20 season will see the team

compete on several fronts; the Army FA Southern League, the League Cup, the Army Cup and the Infantry Cup - all the games are due to begin in October 2019. The team will also be heading to Wales in 2020 to play fixtures against teams that the Battalion support, and we plan to take the team abroad after the Trooping of the Colour in 2020.

We would like to thank the Regimental Trustees for their continued support to Football in the Battalion.

1. 1WG squad after their victory against 10 Signal



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## One man, a wetsuit, bike, running trainers and 140.6 miles

by Warrant Officer Class 2 (Drill Sergeant) D Lewis

Completing Ironman Wales has been a long time coming for me, WO2 (DSgt) David Lewis, and not just in balancing the 16-18 hours per week training required to take part in such an event.

I did not finish (DNF) in 2017 and had to defer my place in 2018 due to the extension to Op TORAL 6.

Not to be put off, I was not going to give up on my dream of one day becoming an IRONMAN – it made me even more determined than before to succeed.

The Ironman event starts with a calm atmosphere in the early hours of the morning. Everyone is conducting their last-minute checks in transition before putting on their wetsuits. The atmosphere is electric and the excitement of what lies ahead starts to build. Before the starting guns goes off, anthems are played and then off on the first leg of the event – a chaotic 2.4 mile swim in the coastal sea of Tenby, West Wales.

With the swim complete, it's a quick transition from the water to the bike and ready for the daunting 112-mile bike ride around the coastal hills of West Wales. I would love to say that I enjoyed the views and fresh air, but with the concentration and focus required can only remember what shade of grey the roads of Tenby are.

After the bike the only thing that remains is the small matter of completing a 26.4 mile marathon around a 10km loop, 5km of each is up hill. However, some of the route goes through the seaside town of Tenby which by this time is bursting at the seams with enthusiastic supporters. The

atmosphere and emotion are the only things keeping most competitors moving towards the red carpet on the finish line.

Having finally completed the event, the words 'David, you are an IRONMAN,' being called out at the finish line will remain with me forever.

Not wanting to let the grass grow under my feet I have already started training for the trail running season which will see me complete the Gower Ultra, Brecon Trail Marathon and Brecon to Cardiff Ultra. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Regimental Trustees and Battalion for investing the time and resources required to allow me to take part. Not forgetting of course my very forgiving wife Michelle and daughter Megan, for putting up with me over the last few years and supporting me throughout the day.

1. Tenby Beach at the start – the calm before the storm
2. Preparing to enter the water
3. On the road (uphill)



**Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) 2019 Update**

by Lieutenant Colonel AF Bowen, Club President

In this Rugby World Cup year, we have enjoyed some tremendous rugby by our national side, and, at the time of writing, Wales are looking ahead to a quarter final place against France having won all of their group games.

The win against Australia was thoroughly deserved following the hard graft that the national team put in over the preceding 4 years under the watchful eye of Wales' favourite adopted son, Warren Gatland. New Zealand remain our arch nemesis, but with confidence high and a fair wind who knows ...

Major Andy Campbell is now at the helm of battalion rugby and with a hugely supportive hierarchy of the Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher and

Regimental Sergeant Major Parry 19, hopes are high for the season ahead.

The WGRRC continues in excellent form and constantly builds on the solid foundations laid by Major Glyn White MBE, Mr Chris Beynon and the original Committee. Every club must have someone with drive and an eye for detail and we are all enormously grateful to our own favourite son, Mr Darrell Jones 73, for his hard work and commitment in organising the 2019 dinner. We were delighted that the





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Major General was able to join us and present Darrell with the Crawshays Bust for his significant contribution to Welsh Guards rugby. Darrell was ably assisted by the Committee who put in the hard yards to ensure the club remains relevant and forward thinking; there is a real sense of confidence that the club will endure for many years to come.

Field Marshal Lord Guthrie joined us once again at our biennial dinner and we remain hugely grateful for his perennial support. We were delighted to be joined by Colonel Alan Peterson and his son Hywel. Many WGRRC members will be aware that the Petersons have become huge supporters of the Regiment since the Ryan Jones testimonial year in 2013 and they continue to raise funds for the Regiment at every opportunity. This year has also seen us receive an extremely generous donation of £5,000 from Mr George Parker of Parker Plant Hire. George has been with the WGRRC since our early days and we count ourselves extremely lucky to have him in our ranks. Ron Cook was our "Oldest Player" on parade and received a £150 voucher courtesy of the WGRRC. Huge thanks must go to the extremely generous WGRRC members (Hywel Peterson, Steve Marshall, Mark Horwood, Beryn Lewis, Chris Kneath, Kenny Lane, Malcolm Davies, Jan Koops and Mike and Richard Jones) who donated items for our auction and raffle which, combined with the donation from George Parker and our Vice Presidents contributions, saw us raise in excess of £15,000 this season.

Sean Holley provided the after-dinner entertainment this year and demonstrated real courage by regaling us with anecdotes from his days

coaching the (Neath Swansea) Ospreys, noting of course that the Stradey Hotel is in the heart of (Llanelli) Scarlets territory, something that did not miss one or two of our attendees! Of note from Sean was his tale of his laptop cover which was emblazoned with the acronym "MFL". This stands for "Mates for Life" and was the foundation of Sean's coaching regime with the Ospreys where rugby success was underpinned through friendship. There is, of course, much that we can compare between our service as soldiers and being part of a rugby team - teamwork, coaching, mentoring, leadership, strength built through adversity, shared joy when winning, shared pain when losing. But what is constant now in the WGRRC, and what will endure, is the sense of belonging, and as Sean put it quite powerfully – MFL!

The WGRRC mission and objectives keep us grounded and ensure we focus on what is important - our people, be they serving or veterans. Our mission:

"To gather together Welsh Guardsmen of all ranks, serving and veterans, using rugby as a common bond. The WGRRC aims to create an atmosphere where people can share experiences and help support one another."

Our mission is underpinned by our objectives:

#### **Primary Focus**

maximise support for Welsh Guardsmen, serving and veterans, through attendance at WGRRC events

#### **Veterans' Mental Health**

link with veterans' charities and provide WGRRC supported events focused on veterans' mental health



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**Recruiting**

reach out to local communities to support Welsh Guards recruiting

**Biennial Dinner**

odd years (2021, 2023, etc) - hold the WGRRC biennial dinner in the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli

**WGRRC Events**

even years (2020, 2022 etc) - run a WGRRC rugby orientated event, with maximum WG attendance

The Vice President (VP) scheme remains as popular as ever with 60 or so VPs signed up for the current season. The generosity of the VPs underpins the even year events and in 2020 we plan to take a large group of WG folk to an autumn international at the Principality Stadium, with a meal beforehand. In 2017, the WGRRC ran a similar event of this nature and we were joined by Ryan Jones who gave a talk on his rugby days and the Cardiff Male Voice Choir sang their hearts out – almost heaven! This gathering of WG folk through rugby has enormous benefit, not least by providing a platform for people to stay in touch. But the real benefit for those who attend derives from the invigorating and enriching atmosphere generated by sheer enthusiasm to attend rugby events and meet up with old friends. Spending time with our extended WG family in a safe and understanding environment allows us to share our losses and our gains, our hopes and our dreams. We do not judge, we do not criticise, we welcome all and it is this which makes the WGRRC so important to so many of us.

The biennial dinner at the Stradey Park Hotel in Llanelli continues to be the main event in our calendar with the highest attendance of any WG social gathering outside the

Battalion; quite an achievement from the humble first dinner for 40 or so. Our target for the 2021 dinner is 200 sitting down and we expect tickets to sell out swiftly. Please do book early by contacting Darrell Jones on darrelljones73@aol.com Save the dates for the next 2 dinners: Friday 24th September 2021 and Friday 22nd September 2023

You will also note from our objectives that we want to assist our veterans. The Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO), Mr Jiffy Myers, attended the 2019 dinner and will provide a link between the WGRRC and other service charities to reach out to WG veterans who may need support. We can all assist with signposting our veterans to Jiffy who in turn will contact the appropriate support organisation. It is this methodology that will see the WG community reaching out to our comrades who may need a bit of help following their service to our country.

Finally, I will look forward. The WGRRC is here to stay, it provides support to those who need it, fun for those who seek it, but, above all, it provides us with a sense of belonging and that is something much bigger than any one of us, and most definitely worth being part of.

Cymru am byth.

1. *Darrell Jones receiving the Crawshays Bust from the Major General*
2. *L-R; Lt Col Alun Bowen, Mr Sean Holley, Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, Mr Darrell Jones, Mr George Parker, The Major General*
3. *Martin Walters with Maj Andy Campbell*
4. *L-R; Paul Conlon, Jan Koops, Martin Griffiths 52, Mark Horwood, Steve Gelly*
5. *Martin Walters, Mike Prosser, Charlie Antelme, Henry Llewellyn Usher*



6. *L-R; Huw Richards 11, Ian Austin, Big Ed 53, Mark Horwood, Kim Burnell, Paul Conlon, Steve Gelly*
7. *Neil Rice, Mark Davies, Steve Marshall, Glyn Rosser, Derry Price, Mike Hermanis, Andy Collins, Mark Cook*



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## Exercise Desert Dragon - Dhofar mountains, Oman

by Lieutenant JDG Leonard, Officer Commanding  
Number 1 Platoon

**W**aking up for a 0500 departure has become somewhat of the norm for the men of the Welsh Guards. Although the departure time was the same, it was not for the palaces of London that we were destined but the Dhofar mountains in southern Oman.

As we drove into the gathering dawn, six Welsh Guardsmen and one Grenadier Guardsman, I went over the route in my head. 120 kilometres starting from the foot of the Dhofar mountains near a small town called Zeek, visiting forts that had previously been manned by the British during a war in the 1970s, finishing five days later at the infamous Mirbat fort. It was sure to be one to remember.

The team landed in Salalah late into the evening, where the temperature was a stifling 33 degrees. The first day was spent preparing kit, studying the route and familiarising all members of the team on all the safety equipment we would be carrying. Even at this stage some of the Guardsmen found the time to begin their tan! As we retired for an early night, the apprehension of what was to come was palpable. Only one of the team had been to the area before and for Gdsm Tennant it was his first time on a plane! Nevertheless, we were ready.

### Day 1

Stepping off from the drop-off point we headed north, straight up to the plateau that runs the length of the Dhofar mountains. Within half an hour we had decided that Omani geckos must like getting stood on and that this trek was going to be a stroll through rolling fields, not much different to Wales if

you could replace the sheep with camels. How wrong we were. The temperature steadily climbed into the high thirties and the terrain got steadily more difficult. The plateau, as we learned, is bisected by a number of cavernous wadis that lack any sort of pathways. The result being, 26kms later we had bushwhacked and sweated our way to the first of our proposed lying up points; Forward Operating Base (FOB) White City. After a brief exchange with Hassan, the second in command of the small fort, we were informed that we were to stay at a house of his. None of us could quite believe it when Hassan dropped us off at a six-bed villa complete with pool! Alas, none of us were in the mood for anything other than sleep. It was evident why Omanis and their kindness are world famous.

### Day 2

The long, monotonous desert road that we found ourselves on at the start of the first day was not what I had in mind for the trek, but it was soon to pay off. After what we thought would be the hottest day we arrived at Wadi Derbat, the only permanent water in the area. The wadi is fed by underground aquifers and is in stark contrast to the surrounding countryside. Although not our planned lying up point for the second night we all decided on a riverside campsite below the canopy of



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a wild fig tree. The afternoon was spent swimming and trying to convince Gdsm Sinclair that no snakes were going to carry him away in the night. We thought our campsite perfect. As it turns out so did the Omani population of mosquitoes. No one got much sleep!

**Day 3**

After a morning swim in the river, preparations were made for the climb out of the wadi. We were determined not to take the track! Although there are no defined routes out of the wadi, apart from the road, there are a number of breaks in the cliffs through which it is possible to climb with the aid of ropes. Sgt Browning and myself went ahead and prepared the ropes for the two white knuckle sections of the climb. After two and a half hours of climbing we reached the top, to be greeted not only by fantastic views but also by a group of camel herders and their disbelief that we were doing this of our own accord! Salim, possibly the loudest and most jovial person east of the Bosphorus, soon had us all sitting under a tree with sweet black tea in abundance. The camel milk Salim provided, straight from the udder, was not such a big hit amongst the group although everyone politely choked it down. We spent the best part of two hours with the camel herders, another show of the unrivalled

hospitality of the Omani people. Another long road through rolling grassland led us to our home for the third night, the hilltop fort of Tawi-Atir. Mohammad and Ahmed, members of the Kuwait Al-Firakh manned the fort and had been in the fort during the Dhofar war and had fought alongside the British. The evening was spent listening to stories of the war and of the enduring relationship between the Sultanate and the UK.

**Day 4**

The group had a slight reprieve from the endless miles of trekking when Mohammed, our host, offered to show us a famous sink hole a few miles from the fort. We all piled into the back of his cattle lorry and set off for what is essentially a very large hole. Post the viewing of the very large hole the group set off for our final lying up point, the picturesque Jebel



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Samhan. The view from the top, over the desert plains onto Mirbat and the coast was well worth the hours of steep terrain covered. We set up our final campsite on the edge of the cliffs, each of us settling ourselves into small caves, making them as comfortable as possible and ensuring fires were burning bright. It must be said that Sgt Browning, with his hearth-like fire and drystone wall took the prize for best bivi site, really earning his reputation as the Mountain Leader! Due to the altitude of our bivi site we were engulfed in cloud from about 1600hrs, which meant we all went to sleep in the clouds but woke up to the most spectacular sunrise.

**Day 5**

The whole group was in agreement that the last day was the hardest day. Only 15km but the descent from the top of Jebel Samhan to the Mirbat coast was testing to say the least. The initial route down was through seasonal water courses until we hit the final stretch of desert plain, where everyone's feet took a real beating, blisters all around. Eventually after over 100km of hard terrain we made it to the coast and on to the fort at Mirbat and the infamous redoubt where Talaiasi Labalaba of the Special Air Service fought a heroic last stand against overwhelming odds.

We spent our last day in Salalah trying on dishdashas and recovering by the pool. Our last meal was a traditional one of camel meat, which we shared with our new friend Hassan, who had hosted us on our first night, in an attempt to repay some of the unbelievable hospitality we had received in Oman.

All in all, Exercise Desert Dragon was a roaring success. As a young Lieutenant I couldn't have asked for a better opportunity to better get to know members of the Battalion in a testing environment and also be able to expose the members of the group to a culture and part of the world that is well off the beaten track. I hope that many more people will return to the mountains of the Dhofar, to experience the kindness and hospitality of the people and further solidify the close ties the British Army shares with the Sultanate of Oman. As our friends in Oman would say, Inshallah!

1. *The Exercise Desert Dragon team at the start (l-r): Gdsm Sinclair, Sgt Hiscock, LCpl Noyes, Gdsm Tennant, Gdsm Ryan, Lt Leonard, Sgt Browning.*
2. *LCpl Noyes with a new friend.*
3. *Camels disturbing our swim in Wadi Derbat.*
4. *Sgt Browning and LCpl Noyes with Mohammed by the sink hole.*
5. *Final morning.*
6. *Mirbat in the distance.*
7. *Mirbat - we made it!*



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### Ultra X Jordan (7 to 11 October 2019)

by Warrant Officers Class 2 DP Cope,  
Recruiting Warrant Officer

**T**he human body is an amazing thing, even at times when you think you reached your limit you seem to find that extra 10% which will allow you to push further and longer than you have ever done before.

Even when parts of your body are screaming 'what are doing', you still seem to find the inner strength and desire to catch the person in front of you and go past them. Well I experienced all of this and more in the most amazing five days, and this is my account of Ultra X Jordan 2019.

The Ultra X Jordan is a 250km race across the Wadi Rum desert in Jordan over five days self-sufficient apart from water and tents which the organisers provide. Wadi Rum, the 'Valley of the Moon', is the largest wadi in Jordan. Cut out of the sandstone and granite rock of southern Jordan, its located 300km south of Amman.

Inhabited by humans since prehistoric times, it was first made famous by Lawrence of Arabia, who passed through several times during the Arab Revolt. With an array of towering rock formations, spectacular canyons and sand dunes, as well as a vast, echoing landscape, Wadi Rum has been used as the background setting for several major films such as Indiana Jones and more recently The Martian.

Even though you hear the saying many times it was during this week that "never judge a book by it cover" really hit home and resonated with me. As we all arrived at the camp site on the Sunday evening prior to day one, I looked around and tried to work out who I believed were here for medals and places and then those just here for the experience plus personal challenge of running a multi stage ultra-marathon in soaring temperatures and unforgiving terrain. I was soon to find I was completely wrong as the week progressed with three of the strongest runners being well above 60 with two from Switzerland and one from Egypt. As the week progressed it was clear that "experience" and "desire" was why they were doing so well unlike some of the younger runners who had realised, too late, the enormity of the task they had taken on.

I was joined in Jordan by a three-man team from the

Scots Guards. Capt Carpenter, WO2 (RQMS) Reid and WO2 (CSM) Martin. I had known this and them for a while and on the night before the race we decided to run it as a team. The thinking was we all had the same mindset and terrible banter and this week would require all of this and to be honest it was the best decision we made.

As we formed up on the start line on day one there were 75 runners from 23 different countries with the large majority being British and the second largest contingent coming from Lebanon. The atmosphere was electric amongst the runners and enhanced by the positivity of the support staff. The nerves really kicked in as we got the one-minute warning and then before we knew it we were off. I was told prior to the race by a very experienced and successful runner in terms of multi-stage events, that you can never win the race on day one, but you can certainly end your race by going out too hard in conditions and terrain totally alien to you. As we set off the nerves turned into adrenaline and we powered through the first 10km as if we were conducting a parkrun back in the UK. As we reached the first checkpoint of the week, we all made a conscious decision that even though the first 10km was reasonably easy that this was just luring us in



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to a false sense of security and bigger challenges lay ahead so we slowed it down into a more reserved pace for the remainder of the day. Looking back now this was the right decision as a lot of the runners blew themselves out on day one and would never really recover for the rest of the week. As we crossed the line after at the end of day one, a sense of relieve came over me as I had got through the first 46km of the week and felt as strong as when I started.

Camp life is all about preparing yourself for the next day. As soon as I was in it was a case of stripping all your kit down and replenishing for the next day. So out come all the empty wrappers and in go new gels, shot bloks, dried food and salt tablets. You then pay your daily visit to the doctors or better know 'dog trotters' who will pop or clean any blisters and then strap your feet up for the next day if needed. I must say

considering the distance and terrain covered during the week, I was very lucky with my feet as it can ruin and even finish an individual's race. Then it was a case of eat, hydrate and sleep. I can honestly say this was the first time since I was a child that I found myself in bed, well laying on a roll mat, trying to sleep before 1900 hrs.

Day two for many, including myself, would be the hardest stage. It was 50km long so only an extra four km from the previous day but as soon we set off and got passed the first checkpoint the terrain took a turn for the worse and we were really introduced to soft sand. For the next 20km we headed uphill but underfoot the ground was harsh in terms of trying to move at a fast pace. The lower part of your body must try extra hard for you to power through the sand with running almost impossible - plus this was the hottest day of the week, so come 1000 hrs the



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added heat made things even more uncomfortable. As we finished, I looked around camp and you could see the damage on runners faces and bodies. This saw large numbers of runners withdraw or not finish the day due to injury or fatigue.

Day three began at 0400 hrs and this would be the furthest run in a day, 71km across the Wadi Rum. The effects from the previous day were clear to see and many individuals seemed slightly down with a lot of aching legs and feet. As we set off, we ran into the darkness for the first few hours only guided by our head torches and the small glow sticks marking the route. The darkness provided a cooler temperature and due to this, before we knew it, we were knocking off the kilometres quite quickly. Due to having 71km to cover I made a mental point of breaking down the total distance into 10km segments where we would hit a checkpoint, and this seemed to work. During that 10km stretch I would ensure I drank my 1.5 litres of water containing electrolytes, eat 2 x shot blocks and consume one salt tablet.

It soon became a routine and with added gel or food over the hours the day seemed to go quickly. As we reached the final checkpoint of the day the organisers stated that there had been an error with the marking of the course and we would need to conduct an extra four kilometres. For some this was a real daunting thought, but I could feel my body and will getting stronger and I turned a negative into a positive thinking well at least it will be more km for Strava! As we crossed the finished line on day three, we all felt a sense of achievement having successfully completed the long stage. The new finish line was amongst rocks and that night we slept on the rocks and the best setting I have experienced to recover for the next day.

Day four saw the buzz and excitement return to the camp and race. I think many of the runners realised that they had probably got through the toughest part of the race and they could almost smell the finish line. Day four saw us cover 42km of the most beautiful and varied terrain and

for me the best route of the week. We covered rocky terrain and canyons; these canyons had been the hiding place for Lawrence of Arabia. Even though we had covered well over 165km our legs and feet seemed to get stronger and we found ourselves running a lot more than in the previous two days.

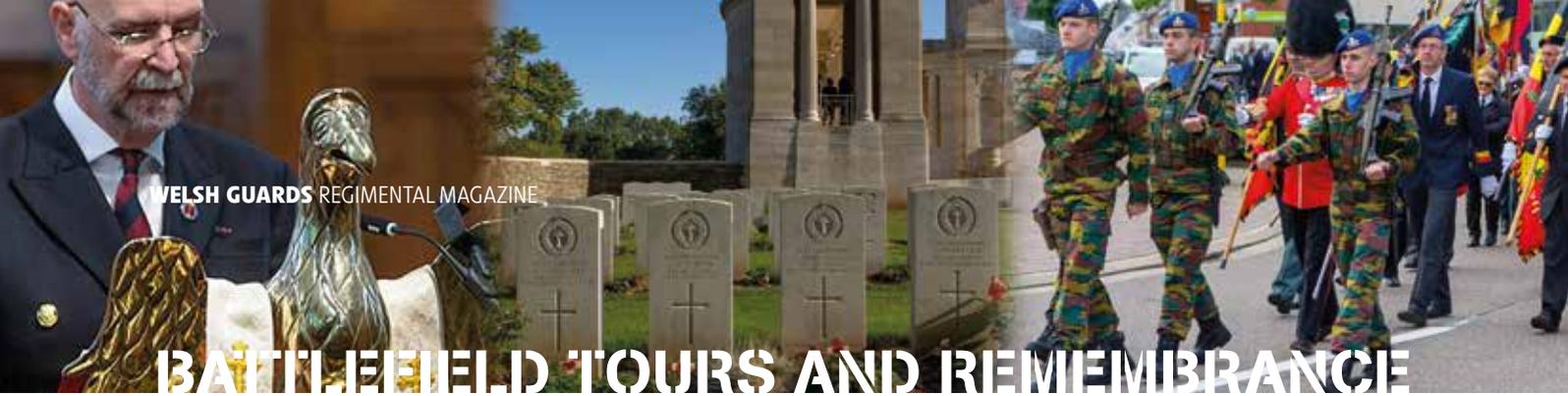
Day five was here and by this point only 49 runners remained but it was the final day, and everyone had a bounce in their step even with sore legs and feet. As we lined up on the start line for the final time, the race director stood out the front and stated how much of an achievement it had been to get where we were. His final comment was 'Don't leave anything in the tank but ensure you get back'. It then hit me that even though we had all done brilliantly to get where we were it would mean nothing if we did not complete the final stage. As we set off we knew it was to be 38km, but we would be covering the largest sand dune section in the region. This stage seemed to go in the blink of an eye and even though we

covered harsh terrain nobody seemed to care, everyone was driven to get to that finishing line. As we approached the last 500m we got ourselves into extended line but close together and I pulled out the Household Division flag and we crossed the finished line mobbed by the support staff but with one of the greatest feelings I have ever experienced.

As a team we had been through all emotions and challenges during the week but we all looked at each other and knew it was a job well done and something we would never forget. That night we received freshly cooked food for the first time and our first cold drink with the awards ceremony but the highlight for me was getting to discuss and share race moments with runners from across the world and different backgrounds. Even though we were all so different that week we had been brought together through pain and a shared goal.

I am incredibly grateful to the Welsh Guards Regimental Trustees and my chain of command for supporting me to run the Ultra X Jordan, without this support I would have never got to experience such an amazing week and test my body to its limits. I do hope the money I raised for the Welsh Guards charity will give individuals the support I feel I have received it taking on this challenge.

1. *The team on the start line for day two. From left to right – WO2 RQMS Reid (SG), WO2 RWO Cope, WO2 CSM Martin (SG) and Capt Carpenter (SG)*
2. *WO2 RWO Cope ready on day one to take 250km of the Wadi Rum.*
3. *75 runners from 23 countries taking on Ultra X Jordan.*
4. *The running landscape*
5. *WO2 RWO Cope at the finish line after completing the Ultra X Jordan. What an experience.*



# BATTLEFIELD TOURS AND REMEMBRANCE



## Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour 2019

by Neil Rice, Assistant Secretary General  
Welsh Guards Association

At 0530 hours on a damp Saturday morning (7th September) twenty-two serving members and veterans of the Welsh Guards along with a number of Welsh Guards Association associate members and widows of some of the Guardsmen who liberated Hechtel-Eksel set off on the annual Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the liberation by the Welsh Guards of the town of Hechtel-Eksel, this was a key and decisive action as the town lies on the axis of the Beeringen-Eindhoven road, which provides a direct corridor to the Northern Netherlands. The town was

heavily defended by 1st Herman Goering Regiment and 10th Gramsel Regiment. During the five days that it took to secure the town, the townspeople hung out flags but when fresh German reinforcements entered the town they responded by taking reprisals and





murdering 31 civilians and burning down over 80 houses.

Each year the town celebrates its liberation and remembers and pays respect to those who lost their lives in the fighting and those executed by the Nazis.

This being the 75th Anniversary a very special day was arranged with a church service in the morning followed by acts of remembrance at the local cemetery where the murdered civilians are buried and at the memorial park dedicated to the allied soldiers who liberated their town. This was followed in the afternoon with a spectacular military tattoo featuring many excellent marching bands. As always, the warmth and generosity of the people of Hechtel was truly humbling and their gratitude and respect for the Regiment is palpable and unmistakable. Jan Dalemans, the Mayor of Hechtel-Eksel ensured that we had a wonderful and memorable day complete with a sensational barbeque at the Town Hall where we showed our appreciation and gratitude with some fine singing, much to the delight of everyone in the hall.

The following day we continued our tour after first visiting the Loepoldsburg Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemetery just outside Hechtel to lay a wreath and pay our respects to the Welsh Guardsmen who lost their lives liberating the town and are buried there. Traveling on to Mons we stopped to visit the Nimy Bridge where the first two Victoria Crosses of the Great War were won by Lieutenant MJ Dease VC and Private SF Godley VC, both of the Fourth Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

After lunch in Mons we headed towards Cambrai, traveling past Maubeuge and Bavay to look at the last action of the Welsh Guards in World War I, we also

visited the Selle River where the Guards Division carried out an assault river crossing in October 1918.

As well as looking at the battles of the two World Wars we also stopped at the memorial that commemorates the battle of Malplaquet in September 1709. We were very fortunate to have Alan Wood with us again this year. Alan served 22 years in the Regular Army in the 17th/21st Lancers and the Queens Royal Lancers and went on to serve a further nine years in the TA where he was commissioned. He is now a truly exceptional Battlefield Guide and Military Historian. Alan helped us understand the significance of that battle of Malplaquet and the War of the Spanish Succession in shaping the map of Europe and how the events of 1709 sowed the seeds for the conflict of 1914.

Eventually we arrived at Cambrai and booked into our accommodation at the Chateau De La Motte Fenelon.

Tuesday was another bright and sunny day as we headed first to the Vis en Artois CWGC Cemetery and Memorial. The Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from the 8th August 1918 until the Armistice three months later including a number of Welsh Guardsmen. After laying a wreath and paying our respects to the fallen we continued with our study of the World War II battle of Arras, looking specifically at the deployment of the Welsh Guards in the Autumn of 1939 and their actions in the 1940 counter attack. After lunch we met with the Deputy Mayor of Arras to lay a wreath at the Welsh Guards Memorial in the City of Arras and to learn about the liberation of the city in 1944.

We then moved on to the Athies Communal Cemetery



Extension which is very close to where Lieutenant the Honourable C Furness VC won his Victoria Cross. Lieutenant Furness was in command of a Carrier Platoon of the Welsh Guards between the 17th and 24th May 1940, the Battalion forming part of the Garrison at Arras. Of the ten men who took part in the action for which Lieutenant Furness won his Victoria Cross four were killed, including all of the men in his vehicle, five wounded and taken prisoner and only one surviving unscathed. Lieutenant Furness has no known grave and his name is inscribed on the Dunkirk Memorial but given that his final action took place very close to the cemetery at Athies where there are a number of unknown soldiers buried as well as two Welsh Guards there is the possibility that we were paying our respects at his final resting place.

The tour ended that evening with the end of tour dinner where Colonel Bonas thanked everyone for attending, he thanked Captain Lyndon Davies QARANC for brilliantly

organising and arranging the tour and Will Vickery RAMC and Andrew Morgan for their excellent job in supporting it, he thanked the Standard Bearers and all who took part in the wreath laying ceremonies especially our Padre, Captain Matthew Dietz and our trumpeter Garvin Matthews who made each service very special indeed and he reserved special thanks for our tour guide Alan Wood, who's detailed research and attention to detail not only gave us an excellent appreciation of the strategic importance of the Welsh Guards actions in both World Wars but the level of detail that he pulled out of the histories gave us a very intimate and insightful view of what it must be like to serve in the Welsh Guards during both of these conflicts.

The Battlefield Tour is an annual event and planning has already started for next year so look out for further details and make sure you book your place early for the 2020 Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour.





**Falklands War Service of Remembrance and Reunion Wrexham 22nd June 2019**

By Captain (Retired) ACD Hopkins

A good turnout this year for the annual Service of Remembrance in Wrexham. The weather could not have been better which was ideal for our walk-through town to the Falklands Memorial in Bodhyfryd. This is where wreaths are laid on behalf of the Regiment, townspeople, affiliated associations and the families of the fallen.

Guests included The Worshipful Mayor of Wrexham, Councillor Rob Walsh and Councillor David Griffiths, the Armed Forces Champion for Wrexham.

The church service was conducted by the Reverend Heather Shotton who gave a poignant and stirring sermon for which there were many complimentary comments.

We were once again entertained by the Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir who sang an array of well-known songs and hopefully they will

become an added annual fixture at our service. Dennis "Knocker" Knowles requested they sing "Take me Home" for which he is renowned for singing himself and he commented afterwards that it might not have been such a good idea as the choir's rendition was so moving the lump in his throat prevented him from joining in!

Many thanks to Sergeant Pete Duffy and his team from the Regimental Support Team (RST) North for once again making the day extra special.



Bryan Matthews produced an embossed table which he designed and constructed himself. It is inscribed with the Welsh Guards crest, the RFA Sir Galahad emblem and the names of our fallen comrades. A wonderful gesture. It was auctioned and went to Rob Jones for the princely sum of £800.

Brigadier Rickett sent his apologies for not attending but his good lady had fallen and damaged her hip. We wish her a speedy recovery. Neil Rice kindly stepped in and read the lesson.

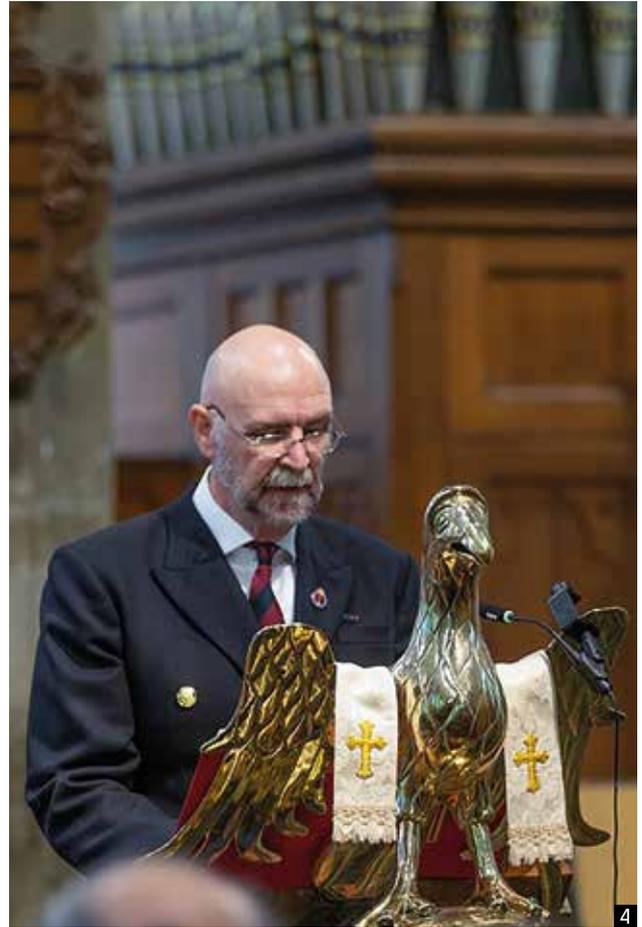
The rest of the day was spent in the War Memorial Club where a buffet was served in the afternoon and evening, with the evening "do" also comprised of the resident disco to which we danced the night away.

There was an unusual occurrence when someone asked all ex Three Company members to go outside for a

photograph. Almost to a man the whole gathering paraded outside!

As always, the staff in the club looked after us extremely well and we look forward to continuing good relations and we thank the Regimental Trustees for their continued support of the event by way of a grant to subsidize the costs.

1. *Members of the regimental Support Team at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial Bodhyfryd*
2. *Glyn Rogers*
3. *Dennis "Knocker" Knowles, Secretary Welsh Guards Reunited Branch dips the Branch Standard during the church service.*
4. *Neil Rice, Assistant Secretary General Welsh Guards Association reads the Lesson*
5. *Captain ACD Hopkins, event organiser at the Bodhyfryd Memorial*





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## 75th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorations

by Captain PDE Razzall, Intelligence Officer

**A**lthough neither the 1st or 2nd Battalion of the Welsh Guards landed in Normandy on June 6th 1944, the fingerprints of the Welsh Guards were all over the landings and the subsequent battles further inland.

Sir Alexander Stanier, already awarded the Military Cross 30 years previously during the Second Battle of Cambrai and subsequently saviour of the 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards as he ably commanded its evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940, was commander of the 231st Infantry Brigade as it stormed Gold beach.

The people of Asnelles, the closest village to where Sir Alexander Stanier had come ashore, subsequently adopted him as one of their own, naming the village square after him and building plaques in memory

of the June 4th invasion in the centre of the village and close to Juno beach itself.

75 years later, our first task in Normandy was to help Sir Alexander's son, Sir Beville Stanier and a former serving member of the Welsh Guards himself, to commemorate the contributions of his father and the 231st Brigade in liberating Asnelles. An early start from Pirbright on Wednesday 5th June, taking the Channel Tunnel and driving through Northern France was followed by an evening service in the Abbaye-Aux-Dames in Caen,

where the tunics and bearskins of Colour Sergeant Marsh and Drummer Thomas were the star attraction.

Caen, heavily bombarded during the war, was filled with veterans and children of veterans who were in Normandy to remember and commemorate. It was a struggle to find a restaurant with free seats, but once installed four steaks followed by four crèmes brûlées were ordered. Drummer Thomas, filled with steak, crème brûlée and calvados, contently proclaimed it to have been one of the best meals of his life.

Norman hospitality extended beyond good food however. On arriving in St Charles de Percy late on the Wednesday night, we were welcomed by the Mayor, Jacque Desormeau, and his wife Marie Claire. Every year Monsieur and Madame Desormeau welcome the Welsh

Guards contingent to St Charles de Percy and put us up in four poster beds in their eighteenth-century country house.

Thursday 6th June saw us depart St Charles de Percy early in the morning to move to Asnelles on the coast, for a ceremony directly commemorating the contribution of Sir Alexander Stanier to the liberation of the village. This took place at a German blockhouse directly overlooking the beach which had proven the linchpin of German defences before it was eventually taken out. Brigadier Stanier's son, Sir Beville, was present, his years of bearskin and tunic behind him but proudly wearing the Household Division tie. He was accompanied by Mrs Annabel Moss, the widow of a Welsh Guards officer who was proudly wearing a beautiful bejewelled leek, the first brooch to have been made of our capbadge.



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The weather was fantastic, with a low tide and calm seas revealing the remains of the Mulberry harbour put in place in the days following the invasion. Once again, Welsh Guardsman proved the star attraction to onlookers after the ceremony, with requests for photographs seemingly endless.

In 1944, the Guards Armoured Division was the elite reserve of the British Army. It was not committed during the landings of June 6th, but by the end of the month it was clear that the fearsome capabilities of the division were needed to remove the Germans from Normandy. Between 18th and 29th June 1944 the Division, including both the 1st and 2nd Battalions Welsh Guards came ashore at the Mulberry Harbour on Gold Beach and pushed south to eventually take part in Operation Goodwood, commencing July 18th. Our movement from the German blockhouse at Asnelles back southwards to St Charles de Percy largely followed the same route that our forebears undertook 75 years ago.

We arrived at St Charles de Percy mid-afternoon, and moved quickly to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery just outside the village. A lull before the ceremony allowed us to contemplate the scale of the suffering during the fighting

in Normandy: in this small corner of France, 47 Welsh Guardsmen of different ranks are buried. To put this figure into context, around 700 Welsh Guardsman across all three battalions were killed during the course of 6 years fighting from 1939 to 1945. Many British people had come to pay respects to the memory of their loved ones, including relatives of Guardsman Rees who had brought with them a photo of Guardsman Rees in his original 1940s uniform.

The weather had remained fine, and a large crowd had gathered to pay tribute to the fallen. Drummer Thomas, still looking resplendent in his fleur-de-llys embroidered tunic, was required to play the Last Post and reveille, and the Padre delivered prayers in fluent French. The ceremony was immediately followed by a second in the centre of the village, where a monument stands to all of the Guards Armoured division who had participated in the village. Later that evening, the neighbouring village mayor invited us to a dinner and dance in the village hall, where we were entertained by a chanteuse singing French classics such as Aux Champs Elysees. The Welsh Guards could only reply in turn, with one member of the party treating the assembled villagers to a rendition of Calon Lan. Norman hospitality continued throughout, with the village



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ensuring that none of the party would lack for food or drink.

Friday morning came, and yet another early start saw us move to Banneville-la-Campagne, east of Caen. This is the final resting place of Rex Whistler, amongst several other Welsh Guardsmen. Here we joined ourselves onto a commemoration led by the Parachute Regiment, with a German contingent in attendance.

Our final act saw us move again to the east, to Cagny. Liberated by the Welsh Guards in July 1944, the village is one of the battle honours of the regiment. The Mayor delivered a speech reminding us of how not only the Welsh Guards had suffered to liberate the village, but also how ninety per cent

of the village's buildings were destroyed. Drummer Thomas laid a wreath at the foot of the memorial to the Guards, before we were yet again hosted to champagne and pastries. This alas, was to be our final party in Normandy, as for some members of the party the Channel Tunnel and Horse Guards parade beckoned.

1. *The Welsh Guards contingent with Sir Beville Stanier and Mrs Annabel Moss, Gold Beach*
2. *The contingent gathered around the grave of Guardsman Rees, St Charles de Percy*
3. *Colour Sergeant Marsh next to the Guards Armoured Memorial, St Charles de Percy*



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### 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Arras

by Captain ER Emlyn-Williams Welsh Guards

The Welsh Guards were the last to leave Arras in May 1940, and the first to re-enter in 1944. A delegation from the Regiment were invited to take part in the 75th anniversary of the town's liberation.

There is usually a particular moment that brings a lump to the throat in any sort of commemoration of the Regiment's history. Often it comes from left field, outside of the soothing formality of the ceremony: an inscription on a gravestone or a meandering thought whilst the last post is playing.

During a recent trip to Cassino Cemetery, it was the obvious anguish of the mother of Lt Ian Bankier, killed at Monte Piccolo. His headstone reads: 'To the undying memory of our darling Pip who fell at Monte Piccolo. Mum'. One imagines the impossible task of writing such a brief eulogy.

This time, on the outskirts of Arras, it was some overexposed photographs, taken by a German soldier, of crippled Bren Gun Carriers in which Lt Furness and his platoon had made their courageous and costly attack in May 1940; it won Furness a VC, four were killed including Furness, three injured and one captured. Their attack was launched headlong into lead elements of the 5th Panzer Division, into which column of 1st Battalion vehicles stumbled whilst withdrawing from Arras. It bought enough time for the 40 remaining vehicles, canalised in a narrow, sunken lane, to reverse out of potentially devastating ambush.

That these 75-year-old German photographs exist is nothing short of amazing (although I learned that there is a thriving cottage industry for these artefacts). But what is really remarkable, is that local historian Alain Jacques had managed to find them and identify the scene that they depicted; a scene which he knew resonated with our Regimental history. He and Laurent Wiart, Arras Council's director of local heritage, took us to walk the ground after the formal celebrations had finished. They were, respectively, touching examples of both the prominence that our shared history enjoys in the minds of many Arrageois and the excellent hospitality that was lavished upon us during our visit.

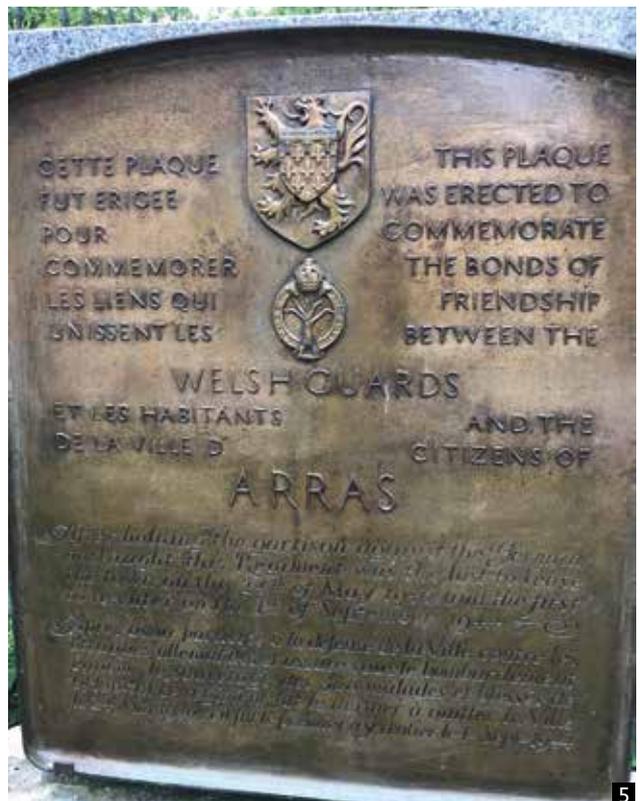
The commemorations themselves were considerably cheerier – naturally the liberation of Arras was a much happier occasion than the earlier withdrawal. There is not much written in the history books about the liberation. Some had been there in 1940 so one imagines that it would have been particularly poignant for them. One such Welsh Guardsman found his suitcase which he had left behind (only his uniform was missing). The quote in *Welsh Guards at War* by Maj L F Ellis is apt and quite amusing, so worth reproducing here:

'To those of us who had lived in Arras for seven months in 1940 and who had held it to the last, it was a great event to enter the town again. The reception we had had in every town and village was tremendous. At one place an elderly Frenchman with an even older bugle stood by the road and blew "Cookhouse at the Double" as the Battalion went by. But Arras was the best.'

As we moved between remembrance parades at

various locations in the town, a sense of the deep gratitude felt by a liberated population was palpable, even 75 years later. The commemorations culminated at the Saint-Vaast Abbey, the grounds of which are home to the Welsh Guards memorial plaque (its twin is in Regimental Headquarters). There were 'pas mal de' speeches; from the Mayor of Arras, Embassy representatives and a number of local officials (there may have been a few blank faces amongst the non-French speaking 1WG contingent!). Lt Col Coclet, the head of the local veterans' association, is worthy of particular mention – his speech on the Regiment's role in Arras was brilliantly researched and delivered without notes (in English!).

There were many other memorable moments and one or two (drill related) episodes that one would rather forget. It is probably a good thing that no Drill Sgt was within earshot when the contingent commander murmured to the rest of the troops during an unrehearsed parade through the town: 'if they are expecting us to mince instead of march then we may as well do it properly'. But the generosity of the hospitality really made a huge impression. We were treated to a PF1 lunch in the Hotel de Ville, taken for a private tour of the Carrière Wellington (WW1 tunnel network) where we were stuffed with cheese, salami and beer. There was even a chance for a demonstration of fearless leadership on a (an actually quite terrifying) fairground ride. It was a great experience in many ways but more than anything it was the warmth with which we were welcomed in Arras that will leave a lasting impression.



1. Welsh Guards delegates, along with representatives from the US, German and British Embassies, were treated to a tour of the WW1 tunnel system underneath Arras – The Carrière Wellington.
2. Lt Col Coclet addresses local dignitaries and veterans at the site of the Welsh Guards memorial in Arras, at the St Vaast Abbey.
3. A Welsh Guards Bren Gun Carrier from Lt Furness VC's Carrier Platoon.
4. The author and Lt Orme Clarke fearlessly tackle a fairground ride.
5. Welsh Guards Memorial Plaque which reads: After holding the garrison against the German onslaught, this Regiment was the last to leave the town on the 24th of May 1940 and the first to re-enter on 1st September 1944



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**In Remembrance of Guardsman (24464284) Paul Arthur Fryer**

by Major (Retired) ME Browne BEM  
Assistant Regimental Adjutant

On Wednesday 13th November 2019, family, friends and colleagues of Guardsman Paul Fryer gathered at the side of a Commonwealth War Grave at Danygraig Cemetery, Risca to remember him, 40 years to the date that he was killed by the IRA in Crossmaglen at around 12.45hrs on Tuesday 13th November 1979 aged just 18. The rain stayed away, and the short service was fitting, moving and emotional.

Paul joined the Welsh Guards in 1977 and on completion of his training at the Guards Depot, Pirbright was posted to 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in Wavell Barracks, Berlin on 19 October 1978. He joined Prince of Wales Company (POW Coy) and took part in all the normal Battalion routine activities; Berlin Train Guard, Spandau Prison Guard, continual readiness training and sport

– Paul was very fit and excelled as a runner.

On 3 July 1979 Paul moved with the Battalion to Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright and after completing the pre-Northern Ireland training packages was deployed on Op BANNER, to South Armagh, with POW Coy taking over the Crossmaglen TAOR (Tactical Area of Responsibility). Paul deployed



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with his Platoon on 25 October 1979 and was to be killed less than 3 weeks later.

On 13th November 1979 Paul was on patrol in the Fords Cross area of Crossmaglen with his Brick led by his Platoon Commander Lt Peter Bevan (RIP) with Gdsm (24472265) Dai Parry and Gdsm (24220184) Mike Miller making up the four-man brick. Having successfully carried out their scheduled routine patrol they were moving to a rendezvous point to return to base by helicopter (the only safe way to travel in the area) and whilst moving from one field across a road to another, a RCIED (Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device) consisting of 200lb of explosive packed in a milk churn, concealed beneath the surface was detonated.

Paul, who was directly above the device, was killed instantly and Gdsm Miller 84 sustained injuries to his head and face.

We have never forgotten Paul and were delighted when one

of his POW Coy colleagues and friend was able to track down members of Paul's family via an article in the South Wales Argus. We advised them on applying for the Elizabeth Cross and, with the assistance of the Ministry of Defence Medal Office, were successful in having it produced in time to be presented to Paul's family by Brigadier Robert Aitken CBE, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent after they had joined us in remembering Paul at his graveside on the 40th anniversary of his death.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:**

**Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them**

1. Paul in the Crossmaglen SF (Security Force) base accommodation, Nov 79. L-R; Kev Hammond, ony Smith 91, Paul Fryer RIP.
2. Welsh Guards Representation at Danygraig Cemetery 13th November 2019.
3. Tremendous support from the Battalion really helped to make it a fitting and memorable occasion for Paul's family and friends. Padre Matthew Dietz CF conducted the short graveside service.
4. Lt Col Rhodri Traherne laying a Regimental Wreath on behalf of all Welsh Guardsmen.
5. Paul's Second Cousin, Savannah reads the Welsh Guards Collect in Welsh, with Padre Matthew Dietz reading the English version.
6. Paul's Commonwealth War Grave after the service
7. The Elizabeth Cross to be presented to Pauls relatives.
8. The Elizabeth Cross was presented to Paul's Cousin Andrew Mountain and accepted on behalf of his Mother (Paul's Aunt), Mrs Hilda Mountain aged 94 who could not be in attendance for health reasons. L-R: Andrew Mountain, Brigadier Robert Aitken CBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Jacqueline Johnston (Cousin), Savannah Mountain (Second Cousin)
9. Some of the Prince of Wales Company members from 1979 in attendance; Back Row; Capt Jan Koops, Edward Vaughan-Jones (3 Coy, but allowed in the photo!), Paul Cunliffe, Neil Rice, Phil Wright 75 Middle Row; Martin Browne, Marty Jones 62, Norman Griffiths 76 Front Row; Andy Probert, Andy Garrett, Bob Stanbridge, Nigel Pitt, Lloyd Jones 53

# WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2019



## Welsh Guards Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019

By Colonel TCS Bonas

This year's Remembrance Sunday was again very well attended especially from the Welsh Guards Club but also from the London Branch and other Association members. We were blessed with fine weather.

The Service was taken by Revd John Vincent, Chaplain to the Household Division and the Battalion Padre, Captain Matthew Dietz who only the day before had returned from the Falklands. The very fine address was given by Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE. The Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday, conducted the Regimental Band in the Chapel.

Stone, the Brigade Major and the Regimental Wreath laid by General Sir Redmond Watt KCB KCVO CBE. The Band were led by Captain Bethan Waters, both the Major Generals ADC and the Assistant Director of the Regimental Band. This was her last engagement with the Band as she is heading off to a new appointment in the New Year.

The parade was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Guy

A splendid and enjoyable day all round.







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**BRUSSELS**  
**75th Liberation Anniversary**  
**3 September 1944 – 3 September 2019**

by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

**O**n 3 September this year, the City of Brussels commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the liberation by the Allies and in particular the Guards Armoured Division.

The Welsh Guards played a unique part in this as ours were the first tanks into the city and thus the first liberators. The Regiment have been invited back to mark this for many years now and this was no less the case in this special anniversary year. Our Defence Attaché at the British Embassy, Group Captain Justin Fowler and I were very keen that the Welsh Guards were represented at the various ceremonies that were to be held on 3 September to mark the liberation.

Unfortunately, given the numerous Battalion commitments, we were not able to provide a contingent of men from the Battalion, but we were able to send the Regimental Band accompanied by myself and my wife and all of us received a very warm welcome from the City Mayor, the Deputy Ambassador (the Ambassador was in London on Brexit business!) and many other dignitaries and officials.

The evening before 3 September, the Band performed at Halle, to the west of Brussels and they had been specifically invited to take part in their liberation commemoration. A mixture of marching and static displays were performed which were received with much rapture from the 200 or so who attended. Wreaths were laid, speeches made, anthems played and then an excellent Reception laid on for all afterwards.

The liberation commemoration in Brussels consisted of two main events on 3 September. The first was the Commemorative Ceremony for the Unknown Soldier at the Column du Congress. Along with our Band projecting a very visual presence, the Belgian Navy Band and the Brussels Police Band played, and the Belgian Army provided a Guard of Honour. It was a very well executed ceremony and I was honoured alongside the City's Mayor, to lay the Embassy Wreath (we also laid a Regimental wreath after the ceremony). The ceremony allowed me to meet a number of dignitaries not least the Military Commandant of Brussels. During the ceremony the Mayor gave a short speech which was entirely about the Welsh Guards entering the City on 3 September 1944 and expressing the City's gratitude to the Regiment but also stressing that it was important that the city continues to commemorate the anniversary so future generations do not forget the sacrifices made by all during the war.

The second major event took place on the square of the Musée Royal de l' Armée et d' Histoire Militaire at the Espanall du Cinquantenaire. The highlight of this was the official welcome of the "Colonne de la Liberation" consisting of 75 military and private vehicles and what a collection that drove through and then parked on the square



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ranging from motorcycles and jeeps to Sherman tanks and artillery pieces. This column of vehicles was re-tracing the key stages of the progress of the liberation in 1944 and had previously driven through Mons, Ath, Enghien, and Halle where the Band had performed the evening before. One of the participants, Pascal Mathien, a Reservist Army Captain and closely involved in the Band's administrative arrangements, was dressed as a WW2 Welsh Guards officer with black beret and leeks. A keen military enthusiast, he enjoys close contact with the Regiment, through Stan Evans, our Curator of the Welsh Guards Museum. Throughout the hour-long parade, the Band performed spectacularly well above the din and noise of tank engines and some pretty smelly belching fumes from the engines. Their contribution and performance were much appreciated by the many who were present including a considerable number of high ranking official and Embassy representatives. After the parade the Band and I took the opportunity for a photo shoot in front of the Liberation Column before attending a truly spoiling and very generous Reception in the Royal Military Museum and for anyone visiting Brussels, I would highly recommend visiting.

There can be no doubt that our presence in Brussels on 3 September was important, as it was in Arras on 2 September and Hechtel on 8 September. The Band were once again superb Ambassadors for the Regiment and they much enjoyed the various experiences over their four-day trip. My thanks go to the Director of Music and all Band Members for doing so well and really entering into the

spirit of the events, not that I expected them not to!

The Regiment's thanks must also go to Belgian Defence who were simply marvellous in accommodating and hosting the Band and could not be more helpful. Special thanks must go to the British Embassy and in particular Group Captain Justin Fowler and Tim Gemers, who without their determination and persistence we would not have made it given funding challenges. They worked tirelessly to have us there and were superb hosts. The DA and his charming wife also very kindly accommodated us both at his residence in central Brussels and we were superbly looked after. Undoubtedly a most memorable and successful trip. I finish with perhaps the most special moment of the day. As we were waiting for the first parade to start, we were approached by a gentleman asking if there were any Welsh Guards present. It transpired that the gentleman's name was Richard Dowers whose father, Denis Dowers (2738224), was a Corporal in the 2nd Battalion and who entered Brussels in his tank on 3 September. He enlisted in 1942 but sadly was medically discharged in 1946 on the grounds of contracting TB at the end of the war possibly as a result of helping death camp survivors in Germany. The son provided me with the picture of his father on parade in Brussels with the Battalion (he is pointed out in the rear rank) and also of the Manneken Pis which is dressed in Welsh Guards uniform each year on 3 September. Remarkable and no better illustration perhaps of links between past and present.



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1. The Manneken Pis is dressed in the uniform of a Welsh Guards Regimental Sergeant Major on 3 September each year to commemorate the liberation of the City of Brussels by the Welsh Guards in 1944.
2. The Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday, Captain Pascal Mathien (Belgian Reserve Officer) and the Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tom Bonas.
3. Captain Pascal Mathien (Belgian Reserve Officer) and the Regimental Adjutant in front of a Sherman Tank.
4. Welsh Guards Band in the specially erected bandstand at the Arcades du Cinquantenaire.
5. (273822) Denis Percy Dowers (arrowed) in 1944, Rue de l'Etuve Stooftstraat, Brussels.
6. Welsh Guards wreath placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the foot of the Congreskolom, Brussels



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## Regimental Battlefield Tour (24th - 29th September 2019)

by Second Lieutenant JH Anscombe-Bell

Another year, another Battlefield Tour... and what a tour it was! Covering the heroic actions of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in 1940, including Welsh Guards engagements in Arras, Dunkirk and Boulogne, through to OPERATION MARKET GARDEN in 1944, the group were set for a fascinating week.

After a quick coffee and brief introductions at Wellington Barracks, the party of 22 strong began the lengthy journey to Arras, where we were due to stay for the first three nights. As the Channel Tunnel Shuttle doors closed and we crept out of Folkestone, attention quickly turned to the vitally important topic of lunch, enjoyed appropriately with several bottles of fine French vino. With supplies running low, a quick, yet mission critical pit-stop at the Pidou Wine Superstore in Calais allowed us to stretch the legs, before we continued onto the final stint of our journey, admittedly with a considerably heavier boot!

After a drowsy final few hours on the road, we drove into the beautifully sleepy streets of Arras, a town charmed by rich architectural heritage and of course one too of great historical significance to the Regiment. Checking in to Hôtel de l'Univers, an attractive seventeenth century former Jesuit monastery in the town centre, we were relieved to have a little time to freshen up before dinner. We had the great pleasure of hosting the Deputy Mayor of Arras and Laurent Wiart, Director of Heritage, Archaeology and Tourism for an evening in the hotel restaurant, giving us the opportunity to strengthen what was already a very strong relationship with the city. Thanks must be given to both our distinguished guests for taking the time to

contribute to what was a very enjoyable first night.

Day two and having received a succinct battle picture from Brigadier Johnny Rickett (our historical advisor and tour guide), we departed for Boulogne-sur-Mer. To bring the battle to life, we heard numerous accounts from those involved, including words from Brigadier William Fox-Pitt, in charge of the 20th Guards Brigade who were tasked with defending the city aside French and Belgian troops. Whilst looking back towards Boulogne from the blustery harbour, we learnt how the Welsh Guards had been tasked with holding the left flank, from the western slopes of Mont Lambert ridge, to the high ground through St. Martin; the Irish Guards were to hold the right flank. Despite a German victory being inevitable, their professional and disciplined fighting allowed time to save some 4,300 civilians and troops, who were eventually evacuated from the city on 24-25 May 1940. It was equally fascinating to hear about the heroic actions of the Royal Navy, who fired their way into and out of the harbour to assist in the evacuation efforts.

The formidable tenacity of the allied defence was recorded in XIX Corps' War Diary:

"...in and around Boulogne the enemy is fighting tenaciously for every inch of ground in order to prevent the harbour

falling into German hands... 2nd Armoured Division's attack therefore only progresses slowly."

Driving inland, we travelled back to Arras via St. Martin where Brigadier Rickett pointed out a clock tower that was used later in the battle by German snipers. Astonishingly, this significant threat was eliminated by the quick thinking and creativity of a mortar team, who unconventionally fired a round directly at the Tower with great success. Returning to Arras, we stopped at the Welsh Guards Memorial, located in the peaceful gardens outside the Musée des Beaux-Arts to pay our respects and to conduct a short service and wreath laying; a highly appropriate way to end an insightful day.

After a leisurely start and another comfortable night's sleep in the former monastery, we travelled to West Cappel for what was to be a poignant third day. On route, we travelled through the village of Le Paradis that bear witness to a horrific massacre on 27 May 1940. The war crime was committed by members of the 14th Company, SS Division Totenkopf, against the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, who had surrendered after becoming isolated from their unit. We were told of the barbaric German actions, leading ninety-nine British troops to a wall across the road from the farmhouse they had been defending, to mow them down by machine gun fire. Two soldiers survived with unimaginable injuries and hid in a pigsty close by, until they were captured several days later and transferred to a military hospital.

With the group in a solemn and contemplative mood, we moved to our next stop, Château de la Briarde; a beautiful 15th Century castle which became the final

defensive position held in the village by 5 Platoon, Number 2 Company, during the BEF's retreat to Dunkirk.

The order to withdraw to the castle came too late for two platoons holding the flanks from German advance. However, Brigadier Rickett told us of 2nd Lieutenant Rhidian Llewellyn, a nineteen-year-old platoon commander, whose gallant actions allowed for the rest of his men to conduct a relatively controlled retreat to the chateau. Moreover, the implementation of ruthless tactics, allowed him and 23 others to successfully withdraw to Dunkirk; he was subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

After a walk around the picturesque grounds and posing for a quick team photo outside the chateau entrance, we made the short walk to the West Cappel cemetery. Here we took the time to conduct another memorial service, this time to remember all those who fell defending the village, including the twenty Welsh Guardsmen who still rest in the cemetery.

A brief drive from West Cappel and we had arrived at La Plaine au Bois, near Wormhout, where we jumped off the coach and followed Brigadier Rickett down a small dirt track. After 100 metres, we reached a lone barn set alongside two rows of perfectly spaced trees, where an immediate sense of unease filled the air as the heavens opened into a torrential downpour. We learnt that it was in this barn where 80 BEF and French unarmed soldiers were slaughtered by SS grenade and gunfire; the barn has now been transformed into a touching memorial, with wreaths and plaques lining every wall. It later transpired that there was a tree planted for every victim of the massacre; a powerfully evocative tribute.



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The final stand for the day saw us visiting Bois des Huit Rues, the site of a fixed launch ramp for the German V1 (doodlebug) rocket. Aimed towards London, it was difficult not to imagine the level of destruction that these unpowered aircrafts caused some 200 kilometres from where they were fired.

With a harrowing day behind us, it was time to head back to the hotel for a stiff drink. Dinner was organised under our own arrangements which gave us a fantastic opportunity to explore the city, taking the short walk to the Grand Place and the Place des Heroes, for which Arras is principally known. Surrounded by 155 Flemish Baroque-style houses these famous squares provided the perfectly enchanting setting for a relaxed supper.

Onto the penultimate day and after an early check out at the hotel, we found ourselves bouncing between France and Belgium to visit sites that made up the eastern flank, all of which saw fierce fighting during the BEF's retreat to Dunkirk. Moving gradually towards the coast, from Tournai to Comines and stopping for a quick, but much needed coffee in Dixmude, we

eventually arrived in De Panne (formerly La Panne). We were informed that General Lord Gort, the Commander-in-Chief for the BEF arrived at De Panne on 28 May 1940 to oversee the implementation of Operation Dynamo, before being instructed to return to England rather than be taken prisoner.

Brigadier Rickett described the chaotic scenes, with thousands of soldiers arriving with no clear direction as the Germans began shelling, an impossible image to comprehend as we looked out over the peaceful dunes and gazed at a memorial erected to commemorate the evacuation.

Jumping back on the coach, we headed down the coastline and back across the border to Dunkirk, where we took a contemplative walk along the dock where men once so desperately boarded boats set for Blighty. Hearing of soldiers marching from La Panne to where we were now standing, the magnitude of the task did not become truly apparent until we looked across the harbour walls towards the quaint seaside town some 11 miles away. This was only a fraction of the distance travelled by many with little food and



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water. Tony Cooper, our longest standing trustee, shared a fascinating account that his father had written from his time at Dunkirk, which movingly encapsulated the whole experience.

Time was up and we were en route to the much more modern and corporate Hotel Mezzo, located on the outskirts of Beringen, where we would spend the next two nights.

Saturday morning and after testing our culinary expertise by making our own packed lunches, we set off on what was to be a slightly more relaxed final day. Moving away from the BEF's withdrawal efforts to Dunkirk, we turned our attention to Operation Market Garden, launched in 1944, its objective to create a 64-mile salient that would allow for an Allied invasion into Northern Germany. We

began by looking at the Welsh Guards involvement with the crossing of the Albert Canal, before moving to Hechtel-Eksel where we took time to remember the liberation of the town after some intense fighting from the Regiment; the Welsh Guards Association had attended an annual service and commemoration parade two weeks earlier.

On the outskirts of Hechtel, we drove through what appeared to be the middle of nowhere, stopping in a wood opposite the entrance to what looked like another memorial. We had actually arrived at the Secret Cemetery, a former execution site for Belgian resistance, one of many the German command had set up in early 1942. Having read that this site was home to 204 graves including two British RAF, you couldn't help feeling overwhelmingly emotional whilst walking



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around the unnerving forest. Having commemorated the 75th anniversary the day before, each grave had been dressed with a single red rose, a beautifully powerful tribute.

In yet another pensive mood, we travelled the short distance to the Bourg Leopold Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWWG) cemetery, where numerous Welsh Guardsmen had been laid to rest. After conducting a short but moving wreath laying service, we found a tranquil spot nearby to enjoy our sandwiches and reflect on the morning's activities.

Our final stop for the day was Joe's bridge, crossing the Meuse-Escaut canal and taken on the evening of 10 September 1944 by the Guards Armoured Division. The capture of this bridge completed the encirclement of German troops in Hechtel and became the springboard for the Operation Market Garden ground offensive.

Back to the hotel and for the final evening, we were spoilt with a delicious meal at Ristorante Italia in central Beringen. With spirits high, fresh Burrata and silky homemade pasta filled the tables as we reminisced about what had been a most compelling week. We also had

the pleasure of being joined by the former Mayor of Hechtel and the Mayor of Beringen, our links with these towns firmly established. What a wonderful way to conclude a fascinating trip!

With a slightly sore head on a sleepy Sunday morning, it was time to check out for a final time and make our way back to London. As I write this and the coach drives back down Birdcage Walk, I feel that it is time to thank those who have made this experience truly memorable. Firstly, to our guide, Brigadier Johnny Rickett, whose unequivocal knowledge, captivating narrative and sharp wit proved for an incredibly insightful and enjoyable tour. We are extremely grateful to all our Club Members and Friends of the Regiment who attended, who continue to actively support us and provided us with fantastic company throughout. We are also truly appreciative of our strong links with the Drapers' Company, the presence of its members similarly contributed greatly to the tour. Finally, thanks must be given to our Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tom Bonas, without whose extensive planning, organisation and support, the trip would not have been possible. Until next year...



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- 1 Brigadier Johnny Rickett giving his first Battlefield Tour briefing to the tour group in the bar of the Hotel de L'Univers, Arras
- 2 Tour group on the steps of the Château in West Cappel where, in 1940, Number 2 Company, under Command of Captain JJ Gurney resisted the German Army in their advance to Dunkirk. The opportunity was taken by the Château owner to show a framed picture of the 1995 New Colours Parade which had been presented to him on a previous WG visit.
- 3 2nd Lieutenant James Anscombe-Bell lays the Regimental wreath in Leopoldsborg War Cemetery where 35 Welsh Guards are buried
- 4 In Hechtel at the Sherman Tank which the Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour visit each year.
- 5 The Mole at Dunkirk which was used to evacuate tens of thousands of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF)
- 6 The men on the Mole in 1940
- 7 The tour group with the Mole in the background
- 8, 9, 10 The Dunkirk beaches
- 11 The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWWG) Cemetery at West Cappel Churchyard where 20 Welsh Guardsmen are buried
- 12 AV1 bunker site in the Nieppe Forest near Dunkirk
- 13 The tour group at the V1 bunker site
- 14 Laying of the Regimental wreath at the Welsh Guards memorial in Arras
- 15 The Regimental and Association wreaths at the Welsh Guards Memorial Arras



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1. Site of the 1982 Landings at San Carlos L-R; Steve Williams 63, John Davies 12, Peter Thomas 37, Gary Thomas 23, Ian Hall, Jeff Buck, Dick Clark, Gary Howard, Charlie Carty MBE

**Veterans Visit the Falkland Islands 37 Years On**  
By Major CGH Carty MBE DL

In late February 2019 a group of Nine Welsh Guards veterans made a return visit to the Falkland Islands for the first time since the conflict of 1982. The visit was organised and administered by the author and included Dick Clark, John Davies 12, Gary Howard, Jeff Buck, Peter Thomas 37, Gary Thomas 23, Ian Hall and Steve Williams 63

The following is our daily diary.

**Day 1 - Departure UK  
Sunday 24th February**

Prior to this epic journey everyone met up at the Gateway House Hotel at Royal Air Force Brize Norton, many having more than a little difficulty recognising comrades from over 30 years ago, however after ten minutes or so it felt as if we

were all just coming back from two weeks leave.

After an excellent evening meal, organised by the manager of the Gateway House Hotel, and once all the usual formalities were completed we headed to the departure lounge for a four hour wait "with fingers crossed" for no delays.

**Day 2 - Journey South  
Monday 25th February**

At 0110hrs we departed on the first leg of our journey to Cape Verde West Africa, which is being used whilst the runway on Ascension Island is being repaired. After a two-hour refuelling stop we were on the second leg to RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

On arrival at RAF Mount Pleasant and having passed through Customs and Immigration smoothly our transport collected the group for the one hour journey to Stanley and for the first time since 1982 everyone was getting a feel of the terrain they had not seen for thirty seven years, there was a mix of banter, discussion to identify the features on route and quiet contemplation whilst realising that we have at last arrived on the islands which were to have such an effect on us in one way or another for the rest of our lives.

We arrived at the fantastic Liberty Lodge and were met with a warm welcome from the lodge manager Ali Dodd - no one could have missed the aroma of the "All in Stew" she had prepared for us.

There is no doubt that the group were taken back by the quality and high standard of the lodge accommodation which has a commanding view over the inner harbour. All credit must go to the Falklands Veterans Federation founding committee for their inspiration when planning its inception, although it has to be said that many of the islanders still do miss the opportunity to house veterans as they did in the early days of veterans returning to the Islands.

**Day 3 - Fitzroy  
Tuesday 26th February**

We started the day with our first very personal and

emotional visit to Fitzroy and the Welsh Guards Memorial, here we also took the opportunity to visit all the other memorials in the area related to the bombing of the RFAs Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram. A final visit to the sheep pens where many of us found ourselves after getting off the Sir Galahad found them virtually a 'step back in time' as little had changed over the years.

On our return journey to Stanley we stopped to visit and pay our respects at the memorial to LCpl Thomas O3 (Bowser) at Minefield 60.

On our arrival in Stanley we sampled an excellent lunch at Shorty's Diner. Suitably fed and watered we moved into the afternoon with a visit to the Memorial Wood, a piece of unused ground which was landscaped, and a tree planted for every serviceman killed in action. All the planning and work carried out in the making of this memorial was instigated by Tim and Jan Miller with the young children of their cub scouts.

Successive generations of children continue to maintain the memorial over the years which provides peace, Solitude and Remembrance for all. Here the group took the opportunity to plant small remembrance crosses for friends and comrades killed in action.

Finally, the evening finished off with a superb group dinner at the Waterfront restaurant.

**Day 4 - Government House  
Wednesday 27th February**

Today has been fairly flexible with visits in Stanley and personal choices of activity.

We started the day with a visit to the Penguin colonies at Gypsy Cove followed by visits to the old Stanley Airport and Museum after which we congregated at Shorties Diner for lunch.

At 1430hrs we were invited to tea at Government House and on this occasion the Deputy Governor was hosting our visit, so back to the lodge and dress for the occasion after which we arrived as required five minutes before parade.





The Deputy Governor was very accommodating with a warm welcome and talked with everyone discussing a variety of interesting subjects which the group raised.

Another day nearly comes to an end its back to the lodge to prepare for our invitation to dinner at the home of Tim and Jan Millar. Tim and Jan are of course legendary for their support to Welsh Guardsmen visiting the islands. The amount of work they do on our behalf both with our visiting veterans and at Falkland Islands Government level is huge and there are no words I can put here which will do them justice. Needless to say, an excellent evening was had by all.

**Day 5 - Mount Pleasant Base Thursday 28th February**

After an early "Full Welsh" breakfast we moved self-contained in our three 4x4s ably driven by the author and Ian Hall. We pulled out of Stanley past Sapper Hill and headed for the Mount Pleasant Complex where the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force were hosting us during the morning

Our first visit was to the Royal Air Force and No 1310 Flight where we were given various briefings as to their role followed by a detailed introduction to the new Airbus A400M Atlas by the pilot and crew, again we were superbly looked after.

This was followed by an interesting visit to the new Air Sea Rescue flight where once again the pilot and crew were on hand to show us the latest aircraft and equipment.

A final RAF visit to the awesome Typhoons rounded off an excellent first part of the visit.

Finally, we moved to Mare Harbour to be hosted royally by the Captain and crew of HMS Clyde Royal Navy who again gave us a full briefing on their role with a tour of the ship after which the group were invited to the Wardroom for a superb lunch.

After lunch we returned to Stanley to visit the War Memorial and Stanley Museum.

To finish off the day we were treated to an excellent harbour cruise laid on by Sullivan Shipping who kindly support our groups each year when we visit.

**Day 6 - Memorial Service Friday 1st March**

A very special day for us of course when we held our Memorial Service at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Fitzroy, overlooking the offshore site of the bombing of the RFA Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram, other than us the service was also attended by serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force based at the Mount Pleasant Complex and a number of local Falkland islanders.

The Rector of the Falkland Islands, The Reverend Ian Faulds, kindly officiated with the Welsh Guards wreath being laid by Gary Howard, Welsh Guards Collect recited by Dick Clark, Exhortation by Jeff Buck, Kohima Epitaph by John Davies 12 and the Names of the Lost by Charlie Carty

On completion of our service we were invited to the Fitzroy Hall for refreshments before returning to Stanley. Many thanks must go to the lovely people in Fitzroy and of course Jan and Tim who help to organise our visit each year.

The evening brought us to a superb Concert by Welsh





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singer Kirsten Orsborn in the Globe Tavern. Kirsten with her parents, accompanied us to the Falklands to carry out a number of concerts in support of Falklands Veterans Charities including Liberty Lodge.

**Day 7 - Circumnavigation Saturday 2nd March**

We departed Liberty Lodge for a long day in the field and having loaded all the goodies including Flasks and a Nosebag for lunch we planned to circumnavigate the Eastern Island covering Teal Inlet, San Carlos, Darwin and Goose Green. Sennybridge and Dartmoor Training Areas came to mind as we progressed on our journey in our three 4x4s.

On reaching San Carlos and in a plot of overlooking the sea in this windswept land is the British Military Cemetery, a carefully constructed and beautifully maintained memorial to the dead, of course many of the British casualties were either buried at sea or repatriated to the UK. We spent some time here and paid our respects.

Eating our lunch overlooking the now rotting Jetty on which the battalion came ashore, the memories rolled back, we moved on to the location of the old company positions, to find some of the trench

imprints now well grown over, it was now a clear sunny but windy day which is a stark difference to the cold, wet and windswept days of 1982 when the peat trenches quickly filled with muddy water.

We also decided at this point to have our group photograph taken against the backdrop of our "Landings" site in 1982.

Onward we moved to Goose Green via the Argentine cemetery near Darwin, positioned on a very bleak area lacking the well known quality of the War Graves Commission.

Travelling now along the Southern route towards Stanley still with some distance to go on less than ideal roads we eventually reached Liberty Lodge and prepared for a chilled evening.

**Day 8 - Bluff Cove Sunday 3rd March**

Today was planned as a Bn HQ/Number 2 Company day. We follow their 1982 progress from Bluff Cove to Mount Harriett where they were in support of the Marines and then on to Sapper Hill and Stanley.

Starting our journey at Bluff Cove, we were met by Kevin and Hattie Killmartin who are



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the owners of Bluff Cove Farm, they made us very welcome and added greatly with their input on the events involving Battalion HQ, Number 2 Company Recce Platoon and the Machine Gun Platoon arriving at Bluff Cove in 1982.

We moved onward in the direction of Stanley to Elephant Canyon where the Battalion HQ were located and thereafter the positions of Number 2 Company where many of the old trench locations have been found. We further pinpointed the Battalion Start Line where a good view of Mount's Longdon, Tumbledown and Kent were seen, all areas of heavy fighting during the last week of the conflict.

Our final stop on route was Sapper Hill which was of course the battalion's final objective in 1982.

The day complete we returned to Liberty Lodge and prepared for our dinner invitation with Ian and Sheila Stewart whose hospitality was second to none.

Sheila has been key in helping us with our harbour events and Ian played a significant part in the building of Liberty Lodge as well as their ongoing support to veterans visiting the islands

**Day 9 - Penultimate Day Monday 4th February**

Our final day on the islands before we depart the following morning for the United Kingdom.

Brief visits to Cape Pembroke (Atlantic Conveyor) and Hookers Point (HMS Glamorgan) in the morning with a final lunch at Shorties Diner with the remainder of the day being for personal activities.

A farewell evening dinner at the Malvina Hotel also gave us the opportunity to invite and

thank those who support our visits each year.

**Day 10 – Homeward Bound Tuesday 5th February**

We are now on route for the United Kingdom via Cape Verde with much to reflect on during the 18 hour flight. We have had a superb trip and all are agreed that they have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited greatly from the visit.

We have also been overwhelmed by the support and kindness we have been shown by everyone we have come into contact with in the Falkland Islands and no feelings expressed here will be able to show our gratitude for a visit never to be forgotten.

2. Gary Howard and Steve Williams 63 being briefed by the Governor's PA at Government House
3. Charlie Carty discussing tactics with Dick Clarke Overlooking Bluff Cove
4. Attending our Memorial Service at Fitzroy
5. Ian Hall Ready for Take Off in an Airbus A400M Atlas
6. Jeff Buck and Dick Clarke "My trench was around here somewhere"!
7. Kirsten Orsborn with Ian Hall, John Davies and Jeff Buck on the harbour cruise
8. Ian Hall being recruited by the Royal Navy
9. Our group after lunch with the Captain of HMS Clyde
10. John Davies and Dick Clarke at the memorial to LCpl Thomas 03 (Bowser)
11. Our first visit to the Welsh Guards Memorial
12. Toasting the lads who did not return
13. Welsh Singer Kirsten Orsborn presents her fundraising cheque to Gary Clement at Liberty Lodge
14. Ian Hall finds his 1982 accommodation



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### The Ride To The Wall (RTTW)

by Mr Neil Rice

Assistant Secretary General Welsh Guards Association

The first Saturday in October is firmly in the diary now as the day for the annual Ride to the Wall.

A day when thousands of bikers (over 6,600 this year) the majority being ex-service people make their way to National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire for a unique motorcycling event which gives motorcyclists the opportunity to gather together at a place of remembrance, to pay their respects to our serving and fallen service men and women and in doing so, raise funds solely for the purpose of perpetuating their memory and recognising the sacrifice made.

But it is not only motorbikes, in one case at least, a Welsh Guardsman made the superb effort to attend by bicycle, completing the 184 mile round trip from his home in Buckley, Flintshire to show his respects

– well done Dave Hewitt (ex 2 Company) brilliant. Dave is pictured in his lycra, 6th from the left in our group photograph.

It has become the tradition for members of the Household Division taking part on the RTTW to gather at the Household Division Memorial at 1300 hrs to lay a wreath, have a quiet reflection and meet old friends. A couple of our regulars were hors de combat this year but we were still well represented.

1. Household Division Riders in front of the Household Division Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum for the RTTW 2019.
2. The Welsh Guards Crest at the Household Division Memorial



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**The Welsh Guards Pilgrims Battlefield Tour 2019**

by Helen Furnell and David "Spider" Webb (23523061)

The Welsh Guards Pilgrims are a small group of like-minded people who have the aim to visit outside of the larger war cemetery areas to areas where Welsh Guardsmen have fallen and are buried and who possibly are rarely visited.

We visit their resting place, pay our respects and carry out a Last Post ceremony. This year our tour was titled Defence and Liberation and followed the path of the 1st and 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards in WW2.

the actions that led to the evacuation of the Queen.

After the Lunch at the Hoek of Holland we changed into casual wear for the Journey into France, destination Arras following in the footsteps of the Regiment in 1944 through to Brussels and beyond. This is our Diary 75 years later:

Sat 31st Aug started with a parade at the Hoek of Holland with the Mayor of Rotterdam, Guards Remembrance Association Netherlands and several Local Veteran Organisations to pay our respects to the victims of Operation Harpoon, the Evacuation of Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch Royal Family in May 1940. Two Welsh Guards; 2733663 A Cornelius and 2733122 R Meechem and 8 Irish Guards were killed during the operation. The Parade was led to the Memorial by Pipe Major Richard Goodwin, our newest addition to the Pilgrims. Emma Brown also joined us and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Service. She sang "Abide with Me" accompanied by a Dutch Military Band. Sandra Evans laid a Wreath on behalf of the Pilgrims while Richard played a Lament on the bagpipes. Kelvyn Jenkins played Last Post and Stan Evans (67) delivered the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph. David Webb thanked everyone present for their support in Dutch. We were then invited to a Vin de Honour hosted by the Rotterdam Burgermeister in the Bunker Museum, where we watched a moving short documentary recalling

1st September. We commenced with a ceremony at Vimy Ridge where the 1st and 2nd Battalions started from to liberate the city of Arras in 1944. We travelled the same route into Arras to attend a Church Service taken by Canon Bruce Hawkins, who outlined the defence and liberation of Arras by the Welsh Guards to the congregation. The Children's Sunday School joined us in the Courtyard for a Memorial Ceremony, where Stan Evans (67) presented a Framed Mounted Regimental Crest to mark the occasion to Canon Hawkins. Afterwards we were invited to join the congregation for a superb Sunday lunch. The Canon informed us a bagpiper played a lament at his Mother's Funeral and so Richard Goodwin went outside on the green by the kitchen Window and played the Lament which made the Canon and his congregation very emotional. To round the day off we made our way to the Ville-de-Arras Communal Cemetery. We placed a cross and a Welsh flag at each of the 16 Welsh Guards headstones followed by our usual Last Post, a truly



moving ceremony to conclude our day.

2nd September. We took the road to Brussels following in the footsteps of the Regiment, taking in Dijon, Loos, Hondzocht and Halle catching up with the Welsh Guards Band marching through the town. We waved our Welsh Dragon flags to the delight of the Band and Locals. It was then time for us to leave and make our way to our Hotel in Brussels, our home for the next 3 nights.

3rd September. Liberation Day in Brussels. This was a special day; making our way to the Brussels Community Cemetery to place the Medals he never wore on the Headstone of 4191702 LSgt Llewelyn Roberts MM, a North Walien from Rachub Caernarfon. Helen Furnell read out the citation before the Last Post ceremony. There are also 4 other Welsh Guards who all received a Welsh Flag and cross. Our next port of call was the Jewish Memorial, an impressive structure in a much-changed area of the city and a poignant moment for us all to reflect on the horror suffered by others that made the Liberation so vital.

4th September. Was Liberation Day for the City of Wavre by the Welsh Guards in 1944. Our first Port of call was the Community Cemetery to pay our respects to LCpl Fardoe, another North Walian from Hawarden. To our utter surprise the Mayor Françoise Pigeolet greeted us in front of the cemetery gates and as they opened all of the Council members were present. The Governor of Walloon and the British Ambassador's Representative Alice Draper plus various Veterans and serving Belgium Forces "What a Surprise". Richard led us all playing "Calon Lan" and "Sosban Fach" on the Bagpipes

to where LCpl Fardoe lays, for the Last Post Ceremony. Our hosts instructed us to follow them to the Town Hall in the city centre. We could not believe our eyes when we arrived. Hundreds turned up and filled the square, all wanting to shake our hands. We were ushered up the Steps leading to the Hotel Ville which was laid out for speeches. The Mayor Françoise Pigeolet delivered her speech in French with intervals for the English translation to be read. I think I can say it really was a moving account of the Welsh Guards' bravery and how they helped the local resistance defeat the foe and rid the City of 4 years of repression and turmoil. To mark the occasion, we presented her with a framed Regimental Crest which she held above her head to a massive cheer from the crowd. That really made us as Welsh Guards so proud.

Following that we made our way to the side of the Hotel Ville for a commemoration to the Local Resistance Fighters and Welsh Guard plaques on the wall. Then it was into the Town Hall where an exhibition of photographs of the city during WW2 were displayed in the corridors during the Vin de Honour. We then signed the Golden Book to record our visit to a wonderful city and citizens who have made us Citizens of Wavre. We were getting ready to leave when 2 doors opened revealing silver service tables prepared for lunch, that was definitely a WOW factor!! The meal was to die for especially the prawn starter. A sing song at the conclusion of dinner developed with Richard walking round the tables playing the Bagpipes to the delight of the Wavarians. This was extensively covered by the Television News and Press. Sadly the time arrived when we had to leave for



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our next appointment at the Hoegaarden Monastery

When we arrived at the Monastery the Mother Superior and the Nuns welcomed us with the Local press and Television News Reporters present. This is what the local press published

A British group held a ceremony in the St Roch chapel of Mariadal in memory of a young soldier who died in World War II: Corporal William Henry Webb. William Henry Webb was twenty when he died after being injured in the "Sector Names". He was part of the British Welsh Guards. Webb died on December 2, 1944. He and other soldiers were cared for a while in the Mariadal monastery. A plaque has been added to the facade of the chapel in his memory. These seven Welsh Guards Pilgrims are part of a group that visits memorial sites of soldiers of the Welsh Guards all over Europe.



Rain began to fall so we were invited to do the Ceremony inside the Magnificent Chapel, acoustics where absolutely brilliant, Last Post played by Kelvyn Jenkins sounded amazing. Before retiring for a buffet, we presented the Mother Superior with a Cross Stitch kindly made for us by Anneka Langley to whom we are eternally grateful. A picture of LCpl Webb was also presented, kindly given by Stan Evans (67) which was really appreciated by our translator Maria who is also the official guide of the town. The Buffet was first class, including the Beer which is brewed in the Monastery. Richard then of course struck up with a rendition of Welsh Songs on the Bagpipes which had everyone Clapping but sadly all too soon it was time to leave for the hotel and pack ready for the journey home.



5th September. We were invited

by Popperinge once again to hold our Ceremony at the Cells and Shot at Dawn site. After Lunch it was off to West Cappel another of our battle honours. Waiting to greet us by the Church was the Deputy Mayor Patrice Leclaire, Council Officials and the Local Standard Bearer. There are 20 Welsh Guards in the church cemetery who were defending the Chateau in the village in 1940. A Vin de Honour was laid out for us in the Mayors Chamber where we presented Patrice with a cross stitch also made by Anneka Langley. It was given pride of place above the fire next to a picture of the Chateau which the Regiment were defending and the Church where the Welsh Guardsmen now Rest in Peace. Our last call was to the Communal Cemetery in Dunkirk, where listed on Column 34 & 35 are the details of twelve members 1st Battalion, including The Right Honourable Christopher Furness VC and 4 members of the 2nd Battalion.

1. Canon Bruce Hawkins, Arras Church
2. Arras Communal Cemetery 16 Welsh Guardsmen buried here - Defence 1940
3. Brussels Community Cemetery LSgt Roberts MM
4. West Cappel Church
5. The Mayor of Wavre showing the presented Regimental Crest to the City inhabitants
6. Brussels Jewish Memorial
7. Wavre Cemetery LCpl Fardoe's final resting place - he died of wounds 5 Sept 44
8. West Cappel Ceremony for the 20 Welsh Guardsmen Killed defending the Chateau
9. West Cappel Picture of the Chateau on the left where the Battle was fought
10. Presentation to Deputy Mayor of West Cappel, Patrice Leclaire
11. Wavre Group Photo on Town Hall steps
12. The Golden Book for special occasions which we signed with the Mayor
13. West Cappel village Coat of Arms



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## Dedication and Commemoration Ceremony - Cardigan Cenotaph

by Jiffy Myers MBE Regimental Veterans Officer

On the afternoon of Saturday 12th October 2019, the families, friends, serving members of the Battalion, Veterans and local dignitaries attended a dedication and commemoration ceremony in Cardigan.

During this ceremony, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Miss Sara Edwards, unveiled a plaque on the Cenotaph, honouring two Welsh Guardsmen and one Grenadier Guardsman killed in action, whilst serving their country on Operations in recent conflicts.

They are:

Gdsm Michael Dunphy (WG) killed in action onboard the RFA Sir Galahad in the Falklands conflict of 1982

LSgt David Greenhalgh (GREN GDS) killed in action on Operations in Afghanistan in 2010

LCpl Lee Davies (WG) killed action on Operations in Afghanistan in 2012

One of my tasks, as the Regimental Veterans Officer, is to support our bereaved families. Over 2 years ago, I visited the Next of Kin of LCpl Lee Davies, who asked for his name to be added to the Cenotaph in Cardigan. What I thought would be a straightforward and relatively simple request, turned into 2 years of negotiations and planning.

I won't go into detail because, if you have actually read this far, you'll soon want to turn the page. All I will say is that, if you want Local Authorities to do something, it takes time, lots of time and lots of emails and lots of meetings! Thankfully the Ceredigion

Armed Forces Champion, Mr Paul Hinge was on hand to help and advise every step of the way.

When events are advertised, one is never quite sure who and how many will turn up. Thankfully, as the day progressed, I needn't have worried. People turned up from all over the country. Two Serving members of the Battalion arrived to provide a Guard of Honour at the Cenotaph and many members of Number 2 Company, past and present, who had served with Lee attended. Both Regimental Headquarters Grenadier Guards and Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards were represented by their respective Regimental Adjutants, both of who lay wreaths on behalf of their Regiments.

The Ceremony began with the local Choir singing Welsh themed songs, along with the local band. The Armed Forces Champion welcomed everyone, and the Ceremony began. Looking around, it was heartening to see so many members of the Welsh Guards Association present, with Royal British Legion represented by Standard Bearers and Armed Forces motorcycle clubs.

The plaque was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant and a dedication was given by the Armed Forces Chaplain and a local Chaplain. The Mayor



of Cardigan read a poem from a Veteran of World War 1, wreaths were then laid by the Lord Lieutenant, Mayor, Families, Welsh Guards, Grenadier Guards, Associations and local groups. It was a very touching ceremony and I am very grateful for everyone who helped make it happen.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in Cardigan Secondary School. The Families met and chatted with everyone and were very grateful for the support. It was wonderful to see so many people turn up and support the families. A lot of people present had travelled long distances to be there and members of Number 2 Company, who had deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 were present, including the Company Officers, Warrant Officers, SNCOs and Other ranks. Veterans from the Falklands Conflict were also well represented.

The Cenotaph in Cardigan Town now proudly displays the names of 3 Guardsmen who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. We will remember them.

1. *The Mayor of Cardigan, Councillor Shan Williams addresses those present*
2. *Cardigan Cenotaph with the new plaque beneath the Welsh Dragon*
3. *Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Miss Sara Edwards, unveils the plaque*
4. *The Cardigan Cenotaph with wreaths laid and Welsh Guards Sentries in place.*
5. *Number Two Company well represented.*



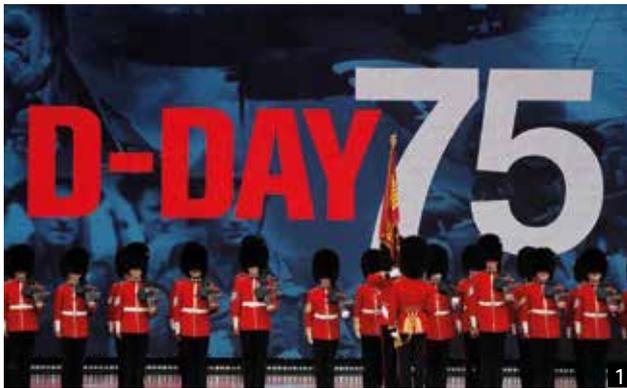
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## D-DAY 75: A Tribute to Heroes

by Lieutenant J Wilkinson, Machine Gun Platoon  
Commander, Support Company

**T**he 5th June 2019 was a day of big numbers: 11 warships, 17 heads of state; 26 aircraft; 300 D-Day veterans; 4,000 military personnel and a TV broadcast across 20 different countries to an audience of millions.

But these numbers are diminished by the scale of human effort 75 years ago; when on the day of the D-Day landings over 300,000 allied soldiers, sailors and airmen; over 11,000 allied aircraft and over almost 7,000 allied ships left the security of Southsea beach in Portsmouth for the chaotic beaches of Normandy.

D-Day 75: A Tribute to Heroes on Portsmouth Southsea Common told the remarkable story of the build-up to the D-Day landings using the heart-breaking testimonies of veterans, music - including a performance from Sheridan Smith - and theatrical performances. Sheridan Smith for many was the highlight of the show and she was more than happy to pose for pictures with members from the Battalion backstage. Another backstage highlight was President Trump's motorcade which included 'The Beast' and its team of secret service agents who unlike Sheridan Smith weren't so keen to be photographed.

The Welsh Guards on the day itself represented the army in a tri-service Guard of Honour, which marched through the spectator aisles and on to the main stage. The Battalion took centre stage on as musicians from the Band of the Royal Marines played a fanfare when the Queen arrived in the royal box, and the Tri-Service Orchestra performed the national anthem. As anticipated the turnout of the

guardsmen was immaculate and their drill faultless, befitting of such a significant event.

Notably Guardsman Davies 60 and Guardsman Kemp escorted two of the veterans onto the stage as the Guard of Honour paid their respects to the former servicemen and women. An extremely poignant tribute for all those in attendance and a moment neither Guardsman will be sure not to forget.

There were of course numerous rehearsals in the run up to the event itself, which saw those from the Battalion involved travelling back and forth from Portsmouth daily in the run up to the event. However the manner in which those involved conducted themselves was testament to the high professional standards the Battalion strives for and which were clear to see on the day itself.

Indeed the next time many of those involved will parade in front of Her Majesty the Queen will be next year when the Battalion will troop its own colour on the Queen's Birthday Parade. Undoubtedly a benchmark has now been set from which to go on and deliver an even higher standard of turnout and precision of drill in June next year.



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1. The Prince of Wales's Company proudly form up on the stage in front of Her Majesty the Queen, and President Donald Trump.
2. Major Chris Davies commands the parade.
3. WO2 DSgt Lewis (left) and WO1 RSM Parry (right) post for a photo outside the D Day memorial.
- 4-5. The Prince of Wales's Company
6. One of the many rehearsals before the big event.
7. Important that we never forget

# RECRUITING, CADETS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## Welsh Combat Regiments Parliamentary Reception 30th October 2018

by Warrant Officer Class 2 (now Warrant Officer Class 1)  
M E Parry 19  
1st Battalion Welsh Guards

For the third year running members of the Welsh Guards assisted and supported the prestigious annual Cadet Cambrian Patrol, held on Sennybridge Training Area. This year the event was held in balmy weather, a strange phenomenon for Brecon at any time of the year!



Each year personnel representing all three Welsh Combat Regiments (Queen's Dragoon Guards, Welsh Guards and The Royal Welsh) attend an afternoon reception at the Palace of Westminster to meet and chat with their Welsh Members of Parliament.

All three Regiments have been extremely busy in 2018 but still found time to attend, with; Capt Griffiths, WO2 Parry 19, WO2 Scarf, CSgt Davies 96, Sgt Cunningham, LSgt Burrows-Jones, Gdsm Boswell and Gdsm Jenkins representing the Battalion. The Welsh Members of Parliament are grouped

together with soldiers from their constituencies and there is ample time for questions and answers to flow in both directions.

The Members of Parliament are then briefed by all three Regiments and Warrant Officer Class 2 Scarf gave the Welsh Guards brief which appeared to go down well with everyone in the room. The Secretary of State for Wales, The Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, in his reply, mentioned how impressed he was during his time with the Battalion when he visited Kabul last year.

1. Secretary of State for Wales, Gdsm Jenkins, Gdsm Boswell
2. WO2 Scarf briefing



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### KAPE Tour 2019

by 2nd Lieutenant SP Burfiend, Officer Commanding 2 Platoon

The Welsh Guards set off on their KAPE (keeping the army in the public eye) tour early on the morning of Monday 16 September. Our first stop was Nescliffe camp, in close proximity to Wrexham where the first freedom march was due to be held.



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The goodwill and support of the public began before we even made our way off the motorway with one kind lady gifting three large boxes of cakes at a service station, which were duly gobbled up by those on the back seats.

Upon arrival the Guard of Honour quickly familiarised themselves with the camp and began preparing their ceremonial uniforms for the morning's march. There was just time for a quick rehearsal before the light faded ensuring everyone was ready for the morning.

We stepped off for the freedom march from Hightown Barracks after a splendid send off from 200 local primary school children which set the tone for the fantastic reception the march received as it meandered its way around the streets of Wrexham. Considering it was midweek and during working hours the streets were lined especially well, which further emphasises the special relationship the Welsh Guards have with Wrexham Town.

Following an inspection and speeches from Colonel Bonas and the Mayor of Wrexham, The Prince of Wales's Company joined friends, family, local council members and Welsh Guards Association members for a well-deserved lunch at the War Memorial Club. This was a perfect setting for everyone to catch up with proud family, many of whom had never had

the opportunity to witness their sons in a parade before. Colonel Bonas and the Mayor exchanged gifts, with the Welsh Guards receiving a lovely crafted miniature oak whisky barrel which has been whisked away to a fine home in Regimental Headquarters before the Sergeants' Mess could get their hands on it.

The Guard of Honour convoy departed after lunch making the dauntingly long and windy (especially in a coach) trip down south to Tenby where we were put up in Penally Camp. After a quick once over of kit, the company walked through the high town walls of Tenby for some supper and a well-deserved pint.

On the Wednesday, Wales produced yet another glorious day of weather, which arrived at a perfect time as the Guard of Honour had a day of adventurous training along the picturesque Pembrokeshire coast. Another morning of bulling boots and prepping ceremonial kit rolled into an afternoon of sports on the sandy shores of Tenby South beach. Running concurrently, groups were taken coasteering which consisted of a combination of climbing, caving and launching oneself into the turquoise waters. With the sea being mill pond flat it allowed those involved to take in the high cliffs and beautiful landscape as they pushed themselves through various cracks and alcoves in the cliff



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face. The highlight of the day was the final jump which resulted in a few expletives from those jumping and certainly encompassed the aim of adventurous training by “putting people outside of their comfort zone”.

Concurrently to the Guard of Honour’s activities the recruiting teams in North and South Wales were reinforced and a huge effort was carried out to capitalise on the Regiment’s presence in force in Wales. The recruiting teams and their extra support did a fantastic job and were seemingly everywhere at all hours, supporting the marches and engaging with school children and colleges across Wales. In addition to the recruiting team’s sterling activities, the Battalion also conducted a leadership day with the Ospreys rugby academy players, designed to develop their confidence and decision-making skills.

The final day of the tour for the Guard of Honour concluded with a freedom march around the narrow twisting streets of Carmarthen. Once again, the turnout was fantastic, with the Carmarthen public clapping and cheering as we marched in unison towards the perfect setting of the Guildhall Square. With The Prince of Wales’s Company formed up, the inspections began. This was a brilliant opportunity for the Mayor of Carmarthen to have a brief chat to the Guardsmen on parade. After splendid speeches from the Mayor and Colonel Bonas, which were thoroughly well-received by all, The Prince of Wales’s Company paid their compliments and began the march back through the streets for another reception and some much-needed hydration as it was another very warm day.

The coach trip back was a chance to reflect on how well-received and how popular the Welsh Guards are back in Wales,



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and despite the Battalion’s current location in Windsor, how important it is that we continue to promote trips back to Wales as much as possible.

1. *The Prince of Wales’s Company marching through Carmarthen.*
2. *Guardsman Tennant cliff jumping in Pembrokeshire.*
3. *Primary school children waving their splendid Welsh Guards signs as the band march past.*
4. *Members of the South Wales recruiting team with the Ospreys rugby academy players after a leadership day run by the Welsh Guards.*
5. *LSgt Braithwaite explains the finer details of the pistol to school children in South Wales.*
- 6-7. *The Prince of Wales’s Company march through Wrexham*
8. *Warrant Officer Class 2 (Drill Sergeant) R Heath, Wrexham KAPE*



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### Berkhamsted & Millfield Combined Cadet Forces (CCFs)

by Warrant Officer Class 2 DJ Davies  
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant,  
Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards

**2**019 has seen the Regiment play an active part in the recruitment of another Two Combined Cadet Forces (CCFs) from Berkhamsted and Millfield Schools.

Both schools have amazing histories but are at very different stages in their engagement within the CCF world, with Berkhamsted having a long established CCF set up at the school (dating back to before World War 2), whereas Millfield's involvement with the CCF is in its infancy, with their CCF only being formed this year.

On the 1st July the Regiment visited Berkhamsted. The children from the CCF put on an excellent parade and our Commanding Officer took the salute. The Corp of Drums played an active role and

represented the Battalion with the excellence that has come to be expected of them. The musical under the Drum Major was first class. There were several stands that set up by the school from fieldcraft to a climbing wall where the Commanding Officer rolled back the years to jump off the top with a smile on his face, I on the other hand declined! The highlight of the day was to recap badge Berkhamsted to the Welsh Guards banner - prior to this, the school's CCF was under the name of the Royal Anglian Regiment. It was clear to see that under the tutelage of a Welsh Guards legend in



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WO1 Steve Carter, the school's CCF is really in a great place and the Regiment is proud to be associated with it.

On the 4th of July we were the first Regiment to put our historical name to Millfield CCF and the school has embraced this link with the Welsh Guards enthusiastically. The day was a wonderful spectacle for all, despite the fact that bad weather meant that it had to be staged in the indoor riding school. The rain didn't deter the young boys and girls from carrying out their duties in great style, which was particularly impressive given how new they are to the military world. The Major General Commanding the Household Division and General Officer Commanding London District, Major General BJ Bathurst CBE, took the salute, acting in his capacity as the Deputy Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and afterwards addressed those assembled on the parade. The school standard was then blessed by their padre. Again, the day consisted of many army-related activities, from fieldcraft to shooting and was finished on a

high with a wonderful 3 course dinner.

The Regiment is thrilled to be associated with the CCFs at both schools and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship moving forward, with the ultimate aim of some of these engaged and energetic cadets joining our Regiment in the future.

1. *Members of the Berkhamsted CCF on their annual camp after the recap badging to the Welsh Guards*
2. *Members of the Welsh Guards Corp of Drums under DMaj Crew at parade at Berkhamsted School on the recap badging to the Welsh Guards.*
3. *Berkhamsted School CCF with Regimental and Battalion personalities. Col Tom Bonas & LT Col Llewellyn-Usher front and centre.*
4. *The commanding Officer inspects the parade at Berkhamsted 1st July 2019.*
5. *Major General Bathurst CBE presents Millfield school their school standard to be blessed by the padre with Captain Craig Middleton and the remainder of the School CCF on parade.*



**Defeat Don't Repeat (DDR) is launched!**

by Second Lieutenant J Anscombe-Bell

**R**hys Rutledge, the founder of Defeat Don't Repeat (DDR), started selling drugs at the age of 15. By 19, he was arrested and sentenced to 16 months in prison.

Like many others, Rhys found very little support available to him after his release and quickly reverted to selling drugs, falling into what felt like a never-ending cycle. However, after seeing the upset his actions were causing to his close friends and family, he forced himself to make a fresh start by joining the British Army in 2009.

Since enlisting, Rhys has made a career in a profession that has provided him with the structure and discipline he desperately needed. He now holds the rank of Sergeant in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and has seen multiple overseas deployments, including to Afghanistan, while also guarding HM The Queen on the Regiments' ceremonial duties at the Royal Palaces in London and Windsor. This dramatic transformation is an exceptional achievement and one that he and his loved ones are unequivocally proud of.

Aside from his busy career, Sergeant Rutledge has passionately built the DDR concept by capitalizing on his own personal experiences. The scheme was initially focused on the rehabilitation of convicts and ex-prisoners, however the opportunities made available

to him guided him towards preventative action, rather than finding a cure for those who have already committed a crime. The course aims to steer young and vulnerable individuals away from their troubled backgrounds, before they too become trapped in a harmful cycle of crime and repeat prison sentences.

After a long and onerous journey and with the approval of London District, Sergeant Rutledge launched his Defeat Don't Repeat programme on 21 October 2019. At 1000hrs on a crisp Monday morning, thirteen children who had been carefully selected from two schools in Westminster, ranging from 14-18 years of age, descended onto Longmoor Training Area, where they were to spend the week being put through their paces. The course gave its participants the opportunity to unearth a new and positive outlook on life by teaching them indispensable life skills in an environment that was both safe and enjoyable. Sergeant Rutledge was kindly supported by the Metropolitan Police, youth engagement and outreach teams and a section of volunteers from The Prince of Wales's Company, as well as a





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1. *I feel it's my responsibility to give something back to these people who deserve a second chance in life. My programme will steer individuals away from a life of crime and show there's more to life than spending time behind bars" (Sergeant Rutledge, 2019).*
2. *The participants learnt basic first aid skills, giving them the confidence to take action if they ever find anyone in a life-threatening condition.*
3. *The children were put to the test on a demanding casualty extraction, following a section attack demonstration.*
4. *Their teamwork was tested during a testing assault course competition.*
5. *The children enjoyed getting hands on the kit during the very successful insight day.*
6. *Defeat Don't Repeat has received Full support from Major General Capps, as well as Sergeant Rutledge's very proud mother!*

Battalion medic and PTI. Special thanks must also be given to WO2 Kavaz, the London District youth engagement liaison, who offered valuable assistance throughout the planning process and during the entire course.

Throughout the week, the children took part in specially designed military-related activities that aimed to promote teamwork and decision making, in turn instilling confidence, discipline and self-fulfillment. Sessions included drill, PT competitions, lifesaving first aid lessons, cam and concealment, night stalks, discussion groups, bomb disposal and weapon stands and section attack demonstrations, amongst many others. A particular highlight was seeing Sergeant Rutledge share his own personal experiences through a powerfully inspirational presentation that allowed him to connect to each individual and show them what can be achieved in life in spite of adversity.

On the Thursday, the team hosted an insight day, which allowed those individuals and organisations who had previously expressed interest in the programme to come and gain a better understanding, proving a huge success. Attendees included various police organisations, social workers and youth teams, members of Feltham Prison Services, broadcasting agencies and representatives from Fujitsu, who also have an interest in youth engagement. On the Friday, the children were awarded with certificates, presented by Major General DF Capps CBE, General Officer Commanding Regional Command, who spent several hours meeting the participants and hearing Sergeant Rutledge's story, also meeting Sergeant Rutledge's mother whose personal recollections

of her son's path from jail to the army had a great impact. Also in attendance on the Friday was Professor Simon Denny, who collected data from the children for a study that aims to determine the value of courses like Defeat Don't Repeat.

Sergeant Rutledge's enthusiasm and determination to pursue and deliver his concept resulted in a hugely successful week, a consensus not only shared by the volunteers who facilitated it, but by those who attended the insight day and most importantly by the children for whom the course was created. It was no surprise that at the end of the programme one individual came up to him privately and asked how he could join the Army. He has since received numerous messages of thanks and further interest from other participants interested in the enlistment process.

Looking forward, Sergeant Rutledge appears to be at the start of a very exciting journey; he is already planning a second course, due to take place in April 2020. The overall aim is to increase the frequency of the programmes, expanding the reach to a national scale. Separately, he will be presenting to the two schools the participants came from in the next month and will be inviting the attendees to Combermere Barracks for a day just before Christmas, so that their progress can be followed, and Sergeant Rutledge can reinforce the impact of the course.

Longer term, the intent is still to pursue options for cure, concurrently to prevention, to try to find ways to allow individuals to enter training while still waiting for their rehabilitation periods to be spent. Watch this space, but for now a huge congratulations to Sergeant Rutledge!



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## Regimental Support Team North

by Sergeant P Duffy Welsh Guards

This year Regimental Support Team North (RST(N)) has had an intensely busy and fulfilling year.

Carrying on with our support to the Clwyd and Gwynedd Army Cadet Force, assisting them on Company weekends, drill nights and supporting and mentoring cadets through 2, 3 and 4\* training. Also, through the Battalion, we have re-cap-badged Bradley and Brynteg Platoons alongside the Holywell Platoon to Welsh Guards and assisted in the affiliation of Myddelton College to our Regiment.

We supported the Cadet Training Team Wales on the Cadet Cambrian Patrol Competition and at Pembrey National Park on the exercise phase of the cadet annual camp, acting as directing staff and demo staff. The team has also gained a new partnership with the Army Training Corps in North Wales and have assisted on their camp weekends and provided low level fieldcraft training at their regular drill nights.

We continue to expand our support to the Military Preparation Colleges (MPCs) in Bangor and Wrexham, assisting on their training days and award ceremonies (including the West Midlands MPCT (Motivational Preparation College for Training) awards held at Wolverhampton FC and the team have been involved in charity events with both centres and continues to nurture their students through the, often protracted, recruiting process into the Army.

One of our major successes has been the Military Awareness Course run at Kinmel Camp through a partnership with North Wales Training, who awarded the Battalion

'Employer of the year' for their continued support for the course through RST North. The course is run on a basic training ideology and this year has seen; six students join the Royal Logistics Corps (RLC), three have entered the Parachute Regiment, one into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and nine have become Welsh Guardsmen.

Sport plays a huge part in the life of the RST North and, once again, for the third year running we supported the Wales U20 Rugby Team at Parc Eirias at their home Internationals. We also supported the Battalion at the Principality Stadium for the Wales against England Rugby World Cup warmup games on flag duty. Still on the rugby front, the Team also marched out all the finalists at the North Wales Rugby Finals weekend held at Denbigh RFC.

RST North, through the Battalion, sponsors six football teams throughout North Wales, 3 junior teams and 4 senior teams, including Amlwch Ladies. We assist in any fundraising for the clubs and are proud to watch them play or warm up with the Welsh Guards crest emblazoned on their kit. Each of the teams achieved silverware and on the last weekend of the season, RST North had the privilege of marching out 12 teams onto the pitch on Finals weekend and Amlwch Ladies who ran out winners of the North Wales trophy (as underdogs against the highly fancied Wrexham FC). We have also provided support to Rhyl ABC Boxing Club throughout the year.



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We have forged strong links with the Army Careers Centres and have joined them at activities in schools and colleges and recruiting events throughout North and Mid Wales and were present at the Armed Forces Day (North) where we had the honor of marching with serving Soldiers and Army, Air Force and Sea Cadets on the parade through Holyhead.

Added to our assistance to the Falklands Memorial Parade held at Wrexham each June, the Battalion KAPE Tour in September, Beaumaris Lifeboat Day, supporting the Welsh Guards Collection in Oswestry, Sgt Jones' Road to Remembrance project and our yearly poppy selling throughout North Wales, this has been and continues to be our busiest year to date.



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### Regimental Support Team South

by Sergeant K Jury Welsh Guards

Like our counterparts in the North, 2019 has been the busiest but most productive year to date for Regimental Support Team South (RST(S)).

A change in dynamic within the team in terms of personalities and a change at Recruiting Warrant Officer has meant a change of emphasis and a reinvigoration of effort.

We sat down in early January and discussed the activities we would concentrate our efforts on and what we needed to achieve and as a result our focus this year has been to support all MPCT's (Motivational Preparation College for Training), Colleges and Cadets regardless of cap badge to ensure an influx of young men and women applying to join the Welsh Guards

The first cadet camp we conducted was in January working with A Company, Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force (ACF). We arrived in Brecon early on a Saturday morning with the temperature around -4 and the cadets and adult volunteers were grateful

for our [professional] support. The team, as always, put in some really good constructive quality coaching with the cadets and the whole weekend was a huge success. We continue to provide support to all Army Cadets Forces and help to develop the probationary instructors and teach low level tactics and Skill at Arms (SAA) training. Support was provided to both ACF & CCF (Combined Cadet Force) summer camps, the CCF at Pembrey and ACF at Sennybridge, both different roles but both as rewarding as the other.

MPCT's are our success story. They are a civilian company set up to help young adults who wish to join the armed forces and provide a steppingstone and prepare them for Army selection. Around 70% of all South Wales recruits are from MPCT's and LCpl Morris based at MPCT Swansea has proven to be a real asset to our recruiting

effort. We currently provide support to MPCT Swansea, Bridgend, Cardiff, Newport and Merthyr Tydfil.

We have also attended and supported some incredible events this year and Swansea Air was by far the best. The RAF as always steal the show with their amazing aircraft displays, but it also a good time for the team to connect with current and past members of the Regiment. Every year our best Supporter of the Swansea show is CSgt Buller who is always on hand to educate the team on how beautiful Swansea really is!

Armed Forces Day this year was in Crosskeys, which saw a good turnout and we also went "up North" to provide support to the RST(N) team. We had the privilege to be part of the "Ultimate Delivery", the movement of the official match cricket ball to begin the Cricket World Cup in Cardiff and the team were aided on the day by Welsh Rugby legend Shane Williams.

One of our most anticipated events is always held around Christmas where the team support a local charity called Dreams and Wishes. The charity is organised by Tony Curtis MBE who puts every penny that is raised back in to supporting terminally ill children. Tony and his team are fantastic and are always helping the children. On day one we take the children to Houses of Parliament to meet the speaker of the house and then on to 10 Downing street. On day two we deliver Christmas presents to all the children who will spend Christmas in hospital. This year we went to the University of Wales Hospital, The Royal Gwent Hospital, Velindre Hospital, and Llandough Hospital. We were wonderfully supported by WO2 Jeffries and CSgt Davies 96, both on leave, but willing to give their time for this wonderful cause.

1. RST North supporting grassroots football in North Wales with Llandudno Junction Dragons.
2. LCpl Lewis 39 and LCpl Oxtoby from RST South receiving commendations for their recruiting efforts in Wales from Brigadier Richmond OBE
3. LCpl Worthington conducting fieldcraft lessons with MPCT Bangor
4. RST North conducting training with the Air training Corp
5. RST North supporting the re-cap badge of Myddelton College
6. Sgt Duffy being presented the Chief of the General Staffs Commendation by Major General BJ Bathurst CBE, General Officer Commanding London District and Major General Commanding the Household Division. He is commended for his role as Recruiting Sergeant in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. Through his innovative and heartfelt support to the community in North Wales, he has made a profound difference to the lives of numerous disadvantaged teenagers and gang related youths during the past 18 months.
7. RST South and Shane Williams taking on the Ultimate Delivery
8. RST South supporting MPCTs D Day 75 celebrations
9. Sgt Jury being presented the Commander Home Command's Commendation by Major General BJ Bathurst CBE, General Officer Commanding London District and Major General Commanding the Household Division. He is commended for his work supporting the local community in partnership with cadets and other youth organisations. He has also made a significant contribution to local children's charities and is now an ambassador for the Dreams and Wishes charity which provides support to terminally ill children and their families
10. RST South providing support to MPCT Bridgend



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WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

# INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES



## 5th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment Report 2019

by Lieutenant Colonel TJ Gordon CSM

Commanding Officer

5th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment



**T**he Tiger Battalion has had a split focus throughout 2019, with an equal emphasis on generating force elements for known operations and improving the Battalion's foundation warfighting through Joint Warfare Series (JWS).

Throughout the year, operational commitments have remained in a state of flux, with Australia's contribution to supporting the Afghan and Iraqi governments consistently under review. Somewhat mitigating the friction surrounding known operations, the delay of 5RAR's deployment dates to the second half of 2019, created the opportunity to invest the whole Battalion, less D Company, in the JWS. The JWS furthermore, provided the Tiger Battalion with the ability to develop and enhance the RAR and Army's understanding of mounted operations by a motorised infantry battle group. It was with these dual priorities that 5 RAR commenced 2019.

### Preparatory training

Regardless of the exercises,

activities or operations undertaken by 5 RAR in 2019, the command group identified the essential ingredient to success was the effectiveness of the unit's small teams. Traditionally, the wet season months (Feb – Apr) have been devoted to small team development, using local training areas. In 2019, this approach was enhanced by the opportunity to deploy to Jungle Training Wing (JTW). In the seven months between Oct 18 and May 19, all three Rifle Companies completed a sub-unit training rotation in Tully. The environmental conditions of JTW are vastly different to what is experienced currently on known operations, but the outstanding training delivered at JTW is one of the best ways to build individual and team resilience. The tailored training approach by the



JTW staff also enabled the conduct of live fire ranges in Tully, creating efficiency in meeting directed training outcomes and maximising training opportunities. The Tully rotations, coupled with the tailored training design, set excellent foundations for exercises and operations in the Tiger Battalion in 2019.

JTW provided an excellent dismounted benchmark for 5 RAR, facilitating the logical step to enhancing the mounted capability as a motorised battalion and battle group. In 2018, the Battalion assumed responsibility for planning and execution of all BUSHMASTER driving courses within 1 Bde. The unit however, had not had the opportunity to take these foundation skills to a complex collective training activity, which had been identified as the evolutionary step in the capability's development in 5 RAR. The delayed deployment on known operations however, created this opportunity, with the Battalion investing heavily in the 1st Armoured Regiment warfighter exercise (WFX) and Ex TALISMAN SABRE (TS) 19.

**Joint Warfighting Series**

B and C Companies, with Support Company, engineer and artillery attachments, were allocated to Battle Group (BG) LION for the WFX, forming two separate motorised combat teams, and providing the first opportunity for either to manoeuvre as a mounted element in 2019. There were a number of key lessons identified, not the least of which was the ability to generate significant tempo. B Company, through a combination of mounted and dismounted manoeuvre, remained the lead force element for the first three days of BG LION's

advance. This is testament to the employability of motorised forces and the company's stamina and resilience. It also illustrates the importance of fighting from the vehicle, maximising the communications and sustainment the platform provides, whilst protecting its vulnerabilities. This approach became the foundation for the remainder of the WFX and into Ex TS 19.

C Company, during the WFX, reprised riverine insertion techniques that had often been neglected, inserting by small boat behind the enemy forward line of troops, dislocating the enemy forces and undermining the enemy commander's design for battle. Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) has an array of riverine options, but the tidal range and sub-surface geography, created a number of hazards for insertion. The 800m crawl through waist high mud to the waterline tested the resilience of C Company, especially when dragging the small boats in marching order. C Company thrived on the struggle, creating tactical advantage for BG LION and demonstrating a tenacious appetite for work. Both companies brought the lessons from the WFX to BG TIGER during Ex TS 19, establishing new standard operating procedures that became the bedrock of BG TIGER's manoeuvre.

The 1st Brigade concept of operations for Ex TS 19 also created an excellent opportunity for BG TIGER to partner with Task Group (TG) BLACK from the New Zealand Army and Task Force (TF) WOLFHOUD from the United States Army. Operating with two different nations however, across differing communications systems and employing different methods





of movement (mounted for TG BLACK and airmobile for TF WOLFHOUD), highlighted the complex nature of coalition operations. This tested the strength of the communications systems and challenged the BG Headquarters' ability to command and control rapidly regrouping force elements. Overcoming these challenges is, however, exactly why we undertake such large training activities, with the lessons learnt establishing a more effective interoperability for future combined operations.

BG TIGER's logistic capabilities were equally tested during Ex TS 19. The first link in this chain was the Combat Resupply and Evacuation Team (CRET), which included health, intelligence, military police and logistic capabilities and was led by RSM 5 RAR. The concept development and rehearsals, prior to deployment, for the interaction between the CRET and the task organised Battlefield Clearance Team was essential to BG TIGER's manoeuvre. 5 RAR's Logistics Company provided timely and effective logistic support from the A2 echelon. The tireless efforts of Log Company's soldiers made sure vehicle serviceability was high, enabling commanders to seize opportunities when available. Testing of the Battalion's logistic and command, control and communication capabilities through the JWS, whilst not necessarily similar to forecasted operations, established solid foundations for 5 RAR to meet known operational requirements.

**Known operations**

Concurrent to the JWS, D Company commenced training for known operations in support of Australia's contribution to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. D

Company, with a platoon from 2 RAR attached, formed the nucleus of Force Protection Element – 12 (FPE-12), tasked with providing intimate security to Australians mentoring and advising Afghan security force counterparts. The degree of responsibility this task invests in each individual was not lost on the soldiers of D Company, who approached their training with outstanding commitment and professionalism. The maturity shown by some of the Battalion's junior soldiers illustrates the effectiveness of the training delivered and the quality of people in the unit.

B Company, after completing JWS commitments, switched to focus on building specific capabilities for deployment to the Middle East to support the Iraqi Security Forces. The company, in much the same vein as D Company, approached preparations assuredly, planning and executing a comprehensive series of training activities to ensure readiness requirements were met. The integration and interoperability lessons from the JWS will become the foundation for Task Group Taji X, underlining the strong linkage between force generation activities and commitments in operational theatres. C Company are forecast to deploy on FPE-13, which will provide yet another opportunity for the unit to demonstrate its operational capabilities.

**International engagements**

The maintenance and enhancement of 5 RAR's relationship with the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI – Indonesian Armed Forces) was, and will remain, a critical focus. Ex's RHINO AUSINDO (RA) and WIRRA JAYA (WJ) are at the centre

of this relationship, with Ex RA mentoring focused and Ex WJ a sub-unit level exchange. The aim for both exercises has evolved from previous rifle company-based activities, to more combined arms capabilities, expertly led by Support Company in 2019. Another key milestone was the deployment of BUSHMASTER protected mobility vehicles to Indonesia for Ex WJ 19. The evolution of these exercises highlights the benefit of investing heavily in international engagement activities, and demonstrates the importance of the relationship with Indonesia.

C Company in 2019, with force elements from 1 CER and 8/12 Regt, was the first Australian Army combat team to participate in a US Army Brigade Combat Team rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC). The company partnered with elements from the 25th Infantry Division, with the activity including blank and live fire components. Observer trainers and live fire range appointments were provided by Australia's Combat Training Centre, enabling the company to continue the refinement of foundation warfighting skills established during the JWS. This activity also provided an opportunity to enhance the Battalion's ability to deploy a sub-unit offshore, integrate with coalition partners and enhance combined arms relationships within the 1st Brigade.

### Ceremonial activities

2019 contained two very significant ceremonial events for the Tiger Battalion, with June marking both the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba, and the presentation and consecration of New Colours. In Darwin, the two events were combined, with the Colours presented and



consecrated on 01 June by the former Governor General, General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC. The former Governor General, in his address, took the opportunity to commemorate the Battle of Binh Ba, remembering the soldiers who fought there and their linkage to those on parade.

Maintaining the link to the Battalion's history, Darryl Lovell and Lou O'Dea, the two ensigns from the presentation of the first set of Colours to 5 RAR in 1967, uncased the New Colours, and the large number of former Battalion members participating in the march off. Solidifying the Tiger Battalion's most recent history, the Old Colours were laid up in St Mary's Star of the Sea Cathedral in the Darwin CBD by the former Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment, Major General Mark Kelly, AO, DSC and Colonel Richard Barrett, Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion from Jan 2013 to Mar 2015. Commemorating the anniversary of Binh Ba in Darwin on 01 June enabled the many of the former Battalion members, the current command team and the new Colours to travel to Canberra to attend the

National Memorial service. The significance of these two events was not lost on the current Tigers and it is something that they will remember for years to come.

In May, the Battalion farewelled its mascot, Quintas Rama. Rama was a resident at Crocodylus Park in Darwin, becoming the Battalion's mascot in 2009. The unit was informed of Rama's ill-health by the park staff and was very grateful for the opportunity to have a number of representatives there at his passing. The Battalion provided a fitting farewell for the best mascot in Army, carrying him to his final resting place. The Crocodylus Park owners are making plans for a new tiger, and it is almost certain this new tiger will carry the Quintas mantle forward.

### Conclusion

This year has offered a wide variety of opportunities and challenges for the Tiger Battalion. The foundation for success of 2019 was set early, with investment in individual and small team resilience, enabling the unit to thrive through the high tempo activities that followed.

Through this period of high tempo, the presentation and consecration of New Colours, laying up of the Old Colours and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Binh Ba gave the unit time to pause and reflect on the great history of the Tiger Battalion. Involvement in such auspicious occasions is a rare privilege.

The opportunity to invest heavily in the JWS switched the Battalion's focus back to foundation warfighting capability, achieving critical milestones at the combat team, battle group and combined force levels throughout the series. The capabilities thoroughly tested through the JWS, enabled a rapid transition of priorities to preparing for known operations in the second half of the year, with a secondary focus on engagements with our international partners. It has been another busy year, where the soldiers and the Battalion as a whole, have yet again lived up to the Regiment's motto.

Duty First!



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### Palestine – Falling Short of Full Scale

by Roy Lewis (one time 2741392 Gdsm Lewis R E)

In March 1945 the 1st Battalion fought its last battle of the war. It had suffered over 700 casualties since landing in Normandy as part of the Guards Armoured Division and had been due to return to Britain in August 1944.

The Divisional Commander, Major-General Allan Adair, in his farewell address to them described the Battalion as seasoned warriors and said "I have been trying to hang on to you until we got to Berlin .....and now you have to go back owing to the reinforcement situation."

On 23rd March the Battalion travelled from Nijmegen to Ostend by train and by ship to Tilbury. After leave and a brief stay in Chelsea Barracks they headed north to Stobs Camp near Hawick in the Scottish borders and then moved south again to Herefordshire. The war in Europe was coming to an end but still raged in the Far East where a mainly American force was planning the invasion of Japan.

Also taking part would be a Division of Australian, Canadian and British troops including the 1st Battalion.

They were to train in the United States but whilst on embarkation leave in August 1945 the Japanese surrendered to the relief of those who knew what the invasion of Japan would cost in casualties. Instead of travelling thousands of miles west to the United States and the Pacific the 1st Battalion was sent east to Palestine.

They sailed from Liverpool on 9th October 1945 and disembarked at Haifa on the 17th to begin two and a half years of internal security in a troubled land on the verge of a major upheaval which was to end in a United Nations decision to partition Palestine and create the state of Israel.

In the Battalion were men who had served in France in 1940, the 3rd Battalion in Tunisia and Italy and the 1st and 2nd in the Guards Armoured Division. On their tunics were ribbons

of the Africa, Italy, France and Germany Stars to which they would add the General Service Medal (1918) with Palestine clasp, a decoration awarded for campaigns and operations that "fell short of full-scale war."

A Battalion of full strength had sailed to the Middle East in 1945 but demobilization gradually reduced it and only 246 embarked at Haifa in May 1948 when the Battalion left Palestine.

The well researched statistics compiled by Steve Liversage shows that well over a thousand served in the Battalion throughout its time in Palestine, mainly with Regimental numbers of the 273 and 274 eras. Among them was the legendary Arthur Rees (2733690) who was Regimental Sergeant Major from August 1945 to 1951.

Major General Peter Leuchars, Adjutant of the Battalion from April 1946 to March 1949, fifty-five years later wrote, "So ended a two-and-a-half-year tour in Palestine. What those who served there will probably remember will not so much be the frustration of having to do too much with so few, or the many incidents



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of adversity and danger, but the comradeship which was formed in the stress of difficult times.

"On Thursday 9th June 1949 the Battalion Trooped the Regiment's Colour on Horse Guards, the first Trooping in Home Service Clothing since the War. Many on parade proudly wore the General Service Medal with a 'Palestine' clasp."

1. Number 3 Company under command of Major P Beckwith-Smith, Metulla camp; Northern Palestine 1945 (photo courtesy of the WGR galleries).
2. General Service Medal (1918) with Palestine Clasp 1945-48

## Ex PACIFIC LONGLOOK (January to April 2019)

By Lieutenant TS Minihan Welsh Guards

Guards Training Company, Infantry Training Centre

**It is impossible to deploy to the Canadian Arctic without first sitting through various briefs on what can hurt and kill you in that environment.**

We had been told that it takes roughly two minutes to sustain severe frostbite at -50°C, and that with the limited medical support on offer, the affected area would almost certainly require amputation. Falling through the sea ice can cause a heart attack within ten seconds, causing the casualty to drown. Even if you were rescued from the sea, the exposure to water at that temperature would lead to hypothermia and, of course, death. We were continually reminded of the threat of Polar Bear attacks. The creatures, we were informed, would be in the middle of their mating season when we arrived in the Arctic and therefore especially aggressive. Pictures of the mangled flesh and bone of some prior victim would usually follow at this point, along with a comforting reminder that your rifle would be better employed as a club at those temperatures. Despite this, the thought of being snuffed out by a randy Polar Bear always raised a snigger.

In March 2019, with this myriad of joyous fatalities fresh in my mind, I deployed on Op NUNALIVUT 19 to Resolute Bay in Nunavut, a province of the Canadian High Arctic. I was attached to Charles Company, 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR), with whom I had worked and trained since I arrived in Canada on Ex PACIFIC LONGLOOK in January 2019. Op NUNALIVUT is an influence operation, designed to deter Russian incursion, both military and commercial, into Canadian sovereign territory in the arctic. Russia and Canada are acutely aware of the vast natural

resources in the Arctic Circle, an area in which a quarter of the land mass is Canadian. Events in the Crimea in 2014 demonstrated to the world that what Russia needs, Russia will take. Our force projection from our base in Petawawa, a garrison town outside of Ottawa, up to Resolute Bay was broadcast on social media and the operation received a great deal of interest from national and international news networks. A visit for over thirty journalists and VIPs was scheduled as Charles Company crossed the line of departure to deploy even further North from Resolute Bay. Our mission was to conduct a series of point reconnaissance patrols and establish air strips on the sea ice to allow the Royal Canadian Air Force's air frames to land. In doing so we would be testing and proving joint capabilities.

The mission represented months of preparation that had begun in January with a basic winter warfare exercise in Petawawa. During this exercise, temperatures reached -25°C, plenty cold enough for me but only a taste of things to come. Preparation continued with snowmobile courses, a military ski school, winter ranges and snow shoe marches. It was clear that emphasis was being placed on spending long periods of time outdoors, testing kit, learning from mistakes and developing skills. What was impossible to fully develop in Petawawa was the mental resilience required for the weather conditions that we would encounter in the arctic. The average temperature in Resolute Bay in March is -40°C,



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with the wind chill pushing that figure down to as low as -65°C. As soon as I stepped off the C17 in Resolute Bay I could understand why we had been lectured to such a degree about the effects of cold on the body. The wind bites at any exposed skin, causing a burning sensation as soft tissue begins to freeze. Cold air slowly seeps through your clothing, punishing the joints in your legs and arms and causing your fingers and toes to throb with a dull pain until eventually the blood drains out of them. The only remedy

for this pain is to move, constantly and with purpose. Failing to pitch your tent and light a stove within fifteen minutes could mean severe hypothermia. Losing a glove in the snow whilst working was to welcome frostbite. Suddenly, the briefs we had received were no laughing matter. Our ability to soldier was being tested rigorously by the environment. Survival required the most rigid and uncompromising discipline. One can only imagine the challenges of fighting an enemy in the arctic.

Despite the absence of an enemy, we did our very best to try and kill one and other. Night times in the arctic are spent inside purpose built ten-man tents, warmed by a small and notoriously unreliable camping stove. Tent groups must take turns watching the stove, ensuring that both it and the gas lantern are fuelled, pumped and burning clean. The temperature dropped so significantly at night that the fuel, stored outside, began to turn into a slushy, icy mixture that became volatile and unstable when burnt. The choice that faced us was as follows; freeze to death or quite possibly burn your tent down. By the third night we had tempted fate quite enough and the inevitable happened. I was awoken at 0400hrs by shouts of 'fire, fire, fire!'. Five-foot flames were shooting from the stove and licking the roof of the tent which filled with black smoke as it began to catch fire. I crawled out of the door, grabbing as much clothing as I could. The sudden plunge into freezing temperatures was a severe shock and I had to concentrate more than ever on pulling on items of clothing before hypothermia set in. To say that I escaped with my life would be a massive over-exaggeration, but Charles Company was rife with gallows humour for the days that followed, sure in the knowledge that there would be many more tent fires before end-ex was called.

The opportunity to operate in the Canadian arctic was, despite all of this, a thoroughly enjoyable one. A highlight was spending time working with the Canadian Rangers, an Inuit force element of the Canadian Army who specialise in Arctic survival and fieldcraft. Their lessons included ice fishing and building snow shelters and their knowledge of the sea ice was indispensable on patrol. On more than occasion did a Ranger, leading a patrol,

suddenly stop and shy away from his planned route. We came to learn that this was a sign that he was not happy with the feel of the sea ice under his sled at this point and was leading us away from what may well have been a fatal accident.

The time I spent in Canada was a genuine privilege. I was warmly welcomed and well looked after by 1 RCR throughout my time with them. They are an infantry battalion with a proud history who deploy regularly to Latvia and Ukraine, bolstering NATO's presence along Russia's border. The standards maintained by all ranks within Charles Company were outstanding and I was humbled to learn a great deal from them. I would like to thank Major John Doig and Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Williams for their mentorship and kindness, and the men of 8 Platoon, Charles Company, who taught me far more than I taught them.

1. *Patrolling the sea ice, 5km south of Resolute Bay.*
2. *Lieutenant Minihan (far left) demonstrating perfect technique to his platoon on the Battalion ski school, Petawawa.*
3. *8 Platoon, Charles Company build improvised snow shelters on Cornwallis Island.*
4. *The aftermath of a tent fire in the early hours of the morning. Fortunately, my own experience was nowhere near as severe.*
5. *Charles Company still smiling at end-ex.*

## Observations from Somalia

by Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent Welsh Guards  
Commander Somali National Army Support Team

**W**hen one hears of Somalia, one automatically thinks of a country riven by conflict, civil war, famine and human suffering.

Described by many observers as the most dangerous country in the world, Somalia has experienced much hardship over the past thirty years and is still a country that almost epitomises the idea of a failed or failing state. There is however an aura of hope and despite its reputation, Somalia may just be showing the seedlings of the potential for a brighter future.

### Picture 1: The Author with Somali PKM Gunners in Baidoa

I arrived in Mogadishu International Airport in May 2019 for a nine-month tour as the Commander of the Somali National Army Support Team (SST). The team's mission: to enhance the Somali National Army's (SNA) ability to provide security and to support a fledgling Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). The title is perhaps grander than the reality, with a team of some twenty-five officers and soldiers from across the army; my command was slightly less in terms of mass, than my platoon in Number Two Company when I arrived in Newtonhamilton in 1997! The mission in essence is very simple – to make the SNA better and to give them a chance of a more stable future, the reality is much more complex and challenging. In a country where government is fractured and scarred by clan dynamics and a violent history, even the most basic of human needs is a challenge. Facing a daily threat of violence and localised defeats from a ferocious and ruthless Al Shabab led insurgency;

there is a mountain to climb in terms of security provision and a pathway to a more secure future.

### Picture 2: Baidoa Airfield, home to the Somali National Army Support Team

The British mission in Somalia includes a number of sub missions under one unifying Headquarters collectively known as Op TANGHAM. Commanded by a British full Colonel operating to PJHQ, the mission includes Staff and training support to a number of separate organisations working to a common unifying purpose. British Staff work to a number of International Community missions including the United Nations (UN), European Union Training Mission (EUT-M), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and liaison with the Somali Government and MOD. With some 65 personnel in theatre, it is a small commitment but one with significant influence and reach with long hours and significant workloads to deliver on an ambitious mission set. The majority of the missions and support personnel from across the International Community are based in Mogadishu International Airport. A vast sprawling complex which sits within a narrow strip of land sandwiched between Mogadishu the Indian Ocean, MIA is the Main Operating Base for all international efforts. It is a thriving mass of Diplomats, Contractors, Soldiers, Politicians and Non-Government Organisations (NGO), all





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working to achieve some sort of resolution and progress whilst simultaneously representing the interests of their own nations and organisations. For many personnel, MIA is the scope of their experiences of Somalia; many will never interact with the Somali people and never leave the confines of the secure area. It can be a calm existence for those who call MIA their home, with bars, restaurants, gyms and shops; the location sits as an uncomfortable contrast to the poverty and violence which is the reality of life on the other side of the HESCO perimeter wall.

ineffective body focused on its own influence rather than the good of the wider member states. It is the relationship between the FGS and the FMS that the International Community are focused on developing in tandem with security sector reform, governance and the provision of the rule of law. In a country where the rule of law and security are a distant memory, the journey in re-establishing even the most basic of security and legal institutions and constitution is a challenge that is both daunting and challenging.

**Picture 4: SNA Soldiers deploying on patrol in Southwest State**

The Somali National Army has a rich heritage and many historical links to the British Army. Somali soldiers served with great distinction in the East African campaigns and the wider theatres of both the Great War and the Second World War. The Somaliland Camel Corps and Somaliland Scouts were both a part of the fabric of British Somaliland and the imperial interests within East Africa, and the current SNA can track their history through those antecedent regiments. Whilst our current involvement is benign in comparison, the connection to the present generation of soldiers is very real. As always in these theatres of operation, the 'occupation of arms' remains one that transcends cultural and national boundaries, providing a conduit to relationships that will perhaps sow the seed of hope in a land that has bereft of such an emotion for over three decades.

The simple mission of making the SNA better is of course a naïve statement. Although a blank canvas, the canvas lacks the most basic of military needs. Uniform, weapons,



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**Picture 3: The author (centre) and the UK SST in the ruins of Baidoa Airfield**

I have been more fortunate in that I have managed to escape the gilded cage of the Mogadishu International Airport for the slightly less salubrious surroundings of Baidoa, a small provincial city some 200km in land (see map). Baidoa was once the interim capital of the country at the height of the civil war and is the capital of Southwest State. The complexities of Somali politics and member states are confusing and give further fuel to the rivalries that are the hallmarks of the current problems facing the country. Somali politics are a thesis in themselves and when overlaid on top of the historical 'clan' rivalries that have dogged the nation over the years, they add a further dimension to the problems facing the International Community and Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). Baidoa, one of five Federal Member States (FMS) has its own Government with its own Presidential cabinet and ongoing tensions with a Mogadishu based Federal Government. The FGS, in many cases, is seen as a distant and

command structures, training organisations, equipment support, doctrine and institutional resilience are all stark in their absence. Whilst the SNA soldier has the grit, drive and potential to provide the bedrock of an effective fighting force, much work is required to develop the potential in to an effective military component able to operate in support of the population and it's Government. The role of the Somali National Army Support Team (SST) has been to provide the training to develop a nascent capability. The wider British commitment, working in tandem with the training providers, is to equip a Battalion's worth of soldiers from 60 Division, with on the man equipment (not including weapons) and vehicles and to build a barracks in which to accommodate that battalion. Longer terms plan will see the training of additional Battalions to give the SNA the manpower that they require to provide the security required to defeat the Al Shabab led insurgency. In the interim period, our commitment in Baidoa sees 25 personnel training sub units for operations against Al Shabab within Southwest State. The UK SST is headed up by a Lieutenant Colonel, supported by a Royal Logistic Corps and Intelligence Corps Officer with a training team of 22 from a Specialised Infantry Battalion formed from the 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (2 PWRR). The training provided is based upon our own Battlecraft syllabus and provides the SNA with a standard of training hitherto not experienced within the country. Battlefield First Aid, Patrolling skills, Skill at Arms, Defensive construction and defensive operations are the main focus areas and the results have been impressive.

Despite the lack of equipment and support mechanisms, the SNA have already used their new found skills to great effect.

**Picture 5: SNA Soldiers manning a VCP in Southwest State**

In tandem with the provision of tactical training, our efforts have also been on developing institutional resilience with a focus on the Divisional staff and operational planning. With no equivalent to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst or Staff College, individual skills are again lacking. The Headquarters of 60 Division is more akin to a Battalion Headquarters and is certainly not Headquarters London District. Commanded by a 57 years old Brigadier with vast experience of fighting, there is however no real understanding of any formal decision making process, planning and or staff functions. Decisions are made on intuition and acceptance of risk a part of daily routine. Even the lowest level of operations is often led by the Brigadier or his Deputy, a full Colonel. In Somalia, Officers are usually commissioned from the ranks or through patronage rather than any formalised selection process. Brave to a fault, but lacking in military education, casualties have been significant and localised success beyond the urban centres, fleeting at best. We have used the current operational laydown and threats as a means to develop an understanding of military planning and to mentor the Divisional staff. This approach has seen some success which has been encouraging for an army which regularly experiences defeat at the hands of a well-equipped and determined enemy. Using a very basic form of the 7 Questions, the SST has



coached the planning staff through a number of planning rounds which are then subsequently executed by the soldiers who have received UK led tactical training. Over a number of months, the team has helped deliver planning processes which have led to the reconstruction of a series of Forward Operating Bases which have enhanced security within the state. Prior to this drive to provide a defensive screen, each of the FOBs had been attacked and over run by Al Shabab several times in the preceding months. Since this new series of operations, all have been attacked but each time the attack has been repulsed and the positions held. Of particular note has been the development of

low-level skills. Skill at Arms is currently being taught using air rifles due to a lack of weaponry and ammunition. By taking the SNA back to the basics and by teaching the Marksmanship principles effectively, there has been a significant increase in the ability of the SNA to conduct operational shooting. The top shot on a recent training course was subsequently deployed to a newly constructed FOB at a place called Makuda, some 5km south of Baidoa. Al Shabab subsequently attacked the FOB and the soldier who was awarded top shot with an air rifle, killed two enemy with his AK47 at a range of well over 200m. For a country where the 'Beirut unload' is



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commonplace, this advance in shooting skills will have a tangible effect on operational capability and the moral component. Sometimes it is the small victories that have the best results. As the mission progresses so will the abilities of the SNA and the wider Somali MOD. We will start to deliver our first Company Collective Training course in September which will provide the first of three Company Groups, trained and equipped within this Financial Year. As the force densities increase, so will the SNA's ability to clear and hold ground from the threat Al Shabab and thereby sow the seeds for potential peace.

**Picture 6 SNA Soldiers on parade at Baidoa Airfield**

There remains much to be done in Somalia, this will not be a quick fix and the commitment from the International Community can be fickle. It is the long term commitment to institutional reform and security sector reform that is so vital in providing a legacy effect to this country where war and violence are the norms. The challenges remain significant and without continued comprehensive reform of Governmental institutions, enduring success will remain an over the horizon aspiration. Training, heavy

weapons, equipment support, doctrine and robust planning processes are all vital to military development and the defeat of Al Shabab. There is now however, the potential and the efforts of the UK military across each of the Somali focused missions are vital. Despite the years of famine, war and violence, Somalia and the Somali population remain resolute. Fascinating and frustrating in equal measure, there are undoubtedly the signs of a burgeoning peace and improved prosperity. Somalia has for three decades been defined by violence and suffering, there is now a sense of hopefulness and perhaps that might be the theme that

defines the next three decades – our continued commitment will be pivotal.

**Picture 7 SNA Training Course photo, these soldiers deployed on operations against Al Shabab 5 days later**



## Delivering the US Army's Maneuver Captains' Career Course

by Major ES Mathieson Welsh Guards

Small Group Leader, Maneuver Captains' Career Course

Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia, USA

In August 2018, I completed my time as Battalion Second in Command and deployed to Iraq, working in the future operations team in a US HQ.

I found the experience extremely positive and immediately began seeking a posting to the USA. In late May 2019, my family and I stepped off the plane at Dulles Airport in Washington, DC and began our 2-year adventure. The intervening 8-month period involved a lot of preparatory paperwork, which was, at times, extremely challenging, but all very necessary!

The British Embassy in the capital is the first port of call for all British military personnel posted anywhere in the USA. After an extensive and reassuring arrivals brief from the Embassy Staff we enjoyed a day of exploring the capital and visiting as many of the tourist sites as possible. We were then on our way to Columbus, Georgia via Atlanta.

As we drove the highway from Columbus Airport to Fort Benning, we began to realise the scale of the place. Fort Benning is enormous and more accurately imagined as a small county rather than one single traditional base. It is multiple military and civilian facilities within a series of secure entrance points. Consequently, it is extremely well equipped. One could feasibly spend months at a time without ever leaving the camp's perimeter.

However, this would mean missing out on all that the surrounding area has to offer. The region is fantastic for families with no shortage

of culture, sport and eating opportunities.

Before we arrived, we put together an extensive list of things we wanted to do, ranging from the easily achievable such as watching a baseball game, to the slightly more complicated to organise, trip to Hawaii. However, as we steadily achieve our original plans, our new neighbours suggest more and so the list grows constantly!

As well as ticking tourism boxes, I am actually required to go to work out here. The course I teach on prepares captains from the US Army's combat arms (as well as some US Marine Corps officers and a wide range of international students) for company command and subsequent staff appointments.

Instructors are formally known as "Small Group Leaders" (SGLs) as they are expected to lead seminar discussions and draw out information, analysis and debate from students with a broad range of experiences. Consequently, centralised lecture hall style instruction is very limited and creative thought is positively encouraged. The litmus test is "could it be workable". The lack of intrusion and micromanagement from the course chain of command means that students do not feel compelled to defer to "what's always been done" or the opinion of the senior person present. SGLs are





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left to use the time allocated to tailor the programme for their individual class needs in pursuit of the training objectives.

Before being cleared to teach real students, new instructors undertake a 6-week certification process. During this they learn the specific style of course delivery, by teaching a variety of classes to groups of already qualified and experienced SGLs, who, in turn, act the part of confused, over-confident and disinterested students. This provides an opportunity to adjust teaching methods and confirm

understanding of a wide range of doctrinal concepts. The certification course ends with the delivery of a full set of orders, using the US Army template, for a company dismounted deliberate attack.

Physical fitness is taken extremely seriously, with students designing programmes for classmates and taking turns to lead activities at 0600 daily. The schedule also includes competitive entrance and exit physical assessments, the US Army Annual Combat Fitness Test and an obstacle course event, with individual scores



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contributing to final overall grades and rankings.

By the end of the course, students will have been involved in the generation and delivery of orders at company and battalion levels (in the light, mechanised and armoured roles) and tested their plans in vehicle simulators, similar to our Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT, in Sennelager and Warminster). Furthermore, there is a link with the US Army's equivalent of our Platoon Commanders' Battle Course, during which students act as company commanders for platoon commanders in training.

Other course highlights include: a government services trip to Washington, DC, when students (and staff) are afforded a rare insight into the workings of the most powerful nation on Earth; a study of urban operations in either Atlanta or New York; a staff ride to study the Battle

of Horseshoe Bend (fought in 1814 as part of the War of 1812) and the weekly, highly competitive, Ultimate Football League (UFL). The latter is a condensed version of American Football without contact which is extremely taxing when played for over an hour in the Georgia heat and humidity.

Despite, at the time of writing, only having been in post for 4 months, I feel confident to summarise the experience as extremely positive. The US military has welcomed us wholeheartedly, making Fort Benning feel like home, despite our cultural differences. The confusion over terminology has produced many comical moments as Americans struggle to understand some of the words and phrases we use. Apparently "beavering away at work" means something a lot ruder than concentrating at your desk while trying to finish to get home for dinner!



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1. Celebrating Fathers' Day at the Fort Benning Recreational Shooting Complex
2. Enjoying the waterfall at Chewacla Park, Alabama
3. Follow Me - the infantry statue outside the Maneuver Center of Excellence Headquarters
4. Ready for the US Army jump towers during Independence Day celebrations
5. UFL - instructors' team
6. With CPT Hepinstall on the Fort Benning Training Area for a Tactical Exercise Without Troops
7. With fellow new instructors following the entrance PT test



## The Welsh Guards in Normandy – 1944

by Brigadier JF Rickett CBE

**B**oth Battalions (the 2nd being armoured), formed part of the Guards Armoured Division, which was complete in Normandy by the 26th June.

Both Battalions (the 2nd being armoured), formed part of the Guards Armoured Division, which was complete in Normandy by the 26th June.

They had landed at Arromanches at one of the two artificial harbours, which had been constructed in England and towed across the Channel. Vivian Wallace described, in his rather inimical style, how every man in the Battalion had to carry an anti-tank mine which, in his own words, was the brilliant idea of some clever staff Officer! The story had an amusing twist, as one of his Guardsmen was found to have placed his anti-tank mine against the safe in someone's

house, luckily he was stopped just before he blew it. It subsequently turned out that the Guardsman concerned had been a professional safe breaker in civilian life!

### **Picture 1 - The Second Battalion lands at Arromanches and moves forward into Normandy, June 1944**

The 1st Battalion arrived first as part of 32nd Guards Brigade, which was detached from the Division and on June the 28th took up its position in and around the small village of Cheux. This was about 8 miles west of Caen and had previously been the scene of heavy fighting during

and after Operation Epsom, General Montgomery's second attempt to outflank and get behind Caen. They held their position for the next 12 days and experienced some very unpleasant shelling and mortaring, which resulted in many more casualties than had been anticipated. Among the casualties on the 29th of June were the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Browning, the Second in Command, Major Smart, the anti-tank Platoon Commander and the Signals Officer, while on the 30th, Lt Colonel Fass, who had taken over as the Commanding Officer, was killed in almost the exact place. The Battalion had thus lost three of its senior officers and a number of key personnel before even going into action. Lt Colonel Heber-Percy thereafter took over the command of the Battalion.

On the 11th of July, the 32nd Guards Brigade, with the 1st Battalion under command, re-joined the Guards Armoured

Division in the peaceful atmosphere in and around Bayeux. It had been a difficult time for them but they had gained valuable experience of life under almost constant shelling and also some knowledge of the Wehrmacht and how it operated. It turned out that they had had the 12th SS Panzer Division against them, commanded by the youngest Divisional Commander in the German Army, known as "Panzer Meyer", who, together with his fanatical young SS troopers, made a truly formidable opposition.

### **Picture 2 - Cromwell tanks of Number 3 Squadron advancing through the Bocage country, Normandy 1944**

On July the 14th the Division received the warning order that they would take part in a major attack under the command of VIII Corps to the East of Caen, which was to be known as "Operation Goodwood". The problem was that this area

was very narrow owing to the gap between the Orne and Dives Rivers, which was made even more narrow by a large minefield, which had been laid by the 6th Airborne Division after their highly successful operations in and around the Brévil Ridge and beyond; this had secured the left flank of the British 2nd Army both during the initial landings on D Day and subsequent operations afterwards. Because of this the operation was to be made on a single Divisional front with the reserve divisions coming into echelon behind them. The 11th Armoured Division was to lead with the 7th Armoured behind and lastly the Guards Armoured Division would follow. The whole operation would be preceded by a massive aerial bombardment because as the divisions moved forward they would become out of range of some of their artillery.

On Sunday the 16th of July, Major General Adair, the Divisional Commander, addressed a large number of officers on the impending battle. He stressed that it would be the first battle that the Division as a whole was to take part in. He spoke so much from the heart that all who heard him were deeply moved and were inspired with much needed confidence. At dusk on the 17th July, the Division moved off for their approach march to the bridges over the River Orne, which was to be completed by dawn.

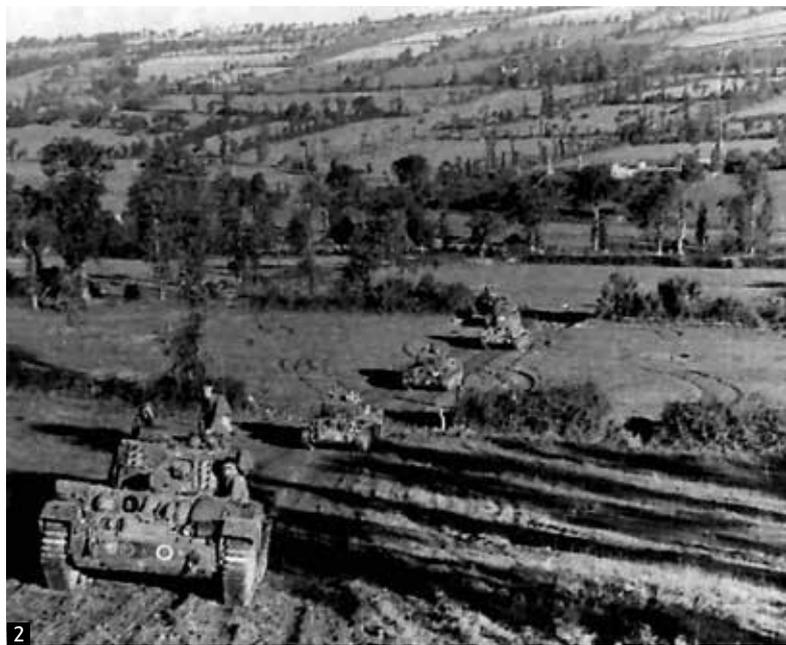
### Picture 3 - Welsh Guardsmen in Normandy 1944

The 5th Guards Armoured Brigade led the way and the Division, as a whole, had an outstanding view of the bombing which was preceding their advance. The Allied air forces laid a carpet of bombs and created a landscape which must have resembled the craters of the moon. Vivian

Wallace later recalled that there was complete desolation and bemused and shell shocked German soldiers, shaking their heads, rose from the desolation seemingly unable to grasp what had happened.

There wasn't much fighting for either of the Welsh Guards' Battalions that day as the brunt of the fighting was borne by the 5th Guards Armoured Brigade. They had managed to reach Cagny by late afternoon of the 19th and the 1st Battalion was sent in to clear the village. The Germans, who were left, were only too keen to surrender and many prisoners were taken. To the west of Cagny the 11th Armoured Division was having a comparatively tough time, losing many tanks in their advance. The problem was lack of infantry in flushing out the Germans from the network of villages which were everywhere within a 1000 metres radius of each other. The 7th Armoured Division was ordered to reinforce them but also lost a number of tanks in the process.

There was a wonderful story from the German side of the battle that a Major Von Lutzig, who had just returned from visiting his girlfriend in Paris and still wearing his dinner jacket, appeared in the area of Cagny. He was extremely angry that a Luftwaffe officer was still using his 88mm gun in the anti-aircraft role when it should have been directed at enemy tanks. He threatened the Luftwaffe officer with his pistol to correct the balance. Unfortunately, the Luftwaffe officer's tank recognition wasn't very good and he knocked out 5 Tiger tanks which were withdrawing towards the Bourguebus Ridge. The Tiger Troop Commander, who had managed to escape, reported directly to the SS Divisional Commander, General Sep Dietrich, that the British had a new anti-tank weapon. This



'intelligence' winged its way immediately to Berlin and the Allies were credited with this myth for the rest of the war!

### Picture 4 - Cromwells in action in Normandy 1944

On the 19th the 1st Battalion was ordered to capture Le Poiriet only some 600 yards south west of Cagny. The opposition was light and the village was captured with little difficulty; several prisoners were taken. Major Syrett, commanding No 2 Company,

was killed by mortar fire on the 20th, with which the Germans continued to be extremely adept. The Battalion remained there until the 23rd. Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion had been acting as screen to the Division and they covered the ground between Cagny and Emmerville. They had lost a number of tanks by mines, anti tank guns and indeed through tank battles. It was during this period that Lt Whistler was killed by mortar fire when he had got out of his tank to talk with one of his



commanders. His was a great loss, as he was much loved by so many, not only within the regiment but also throughout the Division as a whole.

**Picture 5 - The 1st Battalion moves forward, Normandy 1944**

The weather broke on the 20th July and torrential rain ruled the day. The ground became totally sodden and any further advance was out of the question. VIII Corps was taken out of the line and the Armoured Divisions were replaced by infantry. The 2nd Battalion, under command of the 32nd Guards Brigade, remained in the line until the July the 22nd when they were relieved by the 154th Brigade of the 51st Highland Division.

While Goodwood had not been the total success it might have been, General Montgomery's aim of keeping the great majority of the German Panzer Divisions opposite the 2nd

British Army had succeeded. The cream of the Wehrmacht was facing them and they fought tooth and nail to prevent any advance on the obvious direct route to Paris. Only two Panzer Divisions faced the American 1st Army to the west thus enabling them more easily to break out of the Bocage country on the 25th July.

The immediate plan after the ground had dried out sufficiently was for the Guards Armoured and the 7th Armoured Divisions to push on in line with the Canadians on the direct route towards Falaise and beyond. This was changed and both Divisions re-crossed the Orne River to join the 11th Armoured in the general advance through the Bocage to the south of Bayeux. This country was ideal for the defence; it consisted of high banks, overgrown hedgerows with very narrow twisting lanes interspersed with tiny fields. The Germans used this

to its fullest advantage and any advance was to become painfully slow as every inch of the way was hotly contested.

On the 30th July both Battalions moved south from Bayeux. The 1st Battalion cleared the village of St Denis Maisoncelles with little difficulty and made contact with the Americans, who were moving to their right. The 2nd Battalion took on the task of guarding the Division's left flank. No 3 Squadron under Major Consett made very good progress towards Estry bypassing several villages held by the Germans. He found that the village of Estry was also strongly held so he deployed on the high ridge to the north keeping the village under observation and patrolling aggressively. His squadron was joined by the other two and together they held the area for 48 hours without supporting infantry and against determined enemy patrolling and of course severe shelling.

Getting up supplies at night was a major problem with the Germans having infiltrated behind the Battalion's positions and ambushing anything that moved.

Meanwhile the 1st Battalion was fighting its way forward towards the Vire-Vassy road. The hand to hand fighting was intense in the close country and at one time the RAP dealt with 68 casualties from 8 different units in one period of three hours. It was very clear that the enemy was everywhere and it was impossible to guarantee that any stretch of country was free of them. On August the 3rd the Battalion was put temporarily under the command of 44 Brigade of 15th Scottish Division and ordered to take the village of Montchamp where they had one hell of a battle losing many casualties to shelling even before they had crossed the start line. After some bitter fighting the village was secured and the Germans

were driven out of the far end. As the two leading companies were reorganising the Germans put in an extremely heavy counter attack, which the Battalion faced with neither its supporting tanks nor its anti-tank guns, which had not yet arrived on the position. Both Prince of Wales and No 2 Companies were cut in half and overrun. Little ad hoc groups of guardsmen managed to exfiltrate themselves out of the mêlée and escape but Captain Powell, Major Miller's Second in command was captured. Both Officers were carrying wounded Guardsmen at the time. Captain Powell later managed to escape after a series of adventures and re-joined the Battalion a few weeks later, via Paris, in a captured German staff car!

**Picture 6 - Number 4 Company during the attack on Cagny, July 1944. The**



**Company Commander, Major JDA Syrett, is seen indicating a mortar target to Sergeant Vessey. Guardsman Kitchen is in the foreground and Guardsman Fenwick is the Bren gunner. Major Syrett was killed a few days later.**

Just before this German counter-attack began the Commanding Officer was wounded by a sniper in civilian clothes, who was promptly caught and shot. Major Fowke then took over command of the Battalion and by nightfall he had succeeded in withdrawing all the companies to a strong position with proper support from both tanks and artillery. For an hour, the Battalion had been in a truly hazardous position. The German counter attack had caught them at their most vulnerable time when they were reorganising after their successful attack on

the village. Good leadership and stout defence had saved the day. The Battalion had its reward as the Germans had crept away from Montchamp during the night, leaving the village in their hands. Casualties on both sides were heavy with over 100 being inflicted on the Battalion by the Germans.

Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion, in company with the Irish Guards 2nd Battalion and the Coldstream 5th Battalion, attempted to continue the advance from the area of La Marvindièrre only to find that the 9th SS Panzer Division had arrived and had occupied the villages of Estry and Le Busq before them. This strong position dominated the Aunay-sur-Odon to Vire main road; the Battalions persisted with their attack on these two villages but had to withdraw back to La Marvindièrre with severe losses. The Germans were

attacking all along the line and the position at La Marvindièrre was becoming critical because of the lack of ammunition and supplies being able to get through; this, together with the evacuation of the wounded, the numbers of which were increasing by the hour due mainly to the heavy shelling, made the situation extremely precarious. By August the 4th, matters were very serious indeed as it was impossible to spare any infantry to clear the road short of evacuating the position. A supply column had been brought through the 29th Armoured Brigade's positions however and was waiting about a mile north of the difficult area to try and get through. At this moment Lt Ferguson-Cunningham, a Liaison Officer from the 5th Guards Brigade, arrived in a scout car and immediately offered to guide an ambulance column through and bring the supplies back. After reconnoitring a possible route, slightly wounded by a spent bullet and full of enthusiasm he, together with Major Vandeleur, led the ambulance convoy away to safety despite intense German fire which thankfully failed to hit anyone. For the return of the supply convoy they managed to get it through by calling up single vehicles one at a time and telling the drivers to drive like hell! The traverse of the Panther tanks 75mm guns were no match for this skulduggery!

Further attacks by these three battalions on Estry came to very little as the Germans were obviously determined to prevent any further penetration south. The reason for this almost maniacal fighting by them was because General Von Kluge had been ordered by Hitler to counter-attack the Americans in the area of Avranches. This it was hoped, would cut off the head of General Patton's 3rd US Army which was streaming both into



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Brittany and hooking around the German line, which was hinged back towards the South East from Vire. Thus the safe corridor for Operation Luttich, as it was called, had to be held in order for this to happen. A surprise attack by three divisions was launched on the American 30th Division at Mortain, which, although being a completely green Division with no battle experience, managed to hold its positions with great courage before the Germans had to pull back. That having been said the Germans had succeeded in getting within 9 miles of Avranches and the sea; it seemed a close-run thing at the time although Allied airpower itself would have finally stopped them.

Now of course the shoulders of the corridor used for Operation Luttich still had to be kept open

for the remnants of these Divisions to escape to the East. Hitler had at last agreed that Von Kluge could withdraw behind the River Dives. By August the 8th the flanks of the Guards Armoured Division were secure for the first time since the operation had started. Mount Pinçon, a formidable feature, had been captured by the 43rd Division and thus all our forces now held the complete stretch of territory west of the Orne River. The long awaited Canadian attack towards Falaise had also begun that morning.

After five days, the 1st Battalion moved south around le Bas Perrier area. The position was not pleasant as villages to its front and along a north-south ridge nearby were held by the enemy. On August the 10th, Lt Colonel Gresham, now

commanding the Battalion, made his plan to attack Le Haut Perrier and Houssemagne with Numbers 2 and 3 Companies to take the former and Prince of Wales and No 4 Company to take the latter. The attack was to be supported by the 3rd Battalion Scots Guards and the 2nd Battalion Irish Guards. Despite clever tactics by the 10th SS Panzer Division, who were putting up a suicidal defence, the attacks on both villages were a success. Over 100 casualties were sustained in this the last battle fought by them in Normandy. From now on the Guards Armoured Division was simply ordered to act as infantry and hold the line with some of its tanks dug in to repel any possible German counter attack, with the remainder of its tanks held in reserve to meet this eventuality. On August the 15th, patrols

found definite signs of German withdrawal and on the 16th the Division's front was completely clear of enemy except for a mesh of mines and booby traps, which despite every precaution, took its bloody toll.

The final stages of the Normandy campaign were played out on the River Dives around August the 21st when some 50,000 men, the remnants of a once proud army, fled in petty packets in what vehicles they could get hold of through the gap which had been held open for them by the 2nd SS Panzer Division, Das Reich. Over 10,000 German soldiers, some 10,000 horses and hundreds of armoured vehicles of one sort or another lay in the so called Falaise Pocket. The stench of all these corpses was terrible and the water was all poisoned on account of this. As can be imagined the clearing up of all this debris afterwards must have been horrific.

Paris fell to the French 2nd Light Armoured Division under General Leclerc with the Americans in close support; politically it was essential that the Free French should establish firm control of the capital over the heads of the Resistance, some of which was communist orientated and would have made life very difficult if they had succeeded in gaining control. The next phase was about to begin. "My intention is to advance and capture Brussels" said General Adair, the Divisional Commander, "and a very good intention too" he added. The fastest Armoured advance in history was about to begin.



## Public Duties in Battledress

by Roy Lewis

In the Second World War Public Duties in London District were carried out by Holding Battalions of the Brigade of Guards until November 1943 when Westminster Garrison Battalion was formed and stationed in Wellington Barracks.

The Battalion was disbanded in November 1946 and in its latter months a Welsh Guards Company shared Duties with the Coldstream mounting King's Guard at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace and Marlborough House, Queen Mary's residence.

For many Welsh Guardsmen it was a first experience of London and being in the public eye. Sentries were posted outside the railings of Buckingham Palace and on the pavement at St. James's and Marlborough House. The latter were quiet locations, standing outside Buckingham Palace was

often difficult when surrounded by members of the public, especially when the Royal Family were in residence and double sentries were posted and signals between them was impossible.

There was intense fog in London and the gardens of the Palaces at night were eerie to say the least. Inspections on Guard Mounting were keen and on one occasion an officer, not Welsh Guards, charged a man with "Untidy boot laces," four strands showing under one gaiter and three under the other. Even that great Welsh Guardsmen, RSM Snowy

Baker (2731403) formerly 3rd Battalion, had not heard that charge before and saw to it that one of "his boys" did not lose his name.

Whether guarding a Palace, lining streets for State Opening of Parliament, dancing in Hammersmith Palais or supping ale in the Adam and Eve and Buckingham, Guardsmen wore the same battledress "walking out" as they did on duty. It was a time for "Bags of swank" with the reputation of the Regiment and Brigade of Guards at stake. Young men from small towns, valleys and countryside soon adapted to Public Duty in a city of which it was said, the Guards belong to London and London belongs to the Guards.

Most of the Welsh Guardsmen in Westminster Garrison Battalion in late 1946 went to the 2nd Battalion in Lubeck in north Germany which was to suffer the most severe winter in history. Despite the fog, endless blanching and polishing and surviving on

three shillings (15p) a day, Public Duties in London was a finishing school that prepared for more serious service in Germany and Palestine.

Over 70 years later a survivor of that time still remembers his first King's Guard and marching behind the Irish Guards Pipes and Drums up The Mall from Buckingham Palace to change Guard at St. James's watched by thousands. "I was 6'2" but felt even taller that morning," he says, "and proud of being a Welsh Guardsman."

1. *The Old Guard slow marching from Buckingham Palace, Welsh Guards leading followed by Coldstream Guards - October 1946*



## The Welsh Guards Club Centenary Dinner

Ageing well despite being nearly smothered at birth  
by Paul de Zulueta, formerly Welsh Guards

In 1919, the town and village squares were silent, still awaiting their monuments and memorials.

On July 22nd of that year, the Welsh Guards raised by Royal Warrant on the order of King George V on February 26th 1915, held its inaugural Welsh Guards Club dinner. Just a month before the dinner, HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, had been appointed the first Colonel of the Regiment. He attended the dinner along with 74 officers. Between them they had won a VC, 12 DSOs, 17 MCs and one DCM. In just three and half years, the Regiment had been awarded ten battle honours.

The dinner might well have been the first and last. After the Great War, the future structure of the Foot Guards was under review. Savings of £100,000 were needed and a plan was cooked up to reduce the Welsh Guards to company strength under the Grenadiers. The plan had a certain lopsided logic as The Grenadiers fifth battalion, largely recruited from Wales, had provided a good deal of officers, NCOs and Guardsmen for the Regiment's formation. Field Marshal the Duke of Connaught, Colonel of The Grenadiers, Field Marshal Lord Methuen, Colonel of The Scots Guards, along with the Major General, Sir George Jeffreys, a Grenadier, all brought their guns to bear against the Regiment.

But The Welsh Guards could rally equally powerful support, not least from a former Grenadier and Major General, Sir Francis Lloyd, who wrote to the Times writing that such a plan was, 'Not only a crime but a blunder of the worst kind'

and 'There is every reason for keeping this Regiment in its entirety'. A Times editorial piled in, 'A cockeyed plan driven by the hostility of The Grenadiers as they never viewed the younger Regiments with favour. The plan was finally scotched when Welsh MPs put aside their differences and wheeled in the 'Welsh Wizard', the Prime Minister, Lloyd George.

As an amusing aside, The Grenadiers dusted off the same plan and tried to pull the same stunt in 1994, arguing that, under 'Options for Change', it should retain its second battalion at the expense of the youngest Regiment of the Household Division. It was given short shrift by Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, the then incoming CGS.

The dinner was held at Claridge's hotel. The legendary Richard D'oyle Carte, owner of the Savoy, bought Claridge's in 1898. By then it had become a favourite of heads of state and royalty throughout Europe. Rather heroically, Winston Churchill declared suite 212 Yugoslavian territory so that Crown Prince Alexander could be born on his own soil. Sadly, there is no photograph of the dinner, nor any record of the menu. It cannot have been too appetising as the 'Roaring Twenties', when Claridge's was known as 'The Flappers' Delight', was still someway off and austerity was very much the 'Plat de Jour'. The wine list, however, was an altogether different story. The Burgundy and Champagne vintages of 1911 and 1915 were classics.





The Regiment approached Claridge's to ask whether we could hold our centenary dinner there. Now owned by the Qatari Sovereign Fund, it has lost any sense of history and tradition and sought to charge the Regiment a dazzling amount for the now doubtful privilege.

The first photograph of the 1st Battalion's officers at the Regiment's formation tells its own story. Just seven officers went on to attend the first Welsh Guards Club dinner some four years later. But amongst those who did attend were some pretty remarkable characters. 2/Lt H Dene, joining up from the South African Constabulary and affectionately known as Broncho, he was as fine a horseman as you could hope to meet, went on to command the battalion in action in 1918 and win the DSO. Lt REC Luxmoore-Ball, a 6ft 7 ex Welsh Fusilier won the DSO and DCM and like Dene commanded the battalion during the last three months of the war. The Grenadiers provided many fine officers, particularly those who could boast a Welsh connection. Lt Col W Murray-Thrieland, the Regiment's first commanding officer, who had fought with the Grenadiers in the Sudan at

Omdurman and the Boer War was as English as a Sunday Roast but married a Welsh coal heiress.

The VC winner at the inaugural dinner was the valiant Lt Col Arkwright Hore Ruthven. He had won his VC in the Sudan saving an Egyptian officer from the bloodthirsty Mahdi, immortalised in the film 'Gordon of Khartoum' played by Charlton Heston and Laurence Olivier as the Mahdi leader. He had served in a number of regiments including the Camel Corps at Gallipoli before he joined the Welsh Guards in April 1915. He ended the war as a brigadier with a DSO and Bar and five Mentions in Dispatches to complement his VC before returning to his substantive rank and commanding the battalion in 1920. He eventually became the 20th Governor - General of Australia and the 1st Earl of Gowrie.

HRH Edward, Prince of Wales, our first Colonel and Colonel until his abdication in 1937, attended the dinner. He should have remained Colonel after his abdication when he became the Duke of Windsor. It would have been a graceful gesture to a man who was remarkably

popular in the Regiment, conscientious, empathetic and with an obvious affection for the Regiment and the people of Wales. The passage of time healed this injustice with the Regiment providing the bearer party for the Duke's funeral in 1972 and that of the Duchess in 1986.

The 97 officers who attended the centenary dinner last May could face their heroic ancestors with a steady gaze. We had a field marshal and four generals present, all of whom would bear witness to a tradition of mentoring and personal example that has been a hallmark of the Regiment. Well over half those attending had played their part in the two conflicts that had defined the Regiment since WW2, the Falklands campaign and Afghanistan. The officers attending the first Club dinner would not have been surprised at the Regiment's courageous involvement in Afghanistan 2006-2013; after all the Third Afghan War had been fought in 1919. But they might have raised an eyebrow at the Falklands campaign in 1982.

Tradition dictates there are no speeches at the dinner,

just royal greetings from the Colonel, HRH The Prince of Wales, followed by the Loyal Toast. After all what more could be possibly said after 100 years to a Regimental family whose story needs no adornment. The astute businessman and wine buyer Roger Gabb who served in the Regiment in the early 60s, and buys and sells the Welsh Guards Club wine, ensured the Centenary was marked appropriately.

A bystander standing outside Claridge's in 1919 and the Cavalry and Guards Club in 2019 would not have noticed much difference in the two groups as they said their farewells and made for home in the early hours. Just one difference perhaps: a number of men tapping into a small device which they had pulled out of their jacket pocket followed, seemingly miraculously, by a vehicle quietly pulling up beside them.

1. *HRH Edward, Prince of Wales as our first Colonel*
2. *The 2019 Centenary Dinner Attendees*
3. *Club Centenary Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club 2019*



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## Information Operations in West Africa

by Captain JR Farmelo

**D**evelopments in Africa, particularly the sub-Saharan states, will profoundly affect the lives of every single one of us over the next thirty years whether you have stepped foot on the continent or not.

The population of sub-Saharan Africa is projected to double by 2050 and it contains huge economic potential. However, wealth is all too often hoarded by the top strata of society and is neither allowed to trickle down, nor is it invested in the population. This, coupled with the destabilising effect that climate change is having on many states, means that half of African states are still 'fragile' and this 'will remain a driver for instability and violence over the next 30 years'.

An inability to conduct the reforms necessary to support a growing population may fuel conflict, while nationalism, disputes over control of resources, inequality, political disputes and religious differences may all continue to be drivers of conflict and violence. This will create a large push factor creating significant migration from these countries, which may lead to political and cultural disruption in Europe, while also draining the home nations of the key resource for development. This may seem both cynical and slightly apocalyptic. However, Africa has all the ingredients it needs to fulfil its huge potential as a continent and so there is as much, if not more, reason to hope than there is to worry.

Nigeria is a microcosm of this geographically, politically and culturally diverse continent, it has a plethora of deep and ancient cultures and traditions, a huge reservoir of natural resources and an

entrepreneurial, self-assured and eager

population. It also, unfortunately, has a large number of complex and longstanding problems, from the illegal tapping of oil pipelines, cattle rustling and organised crime, to terrorism in the North and endemic corruption throughout. As a regional hegemon, Africa's most populous country and its most wealthy, Nigeria is arguable one of the most important geopolitical entities on the continent. Through its colonial history it is also inextricably linked with the UK. There is vast potential for a strong mutually beneficial bi-lateral relationship between the two countries.

HMG has a number of programmes working towards the promotion of a stable and prosperous Nigeria, a sizable part of this approach is military assistance. This is delivered in the guise of 'Capacity Building', in the form of the British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT) and by the successive Short-Term Training Teams (STTT) who work closely with the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) in order to scale down the threats of terrorist organisations. There is also an operational commitment working in Nigeria and the surrounding countries entitled Op TURUS, which offers 'Operational Assistance' to a number of regional organisations, in order to try and slow and eventually drive back the brutal insurgency

which continues to plague the northern states and Lake Chad Basin Area.

Many will know this insurgency by the name Boko Haram, which translates from the local Hausa language to mean "Western education is a sin". The group turned violent in 2009 when its founder, Mohammed Yusuf, died in custody and the group was taken over by Abubakar Shekau, its current zealously sadistic leader, who continues to evade the security forces. On 7 March 2015, Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, rebranding as Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) and since then the group has fractured again leading to further misery in the Lake Chad Basin region. Since 2009 in north east Nigeria alone more than 20,000 people have been killed, and roughly 2.3 million have been turned into Internally Displaced People, pouring into the already chronically overcrowded and under resourced IDP camps, leading to gross human rights abuses.

All things considered it's a multi-layered and wickedly complex set of problems, each compounding the other with no immediate way out and some pretty fundamental, structural changes needed if there are going to be marked improvements for those living in affected areas.

The small group of British troops are working tirelessly to try and go some way to helping the Nigerians improve their processes and practices, sharing the hard-learned lessons gained from both successes and failures over the decades.

My own small role in this is to attempt to develop the Information Operations Capacity of the Nigerian Armed Forces. The role itself jumped out of the jobs list as I firmly

believe that the development of the Nigerian Information Operations capability could be a very effective way of tackling the insurgency, when properly coupled with the kinetic operations currently being conducted by AFN. Information Operations have of course been around for as long as warfare. It seeks to change attitudes and behaviours through the transmission and propagation of information. There has been a renewed focus on its serious application as modern militaries see conflict in an ever-broader context, realising the need to re-learn lessons from the Al-Qaeda approach and craft Information Operations to explain our actions before launching deliberate operations.

The role of 'SO3 Information Operations' is extremely broad, covering, as it does, Media Operations, Operational Security, Psychological Operations, Deception, Engagement, CIMIC and Electronic Warfare. The first thing I felt I had to do was to codify the focus of the role and complete Operational Staff Work to be submitted and hopefully authorised by Military Strategic Effects, thereby setting the parameters and goals of the roles for the next 3-5 years. After this I switched to the Capacity Building/ Ops Support function, embarking on a series of training and assistance courses which have seen me travel from Abuja up to the northern city of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram, and further afield to Chad. With plans to deepen international cooperation, particularly with the French, in order to better assist Nigeria and other West African Militias in their planning, execution and exploitation of their Information Activities.



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Life in Abuja is very pleasant indeed, there are the normal checks, precautions and restrictions you would expect on an operational tour, however, if planned properly, there is ample opportunity to join the Diplomatic, NGO and Society circuits from which you can gain invaluable nuggets of information helping to keep a finger on the pulse.

The majority of the Brits live in a comfortable compound relatively near the centre of town, nestled at the back of this compound is 'TURUS House', a large building which houses the Abuja based members of the Op. There are additional forward arms based in Maiduguri and N'djamena, Chad, supporting the Cellule de Coordination et de Liaison (CCL).

Life in Abuja is comfortable but focused with a professional buzz of activity surrounding our key places of work, either the Ops Room or the Defence Section of the High Commission and with relatively few distractions it's easy to mould a good routine of keeping fit and working hard. Abuja itself is a rather odd city, having been built in the 1980s as a bespoke political capital, shifting from the hectically overcrowded former costal capital of Lagos, it feels a little like a sea of 'compound islands', in which people transit between gated communities in a huge variety of vehicles ranging from barely roadworthy taxis, 'DIY' paintjobs to smart armoured SUV's. There is little of the 'promenading' space you would expect to find in a city which had grown up more organically, limiting the opportunity for al fresco dining. One advantage of operating primarily out of Abuja is the proximity to the political and military power centres. We have a

sufficiently good relationship with the Nigerians to have a permanent office within Defence Headquarters which is a huge help. When not darting between various meetings, negotiating Nigeria's infamously erratic driving or hunched over a laptop in the Ops room there is a little time for recreation - be that kickboxing with the NGO community or riding out with the 'Guards Polo Club, Abuja' with whom I have somehow managed to endear myself enough that they let me ride their ponies free of charge.

There is relatively frequent moving from TURUS HQ in Abuja up to Maiduguri to visit the Liaison Support Team. Only 90 minutes after taking off from the new, Chinese built, airport and leaving the lush, wet, 'rainy season' capital, you land in a very different world. For much of the last millennia Maiduguri was at the fringes of the huge Kanem-Bornu Empire which stretches far up into the Sahel and this explains much for the Islamic influence on the area. Maiduguri is the capital of the volatile Bono state which is currently experiencing high levels of internecine violence, internally displaced people and chronic lack of investment. There is a TURUS team in place in Maiduguri providing very welcome training and support for the Theatre Headquarters augmenting the wider HMG effort to reduce the violence, address the consequences of the conflict and tackle its long-term causes. The LST feel far more operational than the 'British Village' down in Abuja, there are the various force protection measures and the whole place has a far more spartan feel too it. This said there is a constant and inexhaustible supply of pringles and dairy milk which mitigates some of the hardship.



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Further north still over the Chari River in Chad is The Cellule de Coordination et de Liaison (CCL), another small outpost of the TURUS team which supports the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), a 10,000 multinational force spread over four national sectors: Sector 1 (Cameroon) headquartered at Mora; Sector 2 (Chad) headquartered at Baga-Sola; Sector 3 (Nigeria) based in Baga; and Sector 4 (Niger), based in the town of Diffa. The CCL offers a fantastic plug-in to the MNJTF and has a very good relationship with its higher command which offers a plethora of opportunities to assist in the design and delivery of information operations across the Lake Chad Basin, speaking directly to the majority of the victims and members of Boko Haram. Spending time in the CCL also has the added benefit of staying with the French on Camp Kossei. A compact but very busy French base in central N'Djamena supports Operation BARKHANE, so is a constant buzz of activity with

troops transiting through, along with the frequent roar of Mirage Jets flying north in support of French Ops in Mali. The great appeal of Camp Kossei is the food, the French take their meals very seriously, and it's hard to resist the cold meats, cheeses, salads and soup laid out in abundance, not to mention the soufflé, brûlée and mousse laid out for dessert, there is even wine served on Sundays!

The future of the region is very much in the balance, if the potential of West Africa is to be truly realised it will take some careful political, economic and security management. There are an incredible number of areas in which UK expertise and experience can help government at both a local and a national level to operate more effectively. Luckily for young officers looking for exciting opportunities with the responsibility and freedom to really have and use one's initiative, the UK looks as if it will continue to offer its assistance for many years to come.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The Baddies</i></li> <li>2. <i>Bedspace in the North East</i></li> <li>3. <i>Briefing the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF)</i></li> <li>4. <i>Building relationships with the Multinational Joint Taskforce</i></li> <li>5. <i>Capacity Building</i></li> <li>6. <i>Classic Defence Engagement</i></li> <li>7. <i>Commonwealth war graves, just rebuilt having been destroyed by Boko Haram (BH) after they overran the city in 2015</i></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. <i>The Goodies</i></li> <li>9. <i>N'Djamena, capital of Chad as seen from Camp Kossei</i></li> <li>10. <i>Nigerians, often in a hurry</i></li> <li>11. <i>One of my many 'offices</i></li> <li>12. <i>Rain in Chad</i></li> <li>13. <i>The author in Chad</i></li> <li>14. <i>Support arriving in Abuja Airport</i></li> </ol> |
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## Christmas in a Day

by Lieutenant J Wilkinson

Machine Guns Platoon Commander, Support Company

**W**ith Christmas leave on the horizon and the Battalion having spent much of the year spread across varying commitments, it only seemed right that we found the time in the final week of work of 2018 to come together as a whole and celebrate 'Christmas in a day'.

The morning festivities started with the Battalion forming up on the drill square to march down to the chapel at the Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright. It had been a while for most since they had undertaken any form of drill, but in true foot guards fashion there was no hint of a step out of place or an arm not shoulder high.

The service itself was led both by the outgoing Padre Gillingham and incoming Padre Dietz. Padre Gillingham, in her final act as the Battalion's Padre, led the service with her ever enthusiastic and engaging manner and reminded the congregation of the importance of the true spirit of Christmas. Indeed, time spent at home with friends and family over the Christmas period was something to which the majority of the congregation was very much looking forward.

Following the service, it was back up to the junior ranks' cook house where lunch service took a very different format. As tradition dictates, lunch today was served by the Battalion's serving officers, NCOs and warrant officers and on the menu was, quite rightly, a three course Christmas lunch. The catering team had worked tirelessly to put on a fantastic feast for the young soldiers of the Battalion which was thoroughly enjoyed with a beer or two. There was a healthy level of humour in

the air between the officers and the guardsmen who took great pleasure in having their platoon commanders and the like wait on them. Following the completion of the lunch service, the Officers' Mess was invited into the Sergeants' Mess for turkey and stuffing sandwiches followed by a mince pie or two in true Christmas fashion.

That afternoon saw the junior ranks' mess transformed into Santa's grotto as families were invited in to meet Santa, and of course his elves, for Christmas gifts and an array of Christmas activities organised by the welfare team. The afternoon was enjoyed by both children and adults alike and truly set the Christmas spirit alight for the children involved.

The evening's festivities saw the Sergeants' Mess march on mass down to the Officers' Mess on the invitation of the Commanding Officer for a curry supper and to share a drink or two. As expected, the festivities rolled on into the night as the Officers' Mess was invited back up to the Sergeants' Mess where songs were sung and stories exchanged before heading back to bed. All in all a fantastic day was had by everyone involved and the tone was set perfectly for the Battalion's upcoming Christmas leave.

1. *Captain Gill serving up Christmas lunch*
2. *Left-Right; LSgt Rowlands, Sgt Duffy as Father Christmas, Sgt Jones*

## HMS Prince of Wales (HMSPWLS) 2019

by Lieutenant Fiona Mabin Meng RN

HMS Prince of Wales Flag Systems Officer (FSO)

**2**019 has been and will continue to be a momentous year for HMS Prince of Wales. Significant progress and change has been made as the Ship prepares to sail in September just as these notes are being written.

The Ship's Company started working on board in April and we have gradually started to take ownership of compartments and equipment. The most noticeable change has been our transition to living onboard the Ship. With accommodation, recreation spaces and the galley now operational the Ship has become a home to her 630 sailors.

In April HMS Queen Elizabeth joined HMS Prince of Wales in Rosyth for a maintenance period in dry dock, the first time both ships have been seen afloat together. Watching HMS Queen Elizabeth leave the basin was an inspiring sight for all Ship's company. Over the Easter period the Ship's Company made the move from our shore side offices to working on board. Compartments started to be handed over to the RN and coffee stations were set up in office spaces.

Propulsion integration trials took place throughout the summer period, successfully demonstrating the capability of our diesel engines and gas turbines. Both propulsion shafts were turned for the first time allowing the Bridge and Ship's Control Centre teams to practice their drills and procedures. The Marine Engineering Department had a vital stake in the transition to living onboard, ensuring fresh water, galley and hotel services were operational.

The drive over July and August was to train and qualify the Harbour Fire and Emergency Parties in order to allow Ship's Staff to start living onboard. As we progress towards sailing we will test our Standing Sea Emergency Party to ensure they meet the standard required to guarantee our safety as we conduct sea trials. Three days of simulating being at sea will give Ship's Company and insight into how HMS Prince of Wales's routines will run at sea and the learning curve will be steep for those that have never been to sea before.

The Medical Complex on board has undergone transformation this year and is now receiving routine patients and providing primary care to the Ship's Company with the Dental Officer receiving his first patients shortly after. Additionally, the department has been providing a high level of first aid training to the wider Ship's Company to ensure we are safe to go to sea.

Despite the busy schedule many members of the Ship's company have represented the Ship and the RN in a variety of sports. The Ship was well represented at the RN Ski Championships and Olympic rower Lieutenant Commander Peter Reed spent a few days visiting the Ship. In June thirteen members of the Ship's company cycled 530 miles from Rosyth to Portsmouth via our affiliated cities of Liverpool and Bristol raising over £5000





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for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity and a local Liverpool military charity.

The end of this year will see HMS Prince of Wales sail for the first time and conduct her initial sea trials around the coast of Scotland. We are all looking forward in earnest to First Entry Portsmouth and HMS Prince of Wales Commissioning Ceremony in December. Next year will see the Ship conduct more sea trials and preparations for fixed wing trials. A busy but highly rewarding year for all Ship's Company!

1. HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Queen Elizabeth afloat together in Rosyth.
2. Members of Ship's company living on board.
3. Food being served in the Junior Rate's Galley.
4. HMS Prince of Wales Dental Department opens for business.
5. HMS Prince of Wales cycle team in Liverpool.
6. HMS Prince of Wales departs Rosyth
7. HMS Prince of Wales departs Rosyth
8. Dockyard under the Forth Bridge heading for Portsmouth

## Award of the French Legion D'Honneur To Sid Elsbury (Guardsman, 2734113) Welsh Guards

by Warrant Officer Class 2 DJ Davies  
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant,  
Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards

**D**-Day veteran, Sid Elsbury of Haverfordwest, has been recognised with the highest honour in France by French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Légion d'Honneur medal was presented to Mr Elsbury by the French Consul of France in Wales Mme Marie Brousseau-Navarro at his home on Saturday 21st September 2019 a week after his 101st birthday and surrounded by his family.

Falsifying his age by one year, Sid joined the Regiment on 10 Feb 1936 and on completion of training served on Public Duties in London. In April 1939 he was posted to Gibraltar in response to the Spanish Civil War and in protection of the peninsular and in 1940 he served with the 2nd Battalion in Boulogne. Then, in July 1944,

he was deployed to Normandy but was severely injured by a shell which subsequently saw him evacuated back to the UK. He was discharged in 1945 because of these injuries.

The Regiment was delighted to be able to arrange the presentation of the Legion d'Honneur and be involved on the day and we salute Sid's remarkable achievement. Sid is an absolute delight to chat to and an immensely proud Welsh Guardsman who has a tremendously supportive family around him. We wish good health in this, his 101st year, and for many years to come.



1. RQMS James Davies, Mme Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Mr Sid Elsbury
2. The wonderful homemade celebration cake.
3. RQMS James Davies and Mr Sid Elsbury wearing his newly presented Legion d'Honneur medal
4. Mrs Sid Elsbury surrounded by his family
5. 2734113 Gdsm S Elsbury



**Award of the Legion d’Honneur to Brindley Waters (Guardsman, 2738263) Welsh Guards**

by Captain SG Bowen, Quartermaster (Technical)

**D**-Day veteran, Sid Elsbury of Haverfordwest, has been recognised with the highest honour in France by French President Emmanuel Macron.



I had the great honour of being invited to the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth to meet fellow Welsh Guardsman Brindley Llewellyn Waters and to witness Brindley being presented with the Légion d’Honneur by Colonel Armel Dirou, the French Military Attaché, at a ceremony held on St David’s Day, 1st March 2019.

On the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, the French President announced that the honour will be awarded to all British veterans who fought for the liberation of France during the Second World War (veterans must have taken part in military operations in France between 1944-1945)

The Légion d’Honneur was established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. It is

France’s highest distinction and is awarded in recognition of both military and civilian merit.

Brindley (97) who lives in Rogiet, Monmouthshire, a D-Day veteran, served as tank gunner mechanic on Cromwell Tanks with the 2nd Battalion, he landed at Arromanches, aged 21 on 8th June 1944 and fought his way through France towards Belgium where he was severely wounded.

Recognised by the French Government for his part in the Liberation of France, Colonel Dirou said, “We owe our freedom and security largely to your dedication and determination, for which you were ready to risk your life. Thank you for what you did alongside your brothers-in-arms.”



Brindley was accompanied by Sheila, his wife of 68 years, their daughter Helen and Son-in-law Jonathan.

The full presentation speech by Colonel Armel Dirou, the French Military Attaché is reproduced below:

It is a great privilege and a huge honour for me to be here today on this very special occasion to pay tribute to a man who took part in the liberation of France in 1944. Brindley Waters on the 13th December 2018 The French president decided to nominate you to the rank of chevalier in the Légion d'Honneur, in recognition of what you did in those dark days as part of the allied forces.

The Légion d'Honneur, created by Napoleon I in 1802, is France highest distinction and honours

exceptional acts of gallantry and devotion by all those who have served France, whether they are French by birth or "by spilled blood".

Cher Brindley,

Today France wants to thank you for the commitment you showed to our country during that terrible campaign in France when you served in the Welsh guards as a tank gunner and mechanic. You landed at Arromanches on the 8th of June 1944 and then fought through France towards Belgium, where you were severely wounded.

We owe our freedom and security largely to your dedication and determination, for which you were ready to risk your life. You are an inspiration to our country's young people and to Europe.

This award is not only an expression of thanks to you and all the men who were ready to give their lives to liberate us, it sends a message too: we shall never forget.

Today your story provides a glimpse into a history we share. Indeed, at a time when Europe was dominated by a terrible dictatorship, France was able, from the first few hours of the war, to count on the support of its closest partner. As Churchill said in 1921: "We will be with you in the hour of need. We shall be as good as our word next time as we were last time". The commitment to the to the law and to the democratic tenets on which our societies are based inspired a shared battle for freedom.

Cher Brindley,

Thank you for what you did alongside all your brothers-in-arms. May your commitment, gallantry and spirit of fraternity continue to serve as an example and inspiration to us all.

Long live the United Kingdom!  
Long live France!  
Long live the Franco-British friendship!

1. *Brindley Waters being presented the Legion d'Honneur by Colonel Armel Dirou, the French Military Attaché*
2. *Brindley Waters sporting his newly presented Legion d'Honneur*
3. *Colonel Armel Dirou, Helen, Sheila, Chevalier Brindley, Jonathan, Captain Stephen Bowen*



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### HMS St Albans Visit

By Lieutenant GR Davidson

**O**n Friday 24th May 2019, 15 Welsh Guardsmen arrived home in North Wales. However, on this occasion they did so on board one of the Royal Navy's busiest war ships - HMS St Albans.

Local news crews lined the pier as the 150m long Type 23 Frigate docked with every man on board out on the top deck, including 15 Welsh Guardsmen in tunics! We were assured that this had never been done before. HMS St Albans had sailed to Holyhead for the West-Wales Armed Forces Day and to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, they had departed Portsmouth two days earlier which is where they had picked us up.

We arrived at HMS Devonport and were very quickly rushed onto a passenger boat which would take us out past the breakwater to allow us to embark onto HMS St Albans. After the necessary safety briefs, we were split up and hosted by our respective ranks; Padre Matthew and I were taken to the officers Wardroom where we had a chance to meet the officers on board. I was immediately surprised at how efficient and purposeful every process was and had to be, it soon became apparent that if something didn't absolutely need to be on board it wasn't

there. That afternoon we sat in the Captains Cabin with Commander John Crombie who was clearly excited to have Guardsmen with Tunics on-board his ship. That evening Padre Matthew and I were blown away with the quality of food served in the Wardroom, it was particularly impressive considering there were only 4 chefs on board to feed nearly 200 people 3 times a day! It was soon time to climb up into the top of my cabin and somehow fit into the tiny bed space, they say you get used to the restricted space, but I am not sure I agree.

The following morning, we had a more in-depth tour of the rest of the ship, this included visiting the operations room, the bridge, the kitchens (galleys) and much more. It was truly fascinating to see how they operated, and it was seriously impressive to understand the capabilities of the ship we were on. As we toured the ship, it was incredibly charming to witness the Guardsmen on board be blown away by the efficiency and attitude



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displayed by every single member of the ships crew. Guardsman Griffiths from Number Two Company said "I honestly have so much more respect for the Navy now I have seen how hard they work and the challenges they face on a day to day basis". Not only was this refreshing to hear, but my feelings were not too dissimilar. It was truly remarkable and

inspiring watching the crew of HMS St Albans carry out their work. From practicing lifesaving over-board drills to preparing the kitchens, every job was done properly with no questions asked. HMS St Albans was an extraordinarily good example of ruthless efficiency, everything onboard was undoubtedly indispensable, otherwise it wouldn't be there. This level of absolute obsessive planning is key to the ships 'smooth sailing'.

All in all, it was a fantastic trip for all of the Welsh Guardsmen involved and a very special and unique way to be dropped off for a long weekend.



1. Sgt Griffiths ready for inspection on the top Deck.
2. Group complete with the Captain - Commander John Crombie.
3. Gdsm Jones from No 2 Coy.



### HMS Prince of Wales Visit

by Lieutenant JDE Leonard, Platoon Commander

**A** sunny Monday in May saw two members of the leading company of 1WG, The Prince of Wales’s Company, head north to visit a ship of the same namesake.

Her Majesty’s Ship Prince of Wales, the second Queen Elizabeth-class carrier, was docked at the naval dockyard in Rosyth ahead of its sea trials and voyage to the US.

Sgt Hughes and I, both members of The Prince of Wales’s Company, had the privilege to represent the Commanding Officer during the visit to the ship. Both being diligent infantrymen we adhered to the old adage “time spent in recce is seldom wasted” and flew up to Edinburgh a day early to make sure we knew the lay of the land. Only once we had arrived did it dawn on us that our task the next day

was to be conducted at sea and so we settled for a recce of Edinburgh’s finest public houses and a stroll up Arthur’s Seat, during which I expressed my concerns to Sgt Hughes about the fragility of my sea legs and we rehearsed our actions on sea sickness (he receives fake call, whispers importantly in my ear, I give grave nod, we conduct rapid exit stage starboard). After our day spent exploring Edinburgh – Sgt Hughes assures me that Swansea is far superior – we retired for the evening, ready for the drive across the Forth Bridge the next day to meet the ship and its crew.



HMS Prince of Wales was a sight to behold as we drove across the bridge. Despite my earlier worries, it soon transpired that sea sickness was not going to define the day after all; at 65,000 tonnes, with a range of 10,000 miles and the capacity to launch up to 70 F-35 stealth fighters, the carrier was as solid as a rock as we stepped aboard. The sheer size is overwhelming on first sight, let alone when you are being shown around the 16,000 square feet of deck space which has been meticulously planned so it can support a crew of up to 1600 sailors, airmen and soldiers. Designed specifically in order to facilitate interoperability with other NATO partners and showcasing some of the most advanced technology in defence, HMS Prince of Wales is simultaneously an impressive feat of engineering as well as an awe-inspiring presentation of military power.

The importance of the visit did not escape us. The Company’s, and indeed the Battalion’s, links to the Prince of Wales are not only an honour and a privilege but an important part of 1WG’s history. The opportunity to forge new relationships across

the Armed Forces in his name is a very worthwhile cause. The visit laid the foundations for mutual support to be developed in the future between the Battalion and the Ship’s crew, whereby all ranks can learn and benefit from their counterparts’ different experience and training.

It was a fantastic opportunity for Sgt Hughes and I to better understand the capabilities of the Air Force and the Navy, and to appreciate what elements of our own infantry-based training could be used to assist in the development of their sailors and airmen. The Battalion hopes to establish regular exchanges with the Ship’s crew in order to further strengthen the relationship between the two.





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**The Commanding Officer's Coin**

by Captain EJ Clarke, Adjutant 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

The awarding of a Commanding Officer's Coin is an award, given to members of the Battalion who perform significantly above the standard expected, demonstrate moral courage, extraordinary levels of selfless-commitment, or who are personally commended by external organisations/Headquarters for their performance.

The award has been in use for several years but has seen a resurgence in the last six months and offers an excellent opportunity for members of the Battalion to aspire to



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achieve in all that they do and consequently, receive public recognition.

The award is a dual-sided coin containing the Regimental Cypher on one side with the

presentation details, Household Division tactical recognition flash and dragon passant on the other.

It has been decided that in recognition of the individual's achievements, the magazine will publish a photo of the most recent recipients to enhance the profile of the award and recognise success. The most recent recipients, who received the award on the Battalion's Battle Camp were:

LSgt Forde: for exemplary and noteworthy support to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Gdsm Cobb-Evans: for exceptional and noteworthy drill whilst guarding St James's Palace.

Gdsm Dyer: for assisting a disabled veteran during a Garden Party whilst guarding Buckingham Palace.

Gdsm Evans 16: for exemplary work, over and above his

rank, whilst working in the Communication Information Systems (CIS) Platoon stores.

Gdsm Gronow: for exceptional and noteworthy drill whilst guarding St James's Palace.

The Battalion is currently working on a new design and a higher specification coin to more appropriately credit those who earn this recognition. The new design will feature in the next edition of this magazine.

1. The most recent recipients of the award from L-R: Gdsm Dyer, Gdsm Evans 16, Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher, Gdsm Gronow, Gdsm Cobb Evans and LSgt Forde.
2. The front of a Commanding Officer's Coin.
3. The rear of a Commanding Officer's Coin.



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## Welsh Guardsmen in Arabia The Leek and the Palm Tree

by Major MJ Wright, Welsh Guards  
SO2 Training Advisor, Sultan Qaboos Military College,  
Royal Army of Oman

**T**he Welsh Guards have an extensive operational record in the Arab World: the Regiment served in Palestine in 1947, at the Suez Canal between 1951-53, in Aden in 1965-66, and in Maysan Province, Iraq in 2004-05.

Over the years since the end of World War Two there have been a number of notable Welsh Guardsmen who have become true Arabists. In recent years, a handful of Welsh Guardsmen have dispersed themselves across Arabia among a variety of Arab armies and have continued the Regiment's historic relationship with the region.

Last Winter, I attended the final weekend of the racing season at the al-Rabha Race Ground in Muscat, Oman - an Arabian Royal Ascot, of sorts. Much like

Ascot, it really did have the feel of a true festival of horse racing particularly when I looked up and saw another Household Division tie being worn by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Richard Stanford. General Richard arrived in Muscat in Autumn 2017 where he is the Senior British Loan Service Officer, Oman. In addition to being the UK's lead man in Oman for the most recent iteration of Exercise Saif Sareea, he is the senior British military adviser to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and he commands the British Loan



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Service team made up of all three services.

I had the great fortune of arriving in Muscat a few months prior to General Richard. After a period of re-familiarisation with the Arabic language and the arrival of the memsahib, in September 2017 I started out as the first UK student to attend the Command and Staff College in Beit al-Falaj. In essence, I studied Divisional tactics for just shy of a year, in Arabic, cheek by jowl with a class of one hundred and fifty brother officers from various corners of the Arab World. There is simply no doubt that this was a truly formative experience: despite having spent much of my life in Arabia in a variety of capacities, my understanding of the culture, people and language developed exponentially. Even more importantly I feel, is that I now have Omani friends, in the truest sense, who live across the Sultanate and who are drawn from the full spectrum of the Sultan's Armed Forces: people whose company I enjoy immensely and whose patience, humour and humility I would do well to emulate.

After graduating from the Command and Staff College, I took a period of leave in the UK which fortuitously overlapped with the birth of my first son. I returned to Oman in the autumn to start my tour of duty on Loan Service as the Officer Commanding British Troops in Salalah and the British Adviser at the Omani equivalent of Sandhurst in the far South West corner of Dhofar. After receiving my marching orders from General Richard, my young family and I struck out from Muscat and headed one thousand kilometers South along the central belt of flat, desert plains towards Dhofar. After climbing the green-topped Al-Qara mountains which have separated Dhofar from the remainder of the Sultanate throughout much of history and which attract the annual rains of the khareef, we finally looked down upon Salalah nestled in against the azure of the Indian Ocean. Salalah feels a world away from cosmopolitan Muscat: it is a small town tightly enclosed by the mountains and ocean. Such geographic isolation has drawn three main tribal confederations to the region: the Al-Katheer,



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made famous by Thesiger's adventures in the 1940's; the Al-Shahri who reside across the green, mountainous ravines of the Al-Qara and speak their own language, Shehri or Jebbali; and the Al-Mahri who inhabit the harsh desert plains towards Qishn, Sayhut and Al-Ghaydah in Southern Yemen. It is striking that in a world that is becoming more homogenized, Dhofar remains manifestly different by virtually any means of comparison. Needless to say, it has been a true adventure for such a young family.

Welsh Guardsmen's exploits in Oman pre-date these contemporary efforts. Ralph Daly commissioned into the Regiment in 1944 and served with the Guards' Armoured Division in its advance across Northern Europe in the spring of 1945. On his release from the Army in 1947 he joined the Sudan Political Service before transferring to the

Colonial Service where he served in Aden Province before, finally, being seconded to the Federation of South Arabia. For service to the Colonial Office he was appointed an OBE. But his departure from the Colonial Office was, in many ways, simply the beginning of his adventures in Southern Arabia. In 1969, Daly joined the liaison department of Petroleum Development (Oman), serving as the company's representative in Dhofar. Then in 1974 Daly was appointed Adviser for Conservation of the Environment in the Omani Royal Diwan where he was instrumental in re-introducing the Arabian Oryx to Oman and protecting the Arabian tahr, marine turtles and sooty falcons. Daly's outstanding service in the field of conservation won him the Order of Oman (Civil) in 1980 and the Order of the Golden Ark in 1985. He was later honored by the Royal Geographic

Society, the Flora and Flora Preservation Society, and the University of Durham.

John Harding is another Welsh Guardsman with immaculate Arabist credentials. After National Service with the Regiment, he joined the Colonial Administrative Service in 1959 serving in South Arabia from 1960 to 1965 as an assistant adviser in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, an administrator in Aden, and a political officer in Lahej and Radfan. His book, *Roads to Nowhere: A South Arabian Odyssey 1960-65*, chronicles his experiences as a young British colonial officer who served in South Arabia during the critical years leading up to Britain's departure from Aden. His book regales tales of tribal feuds and dissident skirmishes, the strengths and weaknesses of feudal rule, intelligence and internal security failings, frustrated reconstruction

schemes, the establishment of Radfan's first administration, and the British Army's withdrawal from Southern Arabia.

Brigadier Aldwin Wight is a notable expert on Arabia and Oman in particular. Having commanded the SAS, he left the Army in 1997 and commanded the Sultan of Oman's Special Forces as an Omani Brigadier. He devised and implemented a five-year plan which achieved a complete regeneration of the two-thousand-man force. He was present on the National Security Council of Oman for all security and counter-terrorist issues. As such, his understanding of Middle Eastern affairs is profound and he was awarded the Military Order of Oman in 2001.

It would, however, be wrong to suggest that Welsh Guardsmen's fascination and interaction with the Arab



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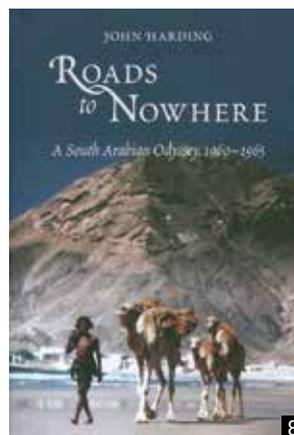
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World fades north of the Straits of Hormuz: to the contrary, General Richard's example, coupled with that of Brigadier Alex Macintosh who was recently awarded a CBE for service in Arabia, seems to be encouraging the emergence of a new generation of Arabist Welsh Guardsmen - pseudo Young Turks, of course: Captain Paul Razzall is an Arabic graduate from Oxford and is now working at the Palestinian Officer Training Academy in Ramallah. Furthermore, Second Lieutenant Jonathan Leonard is a highly capable Arabic linguist having deployed, in a previous life, to some of the less salubrious corners of the Arab World. With such linguistic prowess, the Officers' Mess

may, for once, be justifying its billing as the 'Foreign Legion'... That said, Arabian expertise is not exclusively the preserve of Direct Entry Officers. Captain Carl Taylor played a central role in planning and preparing for the Great Arab Revolt Centenary Parade in 2014-16 in his capacity as the Ceremonial Advisor to the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman. The parade, which is now held annually, included 1700 troops, horses and, of course, camels.

With the specter of British military activity in the Islamic World likely to continue, it seems that the Regiment has astutely distributed its officers, from the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel to an Ensign, across

Arabia Felix and that the Welsh Guards is increasingly a source of Middle Eastern knowledge and expertise.



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1. RSM IA James, Aden 1966, photo courtesy of Marilyn James via the WGR Galleries
2. Captain AP "Bobby" Joyce MM BEM, QM TWG, forms a patrol from within HQ Coy and sets out from Habilayn camp. Photo courtesy of David Woods via the WGR Galleries
3. Welsh Guards Battlegroup, Camp Abu Naji, Al Amarah, Maysan Province, Iraq, 2005
4. The author with a family of Al-Shahri migrating over the Al-Qara on conclusion of the Khareef rains
5. CO TWG, Lt Col (now Lt Gen) Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE, Maysan Province, Iraq 2005
6. The author and son amongst the palm trees of Salalah
7. Captain Paul Razzall taking a break from his current role in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
8. Roads to Nowhere by John Harding



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### Op TORAL 6 Medals Parade

By Captain J Gill, Second in Command Number 3 Company

On 19 February, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Welsh Guards, presented medals to personnel from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who had recently returned from Afghanistan.

In addition to the awarding of the Op TORAL medals, Long Service Good Conduct and Accumulated Good Service medals were also presented alongside a Meritorious Service Medal to WO1 (RSM) Morgan.

The Band of the Welsh Guards kept the families entertained

during the parade and, once the medals were presented, His Royal Highness met with the families and soldiers before attending a Regimental Council meeting in the Officers' Mess.

1. *HRH presents Op TORAL medals to The Prince of Wales's Company.*



**John 'Jack' Perks celebrates his 100th Birthday Guardsman 2735449 and Prisoner of War number 8027**

by Bob Chambers (24645750)

Jack was called up and enlisted into the Welsh Guards and reported to Colchester Barracks for training and formalisation in mid-January 1940.

He was sent on his first mission to the Hook of Holland on the 13th of May 1940 to rescue the Dutch family - they returned the next day, mission accomplished, with the Queen and her entourage on board. Not long after (22nd May 1940), Jack was sent to Boulogne, France and was captured some six days later on 28th May, arriving at Stalag 20A in Torun (Thorn), Poland some weeks later.

Jack being forever positive took the initiative and successfully from under the noses of his German captors escaped with a fellow Welsh Soldier during the "march to Germany" as the Germans retreated in thick drifts of snow through Bromberg, Poland. Jack and his fellow Welshman found refuge in local village where they hid in a dog kennel. The following day

they made their way towards another village where a family took them in. Jack remembers one night being given a locally made alcoholic drink which, having not drunk alcohol for nearly five years whilst imprisoned, sent him bit tipsy. He was picked up by Russian forces and taken to Warsaw where he was eventually put on a train to Odessa on the Black Sea and from there to Egypt where they boarded a ship home, arriving in May 1940. Sadly, on his arrival at his home he found out that his mother had passed away a few weeks earlier at the age of 54 – his feeling of utter loss totally unimaginable.

In 1946 Jack met Moreen and they married in 1952 having three children; John, Lance and Joy. Sadly Moreen passed

in 1973. Jack then met and married Moira in 1977 (who sadly recently passed away in 2017).

Jack, with his daughter Joy and his son John, have revisited the area where Jack was captured on four occasions over the years in which Jack recognised certain areas and villages even the house he took refuge which has now been converted into flats.

On Friday 5th July 2019 at the Llantrisant and Pontyclun Golf Club, Talbot Green, Jack celebrated his surprise "Special Occasion" his 100th Birthday, where Jack cut a celebratory Welsh Guards Birthday cake. The event was organised by his daughter Joy who invited all family and friends to the celebrations to enjoy a beautiful buffet. The occasion was attended by Jack's 12 grandchildren, 16 Great Grandchildren 2 Great Great Grandchildren, Stepdaughters and husbands, Grandchildren and partners along with invited guests and friends

Sadly, Jack lost his son Lance, who was a Police officer who served in South Wales Police, Bermuda Police and the

Metropolitan Police, but Lance's son Scott Kelly-Perks had flown from France that week to surprise his Grandfather.

Organising the Welsh Guard's representation and in attendance was Bob Chambers (24645750) on behalf of The Welsh Guards' Association who publically thanked Jack for his service and his brave and unique contribution to the Regiment and the Country.

Jack was met Guardsman Jamie Smith, 2 Coy in full home service clothing. They shared stories of Battalion life today and Jack swapped stories of his life yesteryear in the Regiment.

During the occasion Jack had further surprises which included opening two formal correspondences, one from Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty The Queen in recognition of his 100th Birthday, the other a letter from Clarence House from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Colonel of The Regiment.

1. Gdsm Jamie Smith (2 Coy), Jack, Bob Chamber
2. Happy Birthday from HM The Queen
3. From HRH The Prince of Wales

## Life as the Academy Sergeant Major at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

By Warrant Officer Class 1 CA Taylor, Academy Sergeant Major

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is the home of the British Army Officer, its motto is 'Serve to Lead' and is without a doubt one of the most prestigious military officer training establishments in the world, setting the standards for our future leaders.

The global attraction is quite simply incredible with over nine Heads of State and even more in senior positions around the world along with the increased reach with the alumni, the Sandhurst brand holds no bounds. It is vitally important that the highest of standards are maintained to protect the reputation that it has, this lays firmly in the hands of the staff that run the Academy.

Every British Officer will remember their Platoon Colour Sergeant (CSgt) which has moulded the type of leader they are today, instilling all aspects of what Officers' should be, and right now each officer reading this has mentally repeated their CSgt's name and can picture memorable moments whether good or bad during their time at the Academy. This has set the building blocks of their career with the Royal Military Academy being one of the very few Officer training establishments in the world that trains its Officers' by Non-Commissioned Officers'.

The Platoon Colour Sergeant is one of the most influential positions for the Officer Cadet during training at the Academy and the selection process produces some of the best instructors in the British Army. CSgt's that are successful, do well and survive their time at the Academy are recommended to return as Company Sergeant Majors', and indeed College Regimental Sergeant Majors'. There are

many more positions in the Academy in which both military and civilian staff are employed but there is only one Academy Sergeant Major.

To become an Academy Sergeant Major, you must have attended the Academy as a CSgt and CSM, been a Regimental Sergeant Major in a Foot Guards Battalion, have State Ceremonial experience as well as Operational experience to hold credibility. You must be successfully selected for Commission, finishing above the quality line, and interviewed amongst your peers to be the most suitable candidate.

Your reward is one of the most senior appointments in the British Army in a vital position at the top of the Sandhurst Group, but what does an Academy Sergeant Major actually do?

Firstly, the fact; people often forget that the Academy is only just a Phase 1 training establishment, so the main aim is to deliver trained officers to Phase 2 training to meet the operational requirements of Defence. He is responsible for discipline policy for SNCOs' and Officer Cadets (OCdts') in Sandhurst Group. Responsible for drill instruction and all ceremonial parades. Gives direction and guidance to all staff and OCdts'. Presides over the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess with over 240 members. Responsible for overall planning and execution of the annual RSMs' Convention.



Advise and accompany the Commandant and Commander during UK and International visits. Represent the British Army as the senior Warrant Officer in the absence of the Army SM. Sit on the Honours and Awards board for the Sandhurst Group. Responsible as the Diversity and Inclusivity network coordinator assistant. Sandhurst Group Champion for the Army Leadership Code. Manager Trustee of the Sandhurst Academy Sergeant Major's Initiative Fund (SAIF). Responsible for the delivery of the biannual RSMs' Course and most importantly, Enforcement of RMAS Standards and ceremonial requirement for high profile visits.

In April 2017 I was extremely privileged to have been appointed as Academy

Sergeant Major, after a two-week shadow, culminating in a ceremonial handover of the appointment on the Sovereign's Parade. Not many people know that the position is held as a Commissioned Officer and for those that move across to the world of the Late Entry Officer, they complete the appointment by marching, sword at the carry, up the steps of Old College after all the newly commissioned officers and before the Academy Adjutant rides up on his horse. Once inside Old College the doors close, a swift handshake is exchanged, the Old College grand entrance doors reopen by the legendary hall porter, John Archibald and the new Academy Sergeant Major steps onto Parade.

Not only was the privilege of the appointment but the responsibility of stepping into the boots of Sandhurst history, the Royal Military College Regimental Sergeant Majors were:

Nov 1900	A. CROOK	Gren Gds
Oct 1905	J. PAYNE	Devon Regt
Sep 1912	A. WOMBWELL	Rifle Bde
Mar 1917	C.T. PEARSON MBE	Gren Gds
Jul 1930	W.H. DOBSON MC. MM	Gren Gds
Dec 1937	A.J. BRAND MBE	Gren Gds

Since the establishment of the Royal Military Academy in 1947 there have been just nineteen Academy Sergeant Majors, broken down as follows; eight Gren Gds, three Coldm Gds, three Scots Gds, three Irish Gds and just two Welsh Gds, they are:

Oct 1946	A.J. BRAND MVO.MBE	GREN GDS
Jul 1948	J.C. LORD MBE	GREN GDS
May 1955	W.L.A. NASH	GREN GDS
Mar 1956	J.C. LORD MVO.MBE	GREN GDS
Aug 1963	C.H. PHILLIPS MBE	WG
Dec 1970	R.P. HUGGINS MBE	GREN GDS
Feb 1980	D.P. CLEARY MBE	IG
Sep 1987	M. NESBITT	GREN GDS
Aug 1993	D.L. COX	GREN GDS
Jul 1994	R.D. McCORMACK	COLDM GDS
Apr 1997	A.J. CRAWFORD MBE	SG
Apr 2000	R. CONVERY	SG
Dec 2002	M. GAUNT OBE	GREN GDS
Aug 2005	S. NICHOLS MBE	IG
Aug 2007	P.J. CARR	COLDM GDS
Apr 2010	R.A. MARTIN	IG
Dec 2011	A.J. STOKES	COLDM GDS
Dec 2013	G.J. HAUGHTON	GREN GDS
Apr 2015	D.S. MACPHEE	SG
Apr 2017	C.A. TAYLOR	WG

The first ever Welsh Guards Academy Sergeant Major was WO1 CH Phillips MBE in 1963, a post he held for seven years taking over from the famous WO1 JC Lord MVO MBE.

**ACADEMY SERGEANT MAJOR (Aug 1963- Dec1970) WO1 (AcSM) H.C. PHILLIPS MBE, MVO**

Sergeant Major Horace Cyril "Phil" Phillips MBE, MVO, Welsh Guards, former Academy Sergeant-major of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, died on Christmas Day aged 76. He was born on 27 March 1916. The Duke of Kent, King Hussain of Jordan, nine foreign princes, two sultans and a sheikh were among the 6,000 cadets trained by Phil Phillips. When he marched off the parade ground at Sandhurst for the last time,



as Academy Sergeant Major the most Senior Sergeant-Major in the army it could truly be said that he had moulded a new generation of young officers.

Phillips himself belonged to a new generation of Sergeant-Majors though he

might not have looked it. Well over six foot and weighing 14 stone, a former guards light-heavyweight boxing champion, he appeared every inch the traditional RSM as he towered over his charges on the square, his boots and brasses outshining their own. He believed in the virtues of drill, if only to teach soldiers how to react to a command, and he cultivated a resonant bellow to go with it. He argued that it was no use calling "Fire" on the battlefield if the men had to shout back "What" He was horrified on a visit to West Point to find the drill instructors using megaphones. Underneath, however, Phillips was a gentle giant who never swore at or bullied his recruits. He thought seriously about his work and responsibilities. He read widely on politics and current affairs and advised all his cadets to do the same. Before being posted with his regiment overseas, he would spend days studying the local traditions.

Phillips was born at Chepstow, Gwent into an army family. His father had served in both the Boer War and the First World War and although young Phil trained as a butcher on leaving school, his ambition was always to sign on with the Welsh Guards. He did so in 1934 and after his first spell of public duties in London, mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, he went with his battalion to Gibraltar. When war broke out, it became the first unit of the British Expeditionary Force, sailing to Marseilles by battleship then travelling north by train. Phillips was captured near Arras, however, during the Dunkirk retreat and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Poland, in Stalag 383.

The Germans started moving their prisoners West to escape from the advancing Russians in 1945 and Phillips was one of a group who wrestled

control from the SS shortly before they were liberated by the Americans. He then volunteered to return to active service and was about to be drafted to the Far East when Japan surrendered. Instead he went with the Welsh Guards to Palestine and on return took part in the first trooping of the colour since the war. The escort to the colour was provided by the Welsh Guards 1st Battalion's Prince of Wales Company with Phillips as the Company Sergeant-Major. After postings in West Germany and Berlin he took part in the 1953 coronation, then went on his first tour of duty at Sandhurst, as Regimental Sergeant Major of Old College, one of the three constituent parts of the Academy.

He was seconded to the King's African Rifles in East Africa, then in the early 1960s returned to Sandhurst as Academy Sergeant-Major in succession to the legendary John Lord. Colleagues warned him that Lord would be a difficult act to follow, especially as Phillips was the first Welsh Guardsman to the job, following a long line of Grenadiers. But when Phillips retired in December 1970, marching up Old College steps after the Sovereign's Parade, while the band played "Auld Land Syne" he had carved out his own place in Sandhurst history. The army said at the time that had he accepted the chance of a commission he would probably have become a Lieutenant-Colonel. But he argued that while there were many lieutenant-colonels, there was only one Academy Sergeant-Major.

On retirement he was offered the post of senior messenger Sergeant-Major of the Queen's Bodyguard, twinned with that of superintendent of St. James's Palace. The first involved organising the 66 man Body Guard as its only permanent



official and parading with them in Tudor uniform and white ruff. Already the veteran of King George V's Silver Jubilee, George VI's funeral and eight trooping of the colour, he now added a succession of state occasions, including the Prince of Wales's wedding and the annual state opening of Parliament. One of his last parades marked The Body Guard's 500th anniversary. His other job consisted of running St James's Palace and state apartments and brought with it his own apartment at the palace; after fifteen years he finally retired to his native Wales. Phil Phillips was a notable rugby player in his youth, turning out as flanker for Newport, London Welsh and the army and for the Welsh Guards when they won the army cup after the war. In retirement he still played golf and worked for his local church and army charities.

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John Phillips, the son of Phil Phillips was delighted to hear that the second ever Welsh Guard was selected for the appointment and immediately contacted the Regiment to pass on his congratulations. Regimental Headquarters then established a link between the Welsh Guards, staff at the

Royal Military Academy and the Phillips family to arrange a suitable time to meet up. The occasion was set, all in attendance witnessed the Commandants Parade on the 9 Aug 2017 with the most spectacular of weather conditions. The rain was such that it produced many streams running from the iconic Old College down towards the Kings walk, but still the parade went on and shined throughout the day. Immediately after the parade assembled in the Lord Room for a private luncheon were all Welsh Guards at the Academy, the Phillips family and Regimental Headquarters represented. John Phillips presented the Academy Sergeant Major with his father's cufflinks; these will now be passed on to the next Welsh Guard Academy Sergeant Major.

I was now in the hot seat, after adjusting my new office and clearing out the morning emails I started to get to grips with the task ahead, for me as a Welsh Guard, it was to follow on the standards set not only by my predecessor but to put Welsh Guards back on the AcSM map. My calendar was always opened on the Commandants, the Commander's and the Academy Adjutant's, all of

which were full including my own. Each 14-week term is incredibly busy and the first job was to plan ahead and see where I could add most value. The good news is that the training programme is pretty much set in stone, the difference being the visits both internal and external.

The Sandhurst Group isn't just the Royal Military Academy, it is also the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) based in Westbury, the Officer Training Corps (OTCs') of which there are 19 in the UK, and finally the Sandhurst Trust.

The Academy also isn't just the 44 week Commissioning Course (CC), but Professionally Qualified Officers' Course (PQO) both with their Reserve equivalent, the Instructors Cadre, the Late Entry Officers' Course, the Leadership Development Course (LDC) and many other pre courses, look at life and Leadership Speaker Series with the Centre for Army Leadership (CAL)

### Exercise Visits

The aim was to visit as much as possible and steady the ever-changing ship of leadership as we moved away from the Afghanistan and Iraq way of fighting, to that

of a conventional war. Back to basics was the message, my greatest challenge was changing the mindset of Instructors with experience of only Insurgency Warfare. The message was to train OCdts in leadership using the infantry as a tool, we most definitely were not training them to be infantry Platoon Commanders, there is need to look at a problem and solve it using their thought process and the estimate, providing different courses of action and deductions to produce a workable solution. It was absolutely imperative that the Command element visited the exercises for all courses to balance the standards across the Academy and feed in areas that require sustaining or improving. I was often coming off one visit with the Commandant onto a visit with the Commander, on arrival we were always armed with a reading pack and a specific purpose to provide evidence for change if required, rumours can get out of hand at a rapid speed, in this environment it was essential that they were clarified at the earliest opportunity. These exercise visits also offered a time to catch up as each of the key personnel in Group HQ's were often spread to the winds.

**High Profile Visits**

Sandhurst is an incredibly historic and prestigious establishment and it is not surprising that it attracts high profile visits that can become huge operations, as AcSM you are the experience and sounding board with a reality filter to the planning process, not just liaising with Royal offices, Heads of State representatives and security protocols but advising on what looks good if a ceremonial element is included, and the organisation of forces. For me, it was to protect the reputation and enforce the standards expected in the Academy. We have had the President of the United States of America (POTUS), Donald Trump, the Prime Minister Theresa May and President Emmanuel Macron during the UK-French Bilateral Meetings, the Secretary State for Defence Gavin Williams for Defence

Engagement. The CAL (Centre for Army Leadership) Speaker Series lectures attract many other famous people in sport, and business from all over the world, other attractions include the Kermit Roosevelt Lectures, CGS's conference and the RSMs' conference. Throughout all these as the AcSM you are expected to grip, educate and remind anyone that falls below the standards expected of them at the Academy.

Sandhurst has also been a launch pad for all sorts of military initiatives and to promote certain areas with such a prestigious background, these include 'The Ice Maidens', Women 100, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), LGBT, Children in Need, and many more charities. As the AcSM you are there with the Comdt, Comd and AcAdjt to support and control these events.



**The Sovereign's Parade**

At the end of 44 weeks training, around 260 OCdts are ready to commission, Ex Dynamic Victory is complete, and all preparation for the final two weeks is towards the Sovereign's Parade. The Comdts Prize Giving announces who the winning platoon is (The Sovereign's Platoon) from the results of the Sovereign's Banner Competition. All other prizes are nominated via a Prize Board in which the Comdt, the Comd, the Ac Adjt the AcSM and around 5 others sit. During the final exercise the Comdt has the final say on the Sword of Honour and the AcSM recommends the International Sword of Honour. The AcSM also represents and presents the Army Benevolent Fund

(ABF) shield.

The Senior term will commission carrying swords on parade whilst the Intermediate and Junior terms will support carrying rifles. Her Majesty invites other Heads of State and representatives to deputise in her absence. The AcSM is directly responsible for the standards of the parade. In the 6 parades in my time I was lucky enough to have the following Sovereign's Representatives:

- HM King Abdullah II of Jordan
- HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge KG KT PC ADC
- HRH Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex KCVO ADC
- Prime Minister Theresa May





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Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Nick Carter GCB CBE DSO ADC Gen

Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE ADC Gen

The parade itself occurs three times a year and contains approx 650 OCdts and Staff on parade, marching around in slow and quick time. I was lucky enough to have two quality College Regimental Sergeant Majors to do the groundwork and assist on the finishing touches. WO1 Scott McFadden SCOTS, was my Old College RSM, in charge of Junior term

and WO1 Michael Ridgeway-Buckley WG as my New College RSM in charge of Intermediate and Senior term.

**Mess Life**

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Mess life was



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enjoyable there were seventeen WO1s' in the Academy as well as nineteen RSMs' at OTCs', together we formed what are called 'The Lords' after the legendary Jackie Lord, and the WO2s' were called 'The Jugglers' after their ability to juggle manpower and training programme changes. All Lords will have a meeting prior to the Mess meeting to discuss Mess business, they are my sounding board. The mess was a place that was old and dated, we managed to allocate small projects out to the teams transforming the garden, front doors, generally deep cleaning the mess and renaming of accommodation block after WO1 Ray Huggins MBE who is the oldest AcSM alive today. I had a great team and mess socials were highly successful from our normal Summer and Winter Balls to a Bring a Boss' evenings inviting local traders in, Pacesticking hosting, weddings, funerals, Burns nights, St David's Day,

Christmas parties, lunches, wine and cheese nights and sporting events. All mess members were extremely busy but always made the effort to attend where possible.

We also commissioned the correct Coat of Arms onto the front of the Mess through FIRMIN & SONS Tony Kelly.

As you can tell the role of the AcSM is as varied as they come covering a tremendous amount of different tasks, responsibilities and random events, I could cover so much more but wanted to narrow it down to the remaining few moments I have enjoyed during my tenure, 'The Freedom of Sandhurst', Pacesticking Competition, Heritage Day, Poppy Factory visits, Academy Boxing evening, Leadership visits to the National Cadet Training Centre, looking after the odd celebrity and of course playing Santa.



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**Finally**

Always look after your family and this was something that the Welsh Guards do best, from linking back into history uniting AcSM Phillips's family to celebrating St David's Day or just watching each other's back.

I have been immensely proud of representing the Welsh Guards and I will never forget the most amazing two years in my army career, for those of you thinking of going to Sandhurst I would very much like to hand over the 'Phillips Cufflink's to the future Welsh Guard AcSM, my advice would be go for it and throw all your energy into every opportunity. The Staff that I have worked with are at the top of their game and you can still learn a great deal from anyone as much as they learn from you.

**ACADEMY  
SERGEANT MAJOR  
(Apr 2017-Apr 2019)**

**WO1 (AcSM)  
C A TAYLOR**

his first tour to Crossmaglen, South Armagh, NI in 1997 as a member of The Prince of Wales's Company, and then performed his first major ceremonial duty as Pall Bearer for the funeral of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales.

He promoted to LCpl in 1999 and deployed to Ex Trumpet Dance in America, after passing a Jungle Warfare Instructors Course in Brunei in 2000, he went on to train his unit in Belize. He passed the Section Commanders Battle Course (SCBC) in Brecon, promoted to LSgt and instructed at the Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright until 2002. On return to the Battalion he joined Support Company and deployed to Londonderry, Northern Ireland for 2 years as a Close Observation Platoon Team Commander and Covert Search Team Commander.

In 2004 he promoted to Platoon Sergeant after passing the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course (PSBC) with a distinction and deployed on Op TELIC 5, Old State Buildings, Basrah, Iraq, where he was also the Search Team Commander for The Prince of Wales's Company. He was posted to instruct at the Household Division and Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPCC) preparing JNCO's, SNCO's and Officers for career courses before returning to Battalion as CQMS of Number Two Company. He completed the selection cadre and was posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) as a CSgt Instructor in 2008 and on early return due to promotion, deployed with the Battalion to Shawqat, Nad e Ali, on Op HERRICK 10 as Operations Warrant Officer (OPSWO). He was then appointed as CSM Number Three Company where he deployed to the Falklands as the Falkland Island Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) then to Helmand on Op HERRICK 16,



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The Academy Sergeant Major joined the Army in 1996, he completed his phase 1 training in Pirbright, Surrey, awarded 'Best at Physical Training', and phase 2 in ITC Catterick. He then moved to Wellington Barracks in London where he joined the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in Support Company as a Mortarman. Within a few months he deployed on



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initially as a ground holding unit attached to Royal Anglian Regiment, then selected into the role of Brigade Operations Company Sergeant Major. Lt Col Llewelyn Usher at the time was the Company Commander.

He was posted again to RMAS as Company Sergeant Major in 2012, promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in Oct 2014 and posted to Jordan for 2 years as a Ceremonial Advisor to the Royal Court, planning and executing the Great Arab Revolt Parade encompassing 1700 soldiers, musicians, horses and camels. On return he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and in 2016 he was selected for a Late Entry (LE) Commission and appointed with the role as Academy Sergeant Major of the Sandhurst Group.

The Academy Sergeant Major was born in Cardiff, he is the eldest of 4 brothers, married to Tracey and has a son, Dylan (20). His passion is Rugby, Squash and keeping fit, he

generally enjoys all sports. His hobbies include DIY, camping, fishing, and of course Drill.

I will finish with three final photos which are my favourite, from carrying Lady Diana's coffin as a Gdsm in 1997 to becoming the AcSM in 2017 and marching up those steps carrying a sword to commission into the Welsh Guards as a Late Entry Officer. I can not go without a huge thank you to John Brumage of Churchill Hall, he is the custodian of one of the biggest conference venues in the army and of course he let me on his prize possession, the Royal Enfield. Thank you to everyone that supported me during my tenure.

If you are not making someone else's life better, then you are wasting yours

Cymru Am Byth

**'Soldiers are the most powerful weapon you could ever wish for, like any weapon system, if you understand how they operate, look after them, and point them in the right direction they will never let you down'**



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1. Academy Sergeant Major speaking to Company Staff on Exercise Templars Triumph
2. AcSM H.C Phillips
3. Welsh Guards and Phillips family at the Grand Entrance.
4. Visit of the Prime Minister Theresa May
5. Visit of the Secretary State for Defence Gavin Williams
6. Academy Sergeant Major with Dame Kelly Holmes DBE Honorary Colonel of the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment
7. Academy Sergeant Major presenting the ABF shield
8. HM King Abdullah II meeting the Academy Sergeant Major
9. Inspection
10. Family Photo of HRH Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex KCVO ADC
11. Family Photo of Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Mark Carleton-Smith KCB CBE ADC Gen
12. New College RSM, AcSM, Old College RSM
13. AcSM with the new correct Coat of Arms and FIRMINS' Tony Kelly
14. AcSM with Mr Ray Huggins MBE (AcSM Dec 1970-Feb 1980) renaming the Annex 'The Huggins Block'
15. Heritage Day
16. Academy Boxing evening with Mr Ray Huggins MBE
17. AcSM with Tom Hardy
18. AcSM with Lt Col Alun Bowen
19. Welsh Guards Staff at Sandhurst 2018
20. AcSM C.A. Taylor
21. Funeral of Lady Diana 1997
22. AcSM marching up the steps Apr 19
23. AcSM on a Royal Enfield



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### The German Armed Forces Staff College

By Major AJH Dunlop, Welsh Guards

Now that my time at the German Armed Forces Staff College (GAFSC) or Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (FüAk) in Hamburg has come to a close, I look back over the last two and a half years with fond memories and how my experiences as a junior officer led me down this path.

After two tours to Afghanistan working with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), an assignment at the Joint Readiness Training Centre, Ft Polk, Louisiana (JRTC) and a handful of short-term exchange assignments, I have developed a taste for working overseas and/or in a multinational environment. Once I beigned and caught sight of the jobs list, I zeroed in on the available overseas staff courses. Fortunately for me the American Staff Course and GAFSC were available and I was selected for the latter.

The road to the FüAk began at the Defence Culture and Language Centre (DCLC) at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham. My time at Shrivenham was both extremely useful and detrimental to my preparation for life in Hamburg. The German lessons in DCLC were good enough to get a complete novice such as myself up to a level beyond supermarket German, however it didn't really prepare me for working and talking in German on a daily basis. Maybe the fact that



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I was accommodated with the guys on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course Land ICSC(L) had an adverse effect on my preparation? I did spend many nights catching up with friends in the Mess and 'Scruffs' bar instead of doing my homework! When we were diligent, it was rather funny comparing homework in the evenings, as the ICSC(L) guys were often busy writing papers at the operational or strategic level, whilst I was struggling with writing a one pager in German about my family and where I live!

The language course finished in August 2017 and we swapped our married quarter in West Byfleet for a terraced house in a small town called Halstenbek, just 10 miles north of Hamburg. We lived in a German housing estate with the four other British officers working at the FÜAk. In total there are four British students

at the Akademie at any one time, plus the British Liaison Officer.

The FÜAk is located in the wealthiest residential district of Hamburg called Blankenese and lies on the North bank of the Elbe river. The Elbe is the main artery of the Hanseatic city and as the third largest port in Europe it is constantly congested with large container shipping. In addition to being a member of the Hanseatic League, Hamburg is more recently better known for the Reeperbahn in the St Pauli district and is a top destination for British Stag parties! It is also the city where The Beatles launched their international stardom playing at many of the Reeperbahn clubs.

The FÜAk is the premier higher education Academy of the German Armed Forces. There are some 80 courses run out of the FÜAk and I was enrolled

on the Lehrgang General- / Admiralstabsdienst National (LGAN) or General and Admiral Staff course. It is the German equivalent of the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC) and is considered the most prestigious course run at the Akademie. It has been conducted on a joint basis since 2004; before then the course was run in Hamburg, but on a single Service basis. Each LGAN is attended by approximately 90 students and although it is known as the national course it is open to International students from within NATO/EU countries and the Swiss. I was one of two Brits among 18 other international participants. My British counterpart was a logistics Wing Commander from the RAF.

During the initial 12 weeks the internationals were separated from our German counterparts and conducted an international students programme, which involved cultural visits, and learning the German Leadership and Decision-Making Process, (Führungs/ Entscheidungsprozess). The 12-week period finished with four weeks of extended German language training. Throughout this first stage the Germans spent the 12 Weeks either learning French or English.

After the initial 12-week programme we assembled into our six syndicates, known as Hörsaal. Each Hörsaal had equal representation from across the services and internationals. My Hörsaal had a Danish Naval officer, Canadian Infantry officer and a Swiss Army Signals officer. Apart from the Swiss guy we all preferred switching to English at every opportunity which was great for me, especially at the beginning of the course

as I had to come to terms with all the different dialects and the speed in which the Germans spoke. During the first several months I went through several notebooks scribbling down every new word I came across and its English translation. I followed people around cluelessly and hoped I was going in the right direction. At times the less rigid German colleagues would take pity on me and break into English to help me out on what was expected of me for that day/week. During this period I had a flashback to Sandhurst and Brecon and thought about all the foreign officers who attended those courses. I remembered the patience I struggled to maintain at times with the internationals and hoped they found me approachable and charitable with my time. I had this reflection as I pleaded to the Germans to afford me the same kind of support while I was finding my feet around the FüAk.

I was definitely thrown in at the deep end in terms of the level of German being delivered in lectures and seminars. Rather than start with military centric topics, which would have suited me better, the LGAN started with several modules focused on ethics, law, media, sociology, theology and their connection/relationships with the Bundeswehr. Within these modules you could select different classes to attend. I initially selected classes where my interests lay, for example a module which focused on the presence of evil in the world today and how military forces are used to combat the presence of evil within state and non-state actors. I soon realised after selecting modules like this my German wasn't prepared for the deep and complex discussions that fell out from the lectures. So I balanced these with less

demanding modules such as 'Krieg im Kino' where a military professor had us watch war films to spark discussions about military leadership models and the German decision making process.

At the start of the second year we moved into the single service phase, which lasted 6 months. The idea behind this was to get all of us to the required standard of staff work expected at the FüAk within the comfort zone of our own service. This would then prepare us for the combined and joint command exercises played out during the final few months of the course. The Army participants were broken down into

3 syndicates and we conducted several exercises receiving multiple command appointments within either a Brigade, Division or Corps Headquarters. The scenarios were all very similar with us reacting to a NATO article 5 incident and being deployed as either the Follow-on-Forces Group (FFG), Land Component Command (LCC), or the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The generic background to these exercises were of an advisory nation laying claim to resource rich territory over an internationally recognised border (IRB) and conducting aggressive action to seize control of the area. NATO would then deploy forces





to help restore the IRB and stop the aggressor from destabilising the region, a region that could well supply valuable natural resources to many western countries.

This portion of the course played to many of the internationals strengths as the large majority of us had more operational experience than our German colleagues. Although side-bar conversations and things like Course of Action (COA) development were conducted in German, there was an added bonus in this phase that all formal staff work, meetings and briefings were produced in English. This led to myself and the Americans suddenly becoming the thrusting Germans best friends and we were no longer kept in the peripheral zone. Having said that, what the Germans lacked in operational experience, they made up for

in their productivity within the headquarters, producing high quality staff work in a timely manner that ensured orders reached their subordinate force elements well within the 1/3 - 2/3 rule.

The final phase of the course saw us moving from the operational level to the strategic level and being introduced to the Comprehensive Approach and the Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD). We conducted internal and external exercises during this phase and were involved with external exercises such as the Combine Joint Exercise (CJEX), which involved the defence/staff colleges from Madrid, Shrivenham and Rome. It was fascinating to be involved in the COPD process and working with several external and international agencies all working together to

achieve the exercise mission outlined in the North Atlantic Councils (NAC) directive. It was so far from anything I had done before and gave me a better understanding on how NATO military response options (MRO) are considered, developed and then filtered down to one of the rapid reaction corps. Once the MRO had been decided the next process was to assess what force elements were required for the military response, and then the staff work would really kick in for the Corps Headquarters. It certainly highlighted the necessity and benefits of interoperability throughout NATO, however it did also highlight the challenges and frictions that come with being a multinational organisation.

Throughout the two year course we also conducted many visits to the key German Armed Forces locations,

as well as NATO and the EU. The German visits, although interesting felt like a recruiting drive. So much money was spent putting on Naval Gun fire, Eurofighter and Panzer displays in order to show off their branches and service. The purpose of the units hosting these visits was to attract as many of the German officers on the FÜAK course to apply for a job at their headquarters after reaching their FÜAk diploma. The international visits were designed to create situational awareness of the important organisations linked to NATO and European military structures. The highlight being the two week visit to the United States, visiting such places as the UN headquarters in New York and the National Defense University in Washington DC. They were also great excuses to do some sightseeing and sample the local beer and wine.



Overall my two years in Hamburg was a fantastic and enjoyable experience. I was given the opportunity to learn a language and be exposed to staff work in an international environment. The social side of being on the course was also first rate. The evenings such as Tag der Regionen (Day of the Regions) and Tag der Nationen (Day of Nations) were great organised events. Food and alcohol were supplied from all the regions in German and then on Tag der Nationen the internationals were able to show off their countries in the same manner. Naturally our

British stand had a stronger Welsh influence over the other three home nations! There were also terrific opportunities to discover Germany and wider Europe on weekends and during leave.

I would recommend the FüAk to anyone who is in their elevated reporting period to promote to Major. You will be out of your comfort zone initially or perhaps for the duration of the course, however you will take away many more positives that will no doubt benefit you later in your career.

1. *Main lecture theatre at the FüAk. We would often assemble here in all our Service Dress for centralised Briefs before starting an exercise or breaking down into syndicate discussions.*
2. *Receiving my diploma for completing LGAN 17, presented by Inspector General of the German Armed Forces, General Eberhard Zorn and the Commander of the FüAk, Generalmajor Oliver Kohl.*
3. *Hörsaal 1 and 2. One of our many visits to industries in Germany, the Airbus Headquarters on the Elbe River.*
4. *Finish line of the 24hrs Hamburg 100km Mega Marsch 2019. Three finishers from the LGAN team*
5. *Tag der Nationen (Day of Nations). Uncle Sam and his wife leaving the American stand to grab a photo opportunity and eat a scone!*
6. *My Hörsaal during our visit to the Gebirgsjägerbrigade 23, Bad Reichenhall in Northern Alps, Bavaria*
7. *Post UN visit we had the opportunity to visit the Empire State Building, which is free for military in uniform.*



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### Home Coming Parade

by Capt M McNeill Love, Second in Command Number 3 Company

**O**n Wednesday 20th February 2019 1st Battalion Welsh Guards took part in a Homecoming Parade in Cardiff.

Forming up inside the grounds of Cardiff Castle at 1200 for an inspection by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councilor Dianne Rees, prior to marching around the city centre, led by Regimental Band and then back around in front of the castle for an "Eyes Right" to the Lord Mayor before attending a reception at Cardiff Arms Park.

The Battalion has recently completed an eight-months tour of Afghanistan as part of Op TORAL, the British Army's contribution to NATO's mission in Afghanistan, called Operation Resolute Support.

As the Welsh Regiment of Her Majesty's Foot Guards, we are always delighted to return to our roots and, where possible, we never miss an opportunity to do so. We always receive a tremendously warm welcome throughout Wales and of course when we parade through the capital, where we were honoured to receive the Freedom of the City in 1957. Being home in Wales always means so much to all Guardsmen and, wherever we are deployed around the world, it remains at the very heart of all we do.

We deployed back to Afghanistan for busy eight-

months tour of Kabul in 2018. The Battalion capitalised on its core role of protecting NATO's partnering and mentoring force during an unpredictable period of the Afghan Parliamentary elections and political offers of reconciliation. In doing so, the Welsh Guards Battle Group bridged the gap between the withdrawal of US troops and the strategic uplift from about 650 to more than 1,000 UK soldiers. We worked alongside the UK's multi-national partners with the aim of constructing robust civil and military Afghan institutions capable of progressing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan towards reconciliation and ultimately peace.

The homecoming parade effectively closes the Op TORAL chapter for the Battalion and marks the end of our time in 11th Infantry Brigade as a Light Mechanised Battalion. On February 27 we revert to Light Infantry under Headquarters London District, which brings a return to state ceremonial and public duties.

1. Lord Mayor of Cardiff and Maj Gen B Bathurst at the dais.
2. Sam Warburton inspects Support Company.
3. Sgt Edwards leads the markers onto the parade.
4. Maj C Davies leads the eyes right outside Cardiff Castle.



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## Gdsm Gavin Bilton 'Strongman'

by Guardsman G Bilton, Regimental Support Team (South)

**B**eing born in Caerphilly, Gdsm Gavin Bilton and rugby were a great partnership like cheese and crackers.

This gave me great opportunities from a young age to play for my local team, Caerphilly RFC, from age grade rugby to the senior team. As this kept me very fit and active a step into the Army in 2007 was a natural career move.

This led to my rugby and army career blending well and leading to some great experiences for me both on and off the pitch. Alongside two tours of Afghanistan, I had played in some big games for the Welsh Guards. In the Army for over 12 years and playing rugby for 10 years there was many highlights. These include playing for Crawshays invitational against Oxford University in 2016, winning the Amy Cup Final with the Welsh Guards twice, playing against South Wales Police in memory of Dane Elson in 2010, playing against the Royal Welsh at the Millennium Stadium in the Infantry Cup final twice, playing for Welsh Deaf Team and for London Irish A Team.

Injuries in training camp however meant I missed out on the big opportunity of playing in the Army v Navy Rugby game at Twickenham.

I have also played, over 3 years, in the Welsh Premiership for Bridgend Ravens, Newport, Swansea and Newbridge. I also played again for Caerphilly RFC at the Millennium Stadium against Amman United in the WRU National Bowl Final in 2017.

My training and fitness have always been kept to a very high standard and I visited Pencoed College to offer advice and best practice on strength and conditioning to the college

rugby team as part of my role within the Regimental Support Team (South).

It was while maintaining my training and fitness in my local gym that a stranger encouraged me to try lifting heavy weights. This stranger then turned into my coach and best friend as I embarked on a new sporting direction into strongman athletics after winning my first competition and then coming 4th in the next. This was a difficult decision between either sticking with the well-known path of rugby or jumping into a new sport. Through being in the army, dedication and commitment had become second nature and this helps create the perfect attitude when starting out as a strongman.

Since becoming a strongman athlete 2 years ago, I have gone from strength to strength (literally) and after coming 2nd in his first Wales' Strongest Man competition in 2018, I qualified for a place at the Ultimate Strongman (UK Strongest Man), coming a respectable 9th out of 16 athletes. I then teamed up with Pa O'Dwyer (the Limerick Lion), the UK Strongest Man 2018, for the Ultimate Strongman Team World Champions competing against some of the World's best strongmen. 2019 has seen my training and nutrition ramp up a notch and this has led to me coming 2nd at Wales Strongest Man 2019 and 2nd at Ultimate Strongman Wales Strongest Man. I also formed a quarter of Team Wales at the Ultimate Strongman Battle of Britain 2 helping Wales come a close runner up to Team England.



Qualifying again for Ultimate Strongman (UK Strongest Man) in 2019 I started off fast, winning my group on the first day, 3rd in my group on Day 2 and then, finishing 4th overall - after just two years of competing this is a massive achievement.

I have been invited again to compete against the World's Best Strongmen including Martin Licis - the current World's Strongest Man 2019, in Ultimate Strongman Team World as part of Team Dragons

with Mark Jeanes. They have also been chosen to launch the show a few weeks before the competition by attempting to set a new 2-man team 'Car Roll' world record of an unreal 14 rolls in 5 minutes. The Car Roll is a classic strongman test taking it in turns to pick the car up and flip it over as many times as possible - something no normal man can do.



### The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club 70th Annual Dinner

by Ed Mills, Club President

**T**he 70th Annual Club Dinner was held on Saturday 21st September 2019 at the Battalion's new home; Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

The Regimental Sergeant Major (Mike Parry 19) kindly offered the Mess to be the venue and this enabled all non-serving club members to see first-hand where the Battalion will be calling home for the next few years and also to make use of what Windsor had to offer.

For those who were keen (and not too hung over from an unofficial form up on the Friday night) there was the opportunity on the Saturday morning to watch the Guard Mount and visit Windsor castle and also have an informal tour of the new barracks. For those that just wanted to catch up with old faces the Mess was open nice and early, as were some decent public houses in Windsor.

The Battalion Quartermaster was very generous and offered accommodation for those that wanted it for both Friday and Saturday nights, which gave us all a great chance to make a proper night of it and keep the costs down. It also gave former Regimental Sergeant Major Paul Dunn the opportunity to fold his sheets in a uniformed and Guardsman like manner!

The event was well attended with just shy of 70 members in attendance with a good split of past and present members. Some members in attendance have been wearing the cap badge in and around the area of the left eye for nearly 40 years (that's nearly 40% of the history of the Regiment). With members in the room serving in the 1950's it makes the divide seem smaller between the generations than we sometimes think, with plenty of great stories relived and memories made.

We sat on round tables with no seating plan with a relaxed atmosphere that allowed us to catch up and have a good laugh. The Guest speaker for the evening was Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) DLW Bossi, Dino Bossi is widely regarded by those who served with him as a most effective and popular Commanding Officer. Dino was able to strike the balance of humour and reflection, which went down brilliantly.

Especially grateful thanks to all those who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the night such a huge success.

Looking Forward to the next one already.



**Spink Auction House  
Lot Number 577 Major Austen 'Bobby' Joyce  
Wednesday 10 April 2019**

by Lance Sergeant S Laing, Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards

**A**n email from the Assistant Regimental Adjutant back in March, drew our attention to a unique set of medals that were being auctioned at the famous Spink Auction House in Holborn.

Founded in 1666, it is one of the world's leading collectables auction house. The Medals belonged to Major Austen 'Bobby' Joyce, who had a remarkable career in the Regiment – spanning active service in Normandy in 1944 to Northern Ireland in the 1970s. He first came to prominence for his Military Medal winning deeds in March 1945, deeds that reached a wider audience on the front and back pages of The Victor comic some 30 years later (8 July 1972); the comic's colourful depiction of his gallant actions included a scene of him lobbing a grenade into a Spandau position captioned "Share that with your mates, Fritz"!

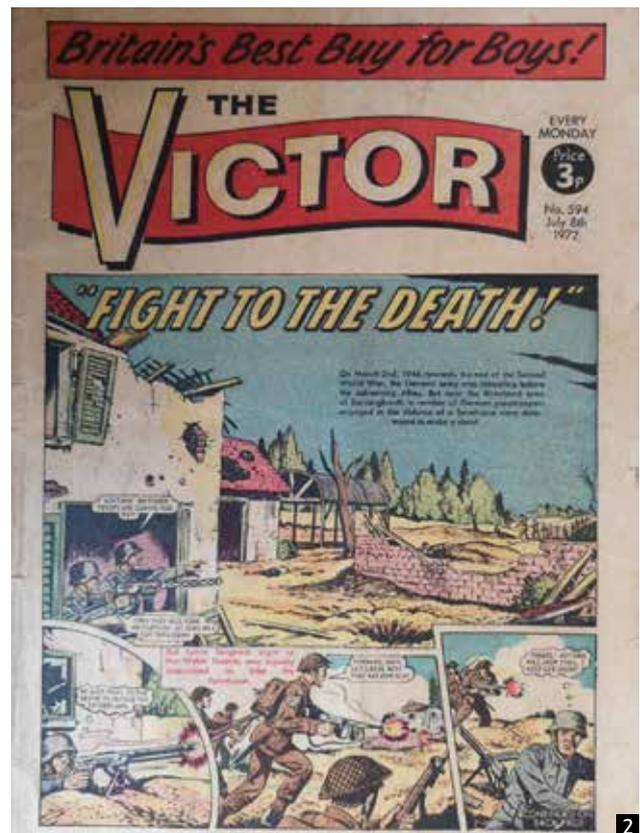
Austen Peter Joyce was born in Wakefield, West Yorkshire in November 1923 and originally enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment in March 1942. He was believed to have served in the Pacific before transferring to the Welsh Guards in 1943. He was posted to the 1st Battalion where he was made a Non-Commissioned Officer – a subject of rapid promotion. At the age of 19, he came ashore at Normandy in June 1944 and played his part in the Battalion's hard-fought contribution to the campaign in North West Europe. After the War, he was stationed in Palestine and later served in Japan (where he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his valuable services in support of the operations in Korea), Germany (commanding the 'Old Guard' to Rudolf Hess at Spandau Prison), the Arabian

Peninsula (1956-1960) and Northern Ireland. He was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1952 for his services to the Guards' Depot in Pirbright. He was Commissioned in May 1963 and completed his service as a Major (QM). All in all, a pretty distinguished career.

So, as you can imagine, when the opportunity came up to keep these medals within the Regiment, we had to at least try to purchase them. The Regimental Trustees unanimously agreed to this and, due to the Regimental Adjutant and Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant both being unavailable, I was tasked with going to the auction to bid on behalf of the Regiment! Now, my knowledge of auctions and the tactics behind bidding matches my wife's knowledge of the offside law; so, I frantically read different websites to try and gain the basic idea of what happens and how I should not bid too much too soon (nor scratch my nose at the wrong time)! When I arrived at Spink, all my fears of a packed room full of experienced bidders and collectors, went. At most, there were no more than ten people in the room – not including the auctioneers. As I sat through 576 lots, my tension augmented. The bidding for this Regimental legend's medals, Warrants and other personal items was over in a matter of two minutes. I felt quite humble knowing that I had secured such valuable items that belonged to someone that had done so much.



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Since the medals were purchased, they have been expertly framed by Captain (Retd) David Archibald, a former Scots Guards Assistant Regimental Adjutant, and now proudly adorn the wall of the Sergeants' Mess as an inspiration to the current generation.



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1. The outstanding post-war MBE, Second World War North-West Europe operations [immediate] MM and Japan BEM group awarded to Major (QM) A P 'Bobby' Joyce, Welsh Guards.
2. Victor Comic cover No.594 dated 8th July 1972.
3. WO2 AP Joyce, Berlin 1953.



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## Lake Geneva Classique Adventure Swim

By Lieutenant E Scott-Bowden, Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company

**2** Platoon The Prince of Wales Company know my passion for swimming as it was whilst deployed on operation TORAL that I signed up for the Lake Geneva La Classique 13-kilometre swim across Lake Geneva, starting from Lausanne, Switzerland and finishing in Evian-les-Bains, France.

With the date set, the training began. My team comprised myself and 4 friends from university. We set to and began to clog up the local swimming pools and lakes. Being based down in Pirbright, I became a regular at the murky lake of Mytchett; an unforgiving patch of water with some not so friendly swans which made my mornings slightly more adrenaline filled than most as I completed my 750m lap.

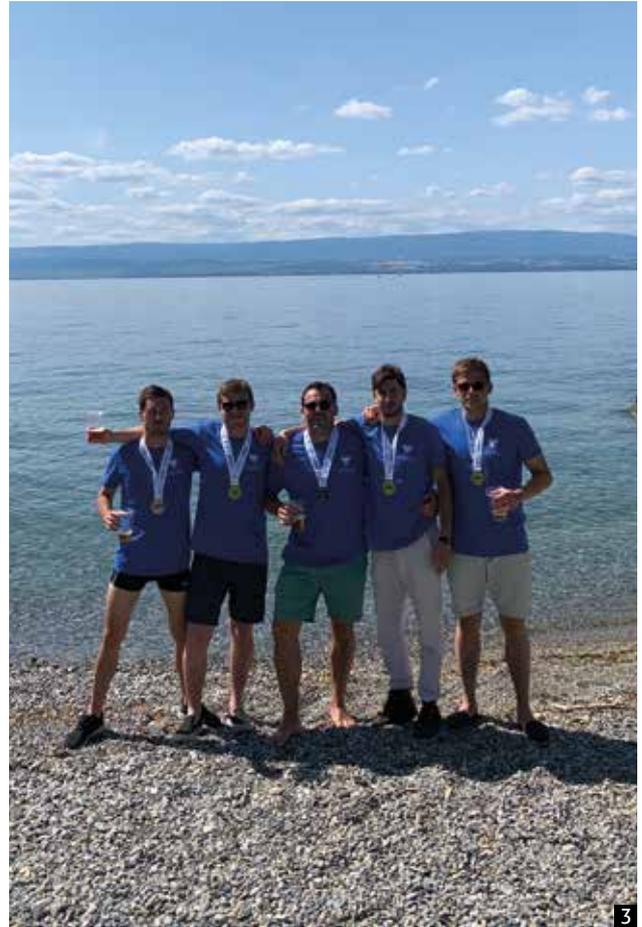
The day before the event we all rendezvoused at the beautiful town of Evian-les-

Bains, our home for the night. Enjoying lunch at a restaurant overlooking the lake the enormity of the crossing began to dawn on us. From where we were sitting, we could barely make out Lausanne, our start-point on the other side.

Reveille was 0445hrs as we had to be in the start points in Switzerland for the event at 0730hrs. Having breakfasted we caught the ferry to transport us to the other side. The ferry seemed to move at a rate of knots but still took 45 minutes to cross the lake. We



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all wondered if this was such a good idea after all!

Once at the start line the nervous banter started with the other race competitors. The common question of how far we had swum prior to now. None of us had completed anything over 10km and so seriously started to doubt if we had trained enough.

We completed our registration as part of the third wave of swimmers, did our final warm up and then rather apprehensively moved onto the pontoon ready for the start.

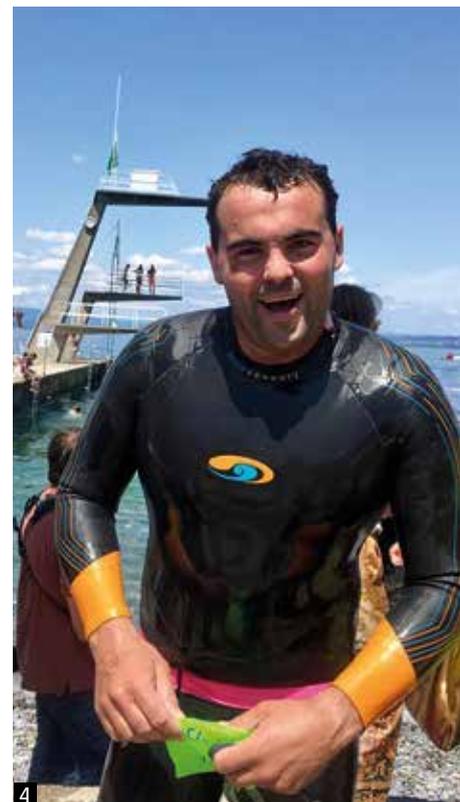
Once we set off chaos ensued, and I regretted positioning myself in the middle of the pack. With my head down and trying to find my rhythm I was constantly being kicked in the face with my goggles being knocked and my eyes filling

with the grey water of Lake Geneva. Frustrated I decided to power on and so started much quicker than I had planned. After the first hour I was out in front of my wave and making good headway. I would later regret this hasty start and as at the 4-hour mark approached I hit the proverbial wall. With no safety boats in sight and the murmurings of cramp settling in my pace dropped dramatically. Finally making it to a safety boat I gulped down some gels and plenty of water and with the finish line looming in the distance started making my way towards France.

After swimming for a total of 4:27 hrs I had made it across Lake Geneva. Reaching the other side wasn't as glamorous as I had envisaged and as when I attempted to stand up my legs stopped working so I rather waddled out onto dry land.

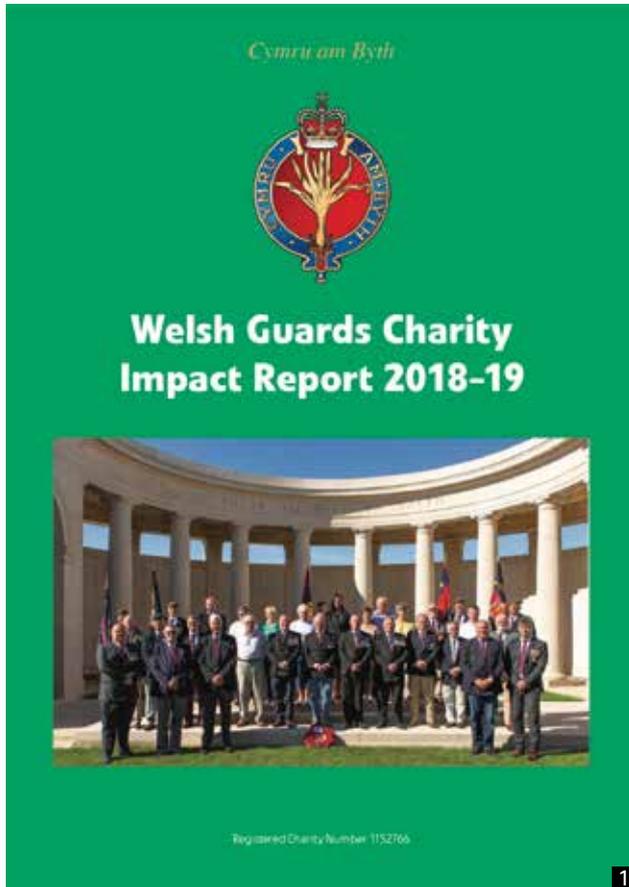
Once all my friends had made it across, we went to the eagerly awaited Pizza party put on by the event organisers. With the sun setting the feat of the task we had just completed set in. In total we raised £1,658.90 for the Welsh Guards Charity and a very sincere thank you goes to fellow friends and swimmers Will Mogoseanu, Henry Quinlan, Tom Harding and Ben Palmer for agreeing to raise money for such a worthwhile cause.

1. *Crossing Lake Geneva before conducting the race.*
2. *Lt Scott-Bowden supporting his Jam Boy clothing just before heading to the start line.*
3. *Finishers photo with some well earned refreshments.*
4. *Lt Scott-Bowden at the finish line.*



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# REGIMENTAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING, WELFARE AND REGIMENTAL VETERANS



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## The Welsh Guards Charity and Regimental Veterans Officer

by Jiffy Myers MBE

### The Welsh Guards Charity

During this reporting period, the Welsh Guards Charity has received 78 requests for financial assistance. Over £13,000 has been paid out in individual welfare grants to directly support our serving Soldiers, Veterans and their families.

Some examples of how the Welsh Guards Charity has provided support with grants are as follows:

- Heating oil and refrigerator for an elderly Veteran in need.
- Archery equipment for a disabled Veteran.
- Purchase of an EPV (Electric powered vehicle) for several disabled Veterans.
- Replacement carpets for a Veteran in need.
- Clothing for a Veteran on his release from prison.
- White and brown goods for several Veterans in need, moving into a new home.
- Children's beds and furniture.
- Children's disability equipment support.
- Priority Debts.
- Cooker for a Spouse

moving into a new home.

- Funeral travel under exceptional circumstances.
- Riser chair for a disabled Veteran.
- Children's clothing.
- Rental bonds.
- Sports equipment for Veterans with mental health issues.

The above examples are just a few of the cases that are dealt with "behind the scenes". They are all treated with the strictest of confidence. Independent assessments are carried out, in most cases, by SSAFA Caseworkers. The Welsh Guards Charity provides support alongside other service charities including the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF), The Royal British Legion (RBL) and Help for Heroes (H4H).

The Welsh Guards Charity website provides up to date information on the various aspects of the Charity's work, including; How support is provided to the Battalion, Band, Association and museum. The work of the Regimental Veterans Officer and details on how money is and can be raised is also provided. For those who are still serving, the "Service Days Pay Giving" scheme is



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explained, with examples. Each year a Charity Impact Statement is compiled and published on the website for all to read. This report gives and in-depth review on the Charity's support throughout the year.

**The Regimental Veterans Officer**

Over the past 12 months, I have conducted over 155 home or hospital visits and meetings in support of Welsh Guardsmen and our bereaved families.

This year I have also started a Regimental Walk for Serving Soldiers, Veterans and families to meet up in a different venue. A separate article is including in this magazine.

Most of the referrals that I

receive come from fellow Welsh Guardsmen, both serving and Veteran, and family members who are concerned. All visits are arranged at the convenience of the individual. Some visits are just a friendly chat and update on events etc whilst others require me to refer individuals for special medical treatment or counselling. I will only refer if the individual wants me too. The service I provide is confidential. I am not a serving soldier but a Veteran Welsh Guardsman and so work outside of the formal military Chain of Command whilst having access to areas others might not.

Most of the Welsh Guardsmen that I visit do not have any physical injury. The most common issues are related

to mental health. There are Veterans services available which I can refer to, if wanted.

**The most important thing to do is to talk to someone**

If you know of someone who maybe in need of some support, please let me know. There are fellow Welsh Guardsmen alive today because someone spoke up for them.

**You can contact me on:**

**mobile: 07456 985729**

**Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers**

**Twitter: @jiffymyers90**

**WhatsApp: 07456 985729**

**Website: www.welshguardscharity.co.uk**

1. Charity Impact Report
2. The RVO visiting Adam Hobbs at his home
3. A Welsh Guards Charity Fundraising presentation
4. The RVO visiting Danny McLaughlan after receiving a grant from the Welsh Guards Charity
5. Adam Hobbs and Samantha Hobbs attending a Royal Garden Party arranged by the Welsh Guards Association
6. Carl Thomas being visited at his home by the RVO.



**Welsh Guards Charity  
Fund Raising Lunch The Harrow,  
Little Bedwyn  
10 July 2019**

by Colonel T C S Bonas, Regimental Adjutant



On 10 July serving and former officers of the Regiment, members of the Drapers Company, members of staff from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and a strong cohort from our Friends of the Regiment, gathered at the Harrow in Little Bedwyn near Marlborough for a Welsh Guards Charity Fund raising lunch specifically to establish a fighting fund for the creation of the Welsh Guards Experience (Museum) in Cardiff Castle.



Thanks to Roger and Sue Jones, who own and run this fabulous restaurant, we were all treated to the most delicious 8 course lunch with superb wines to match preceded by a champagne reception. The lunch was held in a beautiful marquee in the garden and it was a perfect setting and sunshine to boot. Roger and Sue's kindness and generosity meant that we were able to raise over £5,000 from the lunch alone. But with pledges and the auction, this went up to over £20,000, a not insignificant sum with only 56 attending the lunch, the capacity for the marquee.

Drama and Music. Both added massively to the lunch and the music and songs perfect for the occasion.

Not surprisingly, a considerable amount of work had been done for the lunch. Our thanks must go to Roger and Sue Jones without whom we could not have held the lunch. Colonel Alan Peterson, Maggie Peterson and Hywel Peterson who, once again, put their resources and organisational skills behind the event, underwriting many of the costs of the day, donating auction prizes and buying them as well. Thanks also to the many who came to the lunch and supported the Charity.



Aside from the incredible lunch, we were all entertained by a superb dance band from the Regimental Band and a brilliant trio of singers, former graduates of the College of

In short, an extremely successful day not only in terms of the enjoyment but also in the funds raised.



**Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) Debentures**

by Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM  
Assistant Regimental Adjutant

The two Debenture [1969 Issue Series 50] tickets purchased by the Regiment in 1990 expire on 3rd March 2021.

The WRU gave the Regiment the option to purchase a refundable extension of these two debenture tickets until 31 August 2050.

The Regimental Trustees unanimously agreed to take up the offer and this will ensure that two tickets continue to be made available for purchase for every Wales home game up until [at least] 2050 and that the Welsh Guards Charity can continue to provide these tickets, free of charge, to deserving serving and veteran Welsh Guardsmen.

Tickets throughout 2019 have been presented to the following:

**Wales v England**

– 23 Feb 19

LCpl Bilkey & LCpl Dean

**Wales v Ireland**

– 16 Mar 19

LCpl Oxtoby & LCpl Lewis

**Wales v England**

– 17 Aug 19

Ex LCpl Hillard &

Ex Gdsm Leach

**Wales v Ireland**

– 31 Aug 19

Sgt Cunningham x 2

**Wales v Barbarians**

– 30 Nov 19

Sgt Lucas 48 x 2



1. Ex LCpl Geraint Hillard and on the right is ex Drummer Dale Leach both amputees from Op Herrick 10 being presented their tickets by the RVO.
2. LCpl Dean
3. LCpl Bilkey
4. LCpl's Oxtoby and Lewis from Regimental Support Team (South)
5. At the game – LCpl's Oxtoby and Lewis



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## A mountain for the mind

by Jiffy Myers MBE, Regimental Veterans Officer

**D**uring the many home visits that I conduct to our Veterans, it is clear that most miss their Army mates but do not necessarily want to meet up at a bar.

With this in mind, I decided to organise a different kind of get together. One that would clear the mind and offer a bit of a challenge.

On Saturday 6th July 2019, A motley team of Welsh Guardsmen, past and present, assembled at the base of Moel Siabod in Snowdonia National Park. Some brought their Wife or partner, which was great to see.

Several posts had been published on social media, advertising the event.

Questions varied from; can you send me a packing list? To - is it ok if I bring my young kids? I cautioned everyone that Moel Siabod is a mountain and that the weather conditions can change rapidly. I had thoughts that someone would turn up with a pram! Luckily this didn't happen, and everyone was suitably kitted out.

First to arrive was Ian Edwards-Jones 16 looking very keen and physically fit. For a moment I was worried that a load of racing snakes would turn up and leave me searching for the jack wagon. My worries were soon relieved by the arrival of Del Crisp! Noting that he wasn't driving a DAF and that he still has legs hairier than a bearskin, he immediately started discussing the POL plan for the day. With Del came "Carebear" Owen Pritchard. He still looks like a teddy bear, with just a tad more stuffing.

Next to arrive was Ade Riley, looking like Don Johnson in his convertible BMW. I had anticipated him whipping out the photo of himself in

a Fireman's uniform, which he carries in his wallet for emergencies, but this didn't happen. Ade was closely followed by Henry VJ. I was glad that Del had arrived because it was starting to look like the old COP Platoon from Ballykelly. Steve OB and his Wife Louise were next up, followed by Chris "the crease" Hopkins. Before you ask, yes, Chris can make gore-tex look smart.

Whilst chatting at the start point, we noticed the most miserable looking person we had ever seen slowly drive past. It was in fact Sgt Pete Duffy. I had encouraged him to attend by saying that the Commanding Officer was going to be there. Perhaps the miserable look was dismay that his SJAR (annual report) wouldn't be improved by his attendance. He soon had us all laughing by purging more than even Jack Hawkins could achieve. We were then joined by Carl Thomas 08, Gareth Evans, Kristopher Davies and partner Nicole. The ages ranged from early twenties up to 70, with service in all operations that the Battalion had taken part in, from the Falklands to Afghanistan. Hundreds of years' worth of service.

I chose Moel Siabod because it is a quieter mountain than the popular Snowdon and Gliders mountain ranges. What I wasn't aware of, until a couple of days before, was that a fell race had been arranged on the same day. We had until 12:30pm to get off the mountain before the race started.

We set off at 10:30am to a good start. By that I mean everyone started to leave me behind.

Luckily Sgt Pete Duffy was carrying full CEMO (a large rucksack). I have no idea what he had packed inside but it was keeping him down to a slow enough pace that even I could keep up to. We had the occasional short stop to catch our breath and listen to Sgt Duffy continue with his morale purging. Whilst crossing a sty, some of us got chatting to a lovely old couple about nature etc. That was until Sgt Duffy caught up and dropped a few "select words" into the conversation. The old lady looked as she had never heard such profanities and left abruptly, much to our amusement.

As we progressed, everyone was sharing stories of their time in service. Although there were decades between some of us, the stories were similar. Chris Hopkins told us that he is a part of a ramblers group with some doctors etc and that the conversations they have were nothing like the ones we were having. I would mention that Chris (70 years young) offered to carry a serving soldier's rucksack for him but that would embarrass Sgt Duffy, if I did!

As usual, Andrew Morgan Brown 16 and his socks got a mention - so did his unusual eating habits. I think everyone on the walk had experienced his food NDs (negligent discharge). The various Commanding Officers, Company Commanders and Company Sergeant Majors that we had served with also got a mention. Their ears must have been burning. Henry VJ was proud that he was actually alive when Chris joined the Army, he was the only one of us who was. Ade Riley was telling us that he doesn't swear in front of civilians in work because they easily get offended. This was apparent when we saw the old lady's reaction to Sgt Duffy's commentary earlier. It is probably offensive for me to

write old lady but I am at a loss for other words at present.

As we were nearing the summit, Del Crisp started discussing POL and transport plans again. This was followed by Sgt Duffy doubting that we were actually near to top. We eventually made it and had a lunch break at the trig point. The "selective language" continued during lunch and I don't think a single civilian went near the summit until we had left.

With the fell racers on route, we headed back down. Sgt Duffy appeared to have gained a second breath and raced ahead. Even 16 had trouble keeping up with him. The stories continued with 16 telling us about his recent rock-climbing trip up the Glyders where he casually scrambled past some rock climbers who were using ropes. He is still as mad as he ever was!

We all made it back down in good time and with no injuries, thankfully. It was a great day, enjoyed by all. Some of us hadn't seen each other for a long time but the friendships were picked up, exactly where they left off. I was extremely grateful for the support from everyone that attended and look forward to doing it again soon.

I will hopefully organise another mountain for the mind in 2020, perhaps in South Wales. Details will be published well in advance.

1. Sgt Duffy discussing transport arrangements with Del Crisp and "Carebear" Owen Pritchard.
2. Sharing stories about Andrew Morgan Brown's socks
3. The team assembled at the start point
4. Having lunch on the summit
5. Sgt Duffy setting the pace
6. Carl Thomas 08 and Gareth Evans reaching the summit
7. Sgt Duffy and Jiffy Myers relieved to reach the top.





**South Wales Police Charity Boxing  
– 17 November 2018**

By Warrant Officer Class 2 DP Cope  
Recruiting Warrant Officer 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

**T**he South Wales Police Charity Boxing Event was held at the Vale Hotel, Cardiff on Saturday 17 November 2018.



In July 2009 LCpl Dane Elson tragically lost his life whilst in Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 10. Over the last 9 years his family has kept close ties with the Regiment and try to hold at least one sponsored event each year. Dane’s father Stuart Elson has completed in this annual boxing event every year and this year was no different but even more impressive.

Stuart who is 59 years young thought his boxing days were finally over after his bout in 2017 but that changed when the organisers struggled to find opponents for two fighters on the bill. Stuart decided this could not happen and volunteered to take on not one but both fighters during a highly competitive night of boxing. All fighters showed real heart and competitive spirit with limited boxing experience but Stuart being the oldest fighter of the night and fighting twice was the star of the night. Stuart plans to fight on next year and

has no plans of hanging up his gloves just yet. We hope to support the event next year by organising two of the battalion boxers to conduct an exhibition bout.

The annual event is organised by the Elson family and South Wales police to raise money for the Welsh Guards Charity and Cancer Research Wales. I was given the opportunity to say a few words after the final bout about how the Welsh Guards charity supports servicemen and women plus families in their hour of need.

We would like to thank Stuart and Alison Elson plus the wider police community in South Wales for their continued support to the Welsh Guards Charity and for their very generous donation of £1,500 to the Welsh Guards charity.

1. *WO2 Cope addressing the South Wales Boxing Charity night.*
2. *WO2 Cope receiving a cheque from Stuart and Alison Elson*

### Welsh Guards Charity Different ways to make a donation

The Regiment is always grateful for those who continue to make donations to the Regimental Charity and in particular thanks all serving personnel for their huge contribution via the Days Pay Scheme. However, the needs of the Regiment continue to grow, so any further donations would be gratefully received.

There are many different and easy ways to make a donation to the Welsh Guards Charity and these are all contained on our charity website at [www.welshguardscharity.co.uk](http://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk). They are:



#### Direct

You can make a direct donation by sending a cheque made payable to "Welsh Guards Charity" or "WG Lt Col Fund" and send it to the Regimental Adjutant at RHQ Welsh Guards

#### Payroll Giving

You can make a regular tax-free donation through Payroll Giving at [www.givingonline.org.uk/welsh-Guards-Charity\\_3374/index.html](http://www.givingonline.org.uk/welsh-Guards-Charity_3374/index.html)



#### Paypal Giving Fund

Visit the Welsh Guards Charity Paypal Giving Fund page and donate, charge free, direct via paypal

#### Amazon Smile

Donate without knowing through Amazon Smile. Once signed up, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price of eligible items to the Welsh Guards Charity.



#### Charity Aid Foundation

You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular donation to the Welsh Guards Charity campaign via the Charity Aid Foundation website

#### JustGiving

You can make a donation or process your fundraising on the Welsh Guards Charity Just Giving page at: [www.justgiving.com/welshguardscharity](http://www.justgiving.com/welshguardscharity)



[www.welshguardscharity.co.uk](http://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk)

### Welsh Guards Fundraising Coins

Mr Alan Parry-Booth (22326094) who served in 1WG in the 1950's and who is now a Vice President of the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch, has produced, at his own personal cost, these fabulous Welsh Guards collectable coins to raise funds for the Welsh Guards Charity.

To order your set of three and support the Welsh Guards Charity, please follow the directions given below. Once all our sold, Alan will be able to donate the proceeds (around £1,000) to the Welsh Guards Charity.

Your support is appreciated.

## FAMOUS WELSH GUARDSMEN

Following the tremendous success of the Welsh Guards Centenary Coin we are delighted to offer (To Welsh Guardsmen and their families only) This fantastic set of three coins featuring Famous Welsh Guardsmen.

The coins are 40mm diameter with a brilliant gold finish and a milled edge.

The reverse shows our regimental logo in full colour, with a superb image of these famous gentlemen on the other side.

They are:

Field Marshal The Lord Guthrie  
GCB LVO OBE DL  
Sgt. Robert James Bye VC  
Lieutenant The Hon. Christopher  
Furness VC

The quality has been described as amazing, and each coin will be despatched in a transparent plastic capsule.

This is a limited edition at a special price of just £30 per set (Including U.K postage) and will be sent on a first come, first served basis.

Payment :-  
by PayPal to [parrybooth@talktalk.net](mailto:parrybooth@talktalk.net)  
or by cheque to Alan Parry-Booth  
Welsh Guards Reunited,  
6, Morefield Bank, Holmfirth HD9 7TH.

All profits raised from the sale of these sets  
will be donated to the WELSH GUARDS CHARITY



### Battalion Families Day 2019

by Captain J Byrne, Grenadier Guards

Unit Welfare Officer 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

**O**n a glorious summer's day in July, the welfare team was pleased to run a day for all families of the Battalion and to say farewell to Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright.

It gave everyone the opportunity to enjoy great company with fantastic food, drink and entertainment. Taking place just once a year, the families day is one of the main events in the Battalion's welfare calendar and this year was a huge success. In the spirit of bringing the families together the welfare team laid on some truly outstanding entertainment.

The day started with live music from Black and Gold, a local band, playing some golden oldies for all the families to sing and dance along to. Whilst 'Rabby' the children's entertainer rounded up most of the children and engaged them in a variety of fun activities including face painting, which if I recall correctly was the activity that blurred the line between adults and children! The older children enjoyed several rides from the funfair – the most popular of which was undoubtedly the dodgems.

Number 3 Company took the time to put together a weapon's stand to show some of the Battalion's capabilities, from the Anti-Tanks Platoon, to the Snipers and even the Guards Parachute Platoon. The stands were intended for younger children to look at the equipment currently in use by the Battalion, however, somewhat older members of the families couldn't help but find the stands very interesting! It was particularly enjoyable to see members of the Welsh Guards Association get to grips with modern military kit (not a SLR in sight!).

Two of the main highlights of the day were put together by the Corps of Drums and the Enduro team. CSM Hughes and the Enduro team put together an exciting and dare devil display of stunts for everyone to enjoy. CSM Hughes even managed to persuade the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major to be part of the display, much to their surprise as they became one of the obstacles for the CSM to jump over which many serving members of the Battalion enjoyed. The Corps of Drums, under the direction of the Drum Major (DMaj Andy Crew), finished the day with a display worthy of Beating the Retreat at Horse Guards Parade, it was made even more interesting by the young children chasing the Corps around the drill square, quickly being distracted by Rabby, the children's entertainer.

The whole day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and was a fantastic journey of discovery for the welfare team and all the families. I look forward to seeing all serving and ex-serving soldiers and their families from across the Welsh Guards Family next year.





## Considering leaving a legacy to the Regiment?

**It's as straightforward as including a simple sentence in your will or adding a codicil.**

In most cases, the first priority of members of the Regimental family will be close relatives and friends. However, many people also leave gifts to charities, known as legacies, in their wills.

Having recently been recognised and registered as a Charity (The Welsh Guards Charity, Reg No: 1152766), the Regiment can now accept legacies into the Welsh Guards Charity.

There are three types of legacy you can leave.

- **A fixed sum of Money** [Pecuniary] - This is the simplest option.
- **A percentage of the net value of your estate** [Residuary] – A residuary legacy means you can leave a set proportion of your estate to the Regiment after all the other beneficiaries are taken care of.
- **Individual Possessions** [Specific] – This could be typically land, property or shares.

If you're not sure about what kind of legacy you might like to leave to the Regiment, please talk to your solicitor who will be able to advise you further, or alternatively contact Regimental Headquarters.

If you have already made a will but now want to leave a legacy to the Regiment, you can make an addition or change it without rewriting your current will. This addition is called a codicil and either we or your solicitor can provide you with a form of words.

### **Tax Benefits**

If you leave a legacy to the Regiment, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax (IHT) is worked out. In some cases leaving a legacy may help bring the total value of your estate below the taxable threshold of £325,000 for 2019 (plus the new 'main residence' band of £150,000 giving a total allowance of £475,000 per person).

Gifts to the Regiment made up to seven years before your death may also qualify for exemption.

**The Regiment is very proud of its tradition of taking care of the extended Regimental family. The two world wars of the last century made great demands on Regimental charitable funds and the operational deployments since, most recently in Afghanistan, has exacerbated the situation. The future, as always, is uncertain and the need to care for the welfare of members of the Regiment and their families will remain as important as ever.**

### Beneficiary details

**Welsh Guards Charity – Registered Charity Number 1152766**

Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ  
Tel: 020 7414 3291 · e-mail: welshguardsara@gmail.com

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Welsh Guards Association

President: Colonel (Retired) T CS Bonas  
 Vice President: Brigadier JF Rickett CBE  
 Vice President: Captain (Retired) A C Hopkins  
 Treasurer: Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM  
 Secretary General: Mr Maldwyn Jones  
 Email: secretary.general.wga@gmail.com  
 Assistant  
 Secretary General: Mr Neil Rice  
 Email: asst.sec.generalwga@gmail.com

## Secretary General's Foreword

**A**nother busy and successful year for the Association, with plenty going on. We finally made it to Brecon for St David's Day on the 1st March and there was an excellent turn out from across the branches including several who attended for the first time having been out of circulation for several years - all said the same thing "I wish I had done this sooner."

St David's Day is the ideal opportunity to reminisce and to chase up that illusive £5 we were all owed from many moons ago. Already plans are in hand to celebrate with the Battalion in Windsor for 2020.

Branch wise as many are aware, there have been changes, West Midland Branch have amalgamated with Montgomeryshire and Shropshire Branch, forming the Montgomeryshire, Shropshire and Midlands Branch under the guidance of John Williams (83) the Branch Secretary. This in all honesty came as no real surprise, as over the years with the changes in recruiting catchment areas, fewer Welsh Guardsmen hailed from the Midlands, though those living in the area have already linked up to their new Branch.

Pembrokeshire branch

has gone into suspended animation with Llanelli Branch widening and becoming the new Llanelli, Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire Branch - with Alan Cunningham at the helm, I have no doubt they will do well.

A big loss to Swansea Branch, as Mr Peter Williams 300 decided to step down as Branch Secretary - however he has not cut his links completely and retains his role as Branch Standard Bearer. Thank you for your service Peter and of course for your and Pauline's support since I have been Secretary General, I would say enjoy your retirement but with that comes 'grandchildren' duties! Peter is succeeded as Branch Secretary by Mr David 'Jock' Williams 38 an ex 3 Coy Man. I know Jock will do well having worked with him in the Battalion. We have both followed similar career paths; we both became

Police Officers in Wales (North & South), Jock now works for Care after Combat, looking after ex servicemen who have fallen foul of the law and ended up incarcerated in various establishments, and is getting them back on the straight and narrow, also we are both volunteer Welsh Blood-bikers, having passed our advance motorcyclist tickets.

Another staunch Welsh Guards organiser standing down this year is Martyn Griffiths 52 who for the last 16 years has been Secretary of the Welsh Guards Golf Association. By no means an easy job especially holding down full time employment and having to arrange four events a year, all over Wales, ensuring food and accommodation is Booked, the courses are booked, Jack Badham's trophy is clean and ready and of course ensuring the golfers are fully aware of where to be and when. Thank you for all you have done Martyn, you will most definitely be a hard

act to follow - I can't quite say big boots to fill as ..... well... you were 3 coy! No doubt your successor will also do a wonderful job in driving Welsh Guards Golf forward. I was delighted to select a fitting presentation piece for you on behalf of the Association and even more delighted that you did not already have the framed miniature Queens & Regimental Colours (a picture of which can be seen in the WGA golfing article)! It was a pleasure to be there for your presentation, so very well deserved. Maybe next year and with less pressure, you can snatch the trophy from Jack!!

The annual Welsh Guards Association trip to Ludlow Racecourse for the Welsh Guards Association Handicap was once again superbly organised by Captain DM Davies on Sunday 12th May and although numbers were slightly down on the previous year, it was still a roaring success and enjoyed immensely by those attending.





We had members attending Royal Garden parties at Buckingham Palace in May, the same month that the Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff and again it was nice to see a decent turnout. The minutes of the meeting are published in this magazine and the date of the next AGM can be found in the forecast of events. Remember it is YOUR Association, the AGM is open to everyone so please come along for the opportunity to have a say in how the Association should move into the future.

September this year was a busy month, firstly the Annual Battlefield Tour (BFT) was held, there was a fantastic attendance from Association members, I will not dwell too much on this as I am aware a separate report is in this

publication, however if you are interested in attending in the future, register your interest with your local Branch Secretary, details of which can be found in this magazine or on the Welsh Guards Charity website at [www.welshguardscharity.co.uk](http://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk)

No sooner had we unpacked from the BFT and it was a quick turnaround, re-pack a few items and back on the train from Bangor for the Annual darts and Shoot competition in Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. An excellent turnout as usual with the event again attracting a few new faces - a great day was had by all and a full report with the all-important results is contained elsewhere in this magazine. Sadly, no team from North Wales again this year, accommodation is notoriously difficult to book in Maindy Barracks and like last year Op

TORAL operational training took priority (those staying there must have been playing ghosts, as we saw no one at all)! Maybe once in a while we should look further North, to give the Gogs a chance? On that note the day could not have gone ahead without the support from Sgt Kev Jury and members of the Regimental Support Team (RST) South, who came in during their annual leave to help with running the range, it goes without saying that we appreciate your help, support and professionalism and you have the grateful thanks of the whole Welsh Guards Association.

On the heels of the darts and shoot the opportunity to meet the Battalion during their KAPE (Keep the Army in the Public Eye) tour, the honour to march with Bayonets Fixed, the Band playing and the colours flying

this year was bestowed on Wrexham and Carmarthen. The Battalion and Regimental Band carried out splendid parades at both locations with a superb turnout and support from the local communities with the Association well represented at both locations, with many more coming out of the woodwork - it was great to see many younger members watching who had served alongside those parading. I know the North Wales contingent crawled around Wrexham in an effort to drink the place dry, Dick Clark left early, when I asked him why he replied, "you were all drunk" - Dick you have changed!

The busy month culminated for many with the Association Centenary celebrations which was held in Cardiff, the location of its formation 100 years prior. The day started with a service

at St John The Baptist Church followed by lunch at The Angel Hotel, organization and planning the event was straight forward once a Church, Venue and the Regimental Band were all available on the same day. Several venues were looked at and different dates but getting all three to align proved very difficult, especially within the narrow window of opportunity afforded with the Regimental Band being in Wales for just that one week on the KAPE Tour. The only date identified unfortunately ended up with us clashing with the biennial Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) dinner that night some 55 miles West in Llanelli - hopefully it did not affect the dinner too much, as I know many attended both the lunch and the Dinner!

The lunch gave us the opportunity to present Ken Haynes, who has been the branch Secretary for East Glamorgan branch for 19 years, with his Long Service Certificate, signed by the Colonel of the Regiment, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Ken's certificate is probably the most travelled, it found its way to several locations over the last two years with the intention of presenting it, but the opportunity to do so never quite arose. We apologies for the delay Ken, but it goes without saying it was well worth waiting for and thank you for your continuing support to the Association.

The post of Secretary General, has kept me busy all year round, in addition to what has already been reported, several members were fortunate enough to attend Regimental and Not Forgotten Association (NFA) Royal Garden parties at Buckingham Palace, The Queen's Birthday Parade, a handful also attended the Op BANNER commemoration at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire, these

are all advertised via Branch Secretaries and on social media. Furthermore, 11 Association members will be representing us at the Cenotaph Parade in November organised by the Royal British Legion in Whitehall, November. In the afternoon they will be attending the Regimental Remembrance (Black Sunday) where they remember our fallen comrades from all conflicts - I look forward to Kim Burnell's report for next year's magazine.

These events are open to all, but applications must go through the Branches. As mentioned at the beginning of this report, your local Branch information is located in this section, get on board get involved, RHQ Staff have been advised not to take direct applications for any of these events and to direct all applicants to their local branches. Therefore in order to ensure you at least stand a chance in getting a ticket, link up with your local branch and those who do not have one need not dismay, we are probably the only Military Association with an online Branch, register with [www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk](http://www.welshguardsreunited.co.uk) for future event applications.

With the Battalion trooping their colour next year (2020,) you can guarantee that tickets are going to be in great demand and supply will not be able to meet demand, so as soon as I am notified by RHQ the application process will begin. We have to impose a strict cut-off date for applying for tickets in order that all requests can be collated and passed to RHQ to fit their deadline of applying. Of course, there is nothing stopping anyone from applying for and purchasing their own tickets direct from the qbp online store (when they become available) at; <https://qbp.army.mod.uk/>



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1. *President of the Welsh Guards Association, Colonel Tom Bonas with the High Sherriff of Clwyd, Stephanie Catherall and the Regimental Sergeant Major 1st Battalion Welsh Guards at the Wrexham Freedom Parade.*
2. *The Welsh Guards Association Secretary General at the Centenary Lunch at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff.*
3. *Wrexham KAPE Tour – courtesy of Scott Taylor Photography.*

## Cardiff Branch

(Formed 1919)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CJ Dawney

Chairman: David W Parry (22831847)

Treasurer: Bill Morris (22217619)

Secretary: Terry O'Shea (24047142)

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**N**ovember 2018 - The Branch was represented by Mr. Philip Edwards as Standard Bearer at the Festival of Remembrance at St David's Hall and St John's Church Cardiff and at the dedication of the Garden of Remembrance.

On Remembrance Sunday members of the Branch paraded in Cardiff to lay our wreath at the Falklands Memorial, prior to the Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial.

December saw us hold our traditional Christmas Lunch in Cardiff which was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended.

In February the Battalion was welcomed to Cardiff on their Homecoming Parade, which took place in Cardiff Castle before members of the branch joined them for lunch at the Arms Park.

On Friday 5th July 2019 the Branch Chairman Mr Dave Parry and I joined Mr John Henry Perks (aka Jack) to celebrate his milestone 100th Birthday. Bob Chambers led our little group on behalf of Regimental headquarters, which included a Guardsman from the Battalion in full tunic order. A separate article in this magazine gives full details.

The St David's Day Parade, planned for 2018 in Brecon and defeated by Storm Emma which deposited 63cm of snow across the Country,

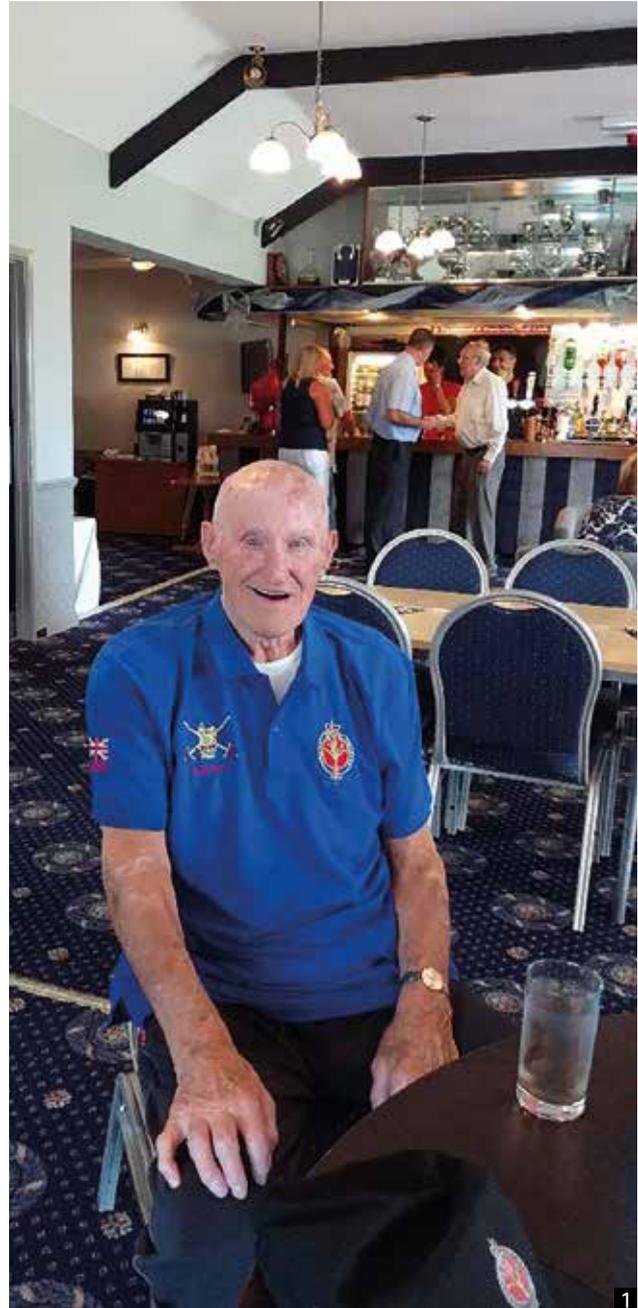
eventually took place a year late when we returned to Brecon for the service in the Cathedral, followed by the Parade through Brecon and presentation of Leeks, then onto the leisure centre for an excellent meal and a social gathering. A great Day had by all and again, covered by a separate article in this magazine.

The annual Darts and Shoot competition was again held at Maindy Barracks and was enjoyed by all those attending. A very enjoyable social event and our branch members would like to thank Sgt Kev Jury and the Regimental Support Team and Maldwyn and Neil for organising such a great day.

On the 9th September 2019 John Tumelty MM sadly died aged 98. During the Second World War he served with the 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards in North Africa and Italy

where, as a LSgt, he was awarded the Military Medal (inscribed "For Bravery in the Field") Leaving the Army in 1948 as a CQMS, he served a total of 8 years.

The 100th Anniversary of the

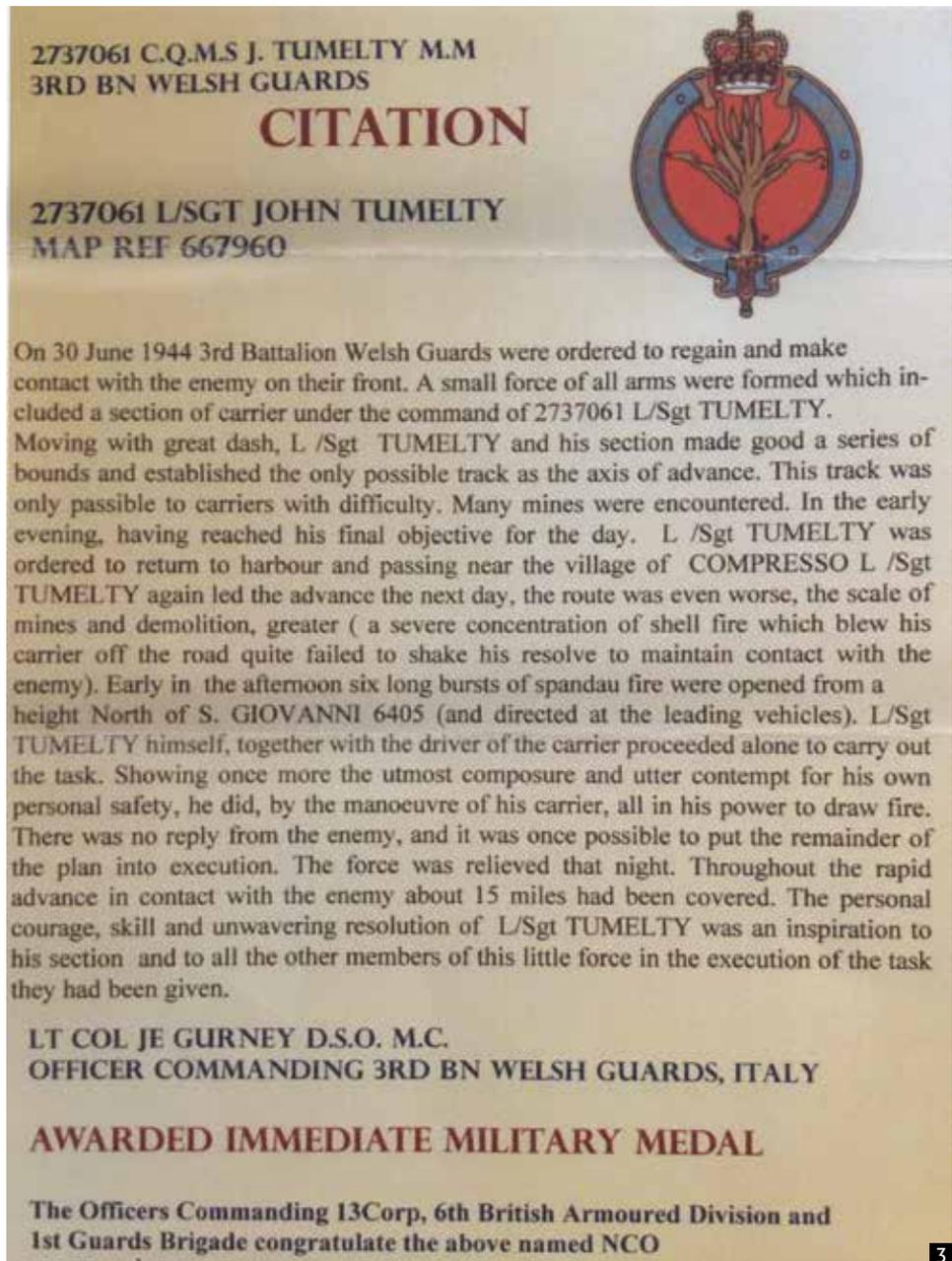


formation of the Welsh Guards Association was celebrated on the 20th September with a Service at St John's Church Cardiff, before an excellent lunch at the Angel Hotel. It was a great day, superbly organised and was very much appreciated by our members who wish to pass on their thanks to the organisers and in particular Neil Rice for all his hard work in setting it up. To Stan Evans also for producing the souvenir brochure.

As I write this in October 2019, I am reflecting on preparing for the Remembrance events in Cardiff which will shortly take place with the involvement of our Branch members.

In December the Branch will hope to hold a Christmas Lunch as our final event of the year.

We extend our Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all Welsh Guardsmen, past present and future, wherever they may be.



1. John 'Jack' Perks (2735449) celebrates his 100th Birthday
2. 2737061 CQMS J Tumelty MM
3. Citation for the award of the Military Medal - 2737061 CQMS J Tumelty MM
4. Cardiff Branch Table at the Association Centenary Lunch, The Angel Hotel Cardiff: Front centre; Branch Secretary Terry O'shea, then Clockwise; Chris Powell, Tony Fundell, Mrs Fundell, Ted White, Bill Milton, Colin O'Neil, Terry Evans, Tony Lewis





## East Glamorgan Branch

(Formed 1920)

President: Captain TC Macdonald-Milner

Chairman: D Gaule (24141887)

Treasurer: WJ Hooper (24364279)

Secretary: Ken Haines (23523287)

Trevone, Dyffryn Road  
Rhydfelin

Pontypridd CF37 5RU

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The first major event this year attended by the branch was the St David's Day parade in Brecon on 1st March where members of the branch attended, a good day to meet old friends and comrades, a day enjoyed by all who were there.

The branch paraded on 8th June at the Falklands memorial stone in Ynysangharad Park to remember the brave souls that were lost from the broough of Rhondda Cynon Taff. This parade gets bigger each year as

the Pontypridd council are also now involved with the day, the guests included the mayor of Pontypridd and local dignitaries, it was attended by members of the battalion and veterans from other units.

A big thank you, to go to our Branch Chairman; David Gaule who was the lead for this event.

We attended the Darts and Shoot at Maindy Barracks Cardiff, with enough to make up a darts team and two shooting teams. Another well organised day, made all the better as the branch came runners up in the Darts competition, but unfortunately did not place in shooting on this occasion, roll next year.

Members of the branch attended the 100th anniversary of the Welsh Guards association, at the luncheon held at Cardiff, where they finally managed to pin down our Branch Secretary, Ken Haines, and present him with a long service certificate.

A huge congratulations to Warren Williams on his appointment to The Yeomen of the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guards (The Body Guards), we now have

two members of the Branch as Yeomen of the Queen's Body Guards and now at last Brian Owen (52) will have company on his travels!

We are now getting busy getting ready for the Armistice day at Pontypridd, which is always a very well attended event.

1. *St David Day Brecon, Branch Chairman, David Gaule, with Al Cunningham (Llanelli Branch Secretary) and Captain Chris Hopkins (North Wales Branch President) in the background looking on.*
2. *Our Branch Secretary, Ken Haines, being presented the Certificate for Long and Outstanding Service to the Association, signed by our Colonel, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. You will notice it is dated October 2017 - the length of time it has taken to pin Ken down!*
3. *L-R: Nevil Hamer, Cass Butler, Ken Haines*



## Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire Branch

(formed 1974)

President: Major JGR Harding

Chairman: Mr Keith Horrell (24838137)

Treasurer: Mr Rob Rees (RAF)

Secretary: Mr Alan Cunningham (24125105)

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Cockett

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This has been another busy and successful year for the Branch which now incorporates the former Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire Branches to whose members we have extended the warmest of welcomes.



Sadly, we have lost three of our own stalwarts over the past year: Roy Burgess (22217688), John Bowen (2739711) aged 95, Ken Bardsley (2628157) aged 92. All were regular attendees at Branch meetings almost up to the last. Their moving funerals were particularly well-attended by their families and branch members.

We have, however, gained several new members over the past year and are delighted to have the Revd Patrick Mansel-Lewis appointed as the Branch's Honorary Padre. Patrick's father, the late Sir David Mansel-Lewis, served with the regiment between 1946-1949; was a long-serving Lord Lieutenant of Carmarthenshire and former President of the Branch. Other members of the regiment have close family ties with the Mansel-Lewis family and the famous Stradey Park rugby ground, home to Llanelli RFC for 129 years before the club relocated to Parc y Scarlets in 2008, was formerly part of the Mansel-Lewis's Stradey estate.

Apart from such traditional Welsh Guards Association

(WGA) social events as the annual Darts and Shoot Day at Cardiff; what had become our very popular August BBQ held at the Royal Navy Club (which does much to promote the Welsh Guards profile with the public), and our annual Christmas lunch, branch members were prominent at the Remembrance Day Service at Llanelli which is invariably well attended by the public. Immediately after main service, the Branch holds its own short commemoration service and wreath-laying ceremony at the adjacent and recently restored Welsh Guards Memorial.

The Branch was well represented on the highly successful Association Battlefields tour between 7-11 September; at the KAPE tour Freedom of Carmarthen ceremony on 19th September; at the WGA Centenary Celebration at St. John the Baptist Church service followed by lunch at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff on 20th September and, though more sparingly, at the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Dinner at Llanelli that same night. The President was on the wholly memorable





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Regimental BFT of NE France between 24/27 September. Ten branch members will have attended the ceremony at Cardigan on the 12th October.

I take this opportunity to record my sincere thanks to the support given me by Branch's officers; to all those who have given generously to fund our various social events, and to the management committee of the Royal Naval Club and its members for allowing us to use their premises for our bi-monthly branch meetings. For 2020, these will continue to be held on a Wednesdays at 1930hrs on the following dates.

**12th February 2020 – Branch AGM**

- 08th April
- 10th June
- 12th August
- 14th October
- 09th December.

**With Events for 2020 being planned:**

- St David's Day
- Haye-On -Wye
- Branch BBQ
- Tower of London visit

Our sincere best wishes are sent to all those on the sick list for a speedy recovery.



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1. Llanelli 5 on the WGA Battlefield Tour keeping abreast of the times with the New Battalion Padre Matthew Dietz
2. Llanelli Branch Laying a wreath at Tank Memorial Hechtel.
3. Llanelli Branch dedicated waiter at Hechtel Tattoo keeping Llanelli boys cool with the best "free" beer.
4. Look what the Wheel of Fortune turned up at Hechtel!
5. Alan Cunningham presenting a Llanelli plate to the Deputy Mayor of Arras during the Battlefield Tour
6. Roy Copson laying a wreath on behalf of Llanelli Branch at the site where the last Welsh Guardsmen were killed in action during World War 1.
7. Members with Sponsor RICHIE's Meats Llanelli
8. Royal British Legion Band
9. Branch members with all Helpers
10. Branch Christmas Lunch Norton House Mumbles, Branch President & Officer's with John Bowen (Since Deceased)
11. Branch Christmas Lunch Norton House Mumbles, Branch Members.
12. Branch BBQ, top Chef Dai Thomas with Daughter

## London Branch

(Formed 1926)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CFB Stephens

Chairman: Richard Doughty BEM (2741552)

Secretary: Jeff Heenan (23523251)

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Harrogate

North Yorkshire HG2 8BS

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Email: jeffheenan-wgalb@hotmail.co.uk

### Another quiet year for London Branch; we decided to restrict our meetings in London due to the high cost of travel and hotels.

Our commemoration Service at Imber Court was held at the Metropolitan Police Sports ground on 28 June and was attended by Mr Ray Issac representing the Branch and LSgt Stuart Laing from Regimental Headquarters, who also sounded Last Post and Rouse. The wreath was placed and our thanks go to Ray and his family and RHQ for organising the event. We would also like to thank the London Branch and East Glamorgan Branch members for the excellent support they have given to this event over the years.

Our Committee has looked tirelessly over the years to recruit younger branch members to be sure the future of the branch, as all of the present committee members are well over the retirement age.

With declining numbers of Welsh Guardsmen branch members, we now have

just one final opportunity in December to save the Branch from closure. If there is sufficient support and a new committee can be formed we may be able to take the branch forward, otherwise we are left with no option but to close - members will of course be informed of the outcome.

This is not a situation peculiar to London Branch as all branches have difficulty attracting new members, but London Branch has the added problem of fewer and fewer Welsh Guardsmen are settling in the London area when they retire from the Regiment.

There have once again been far too many deaths of branch members in 2019, most notably our Branch Treasurer; Douglas Wilcox who passed away on 31st August 2019. The In Memoriam list in this magazine makes for a hard read and our condolences go to their loved ones.

With the Branch potentially closing at the end of the year, if former members do pass away, please could you contact the Welsh Guards Association Secretary General (Maldwyn Jones) or RHQ direct, at; [welshguardsrhq@gmail.com](mailto:welshguardsrhq@gmail.com) to inform them. Thank you.

My personal thanks go to Colonel Stephens, Richard Doughty and all the London Branch members who have supported us over the years.



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## Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Branch

(Formed full status 1957)

President: Captain HR Legge-Bourke

Chairman: Tom Peters (23523035)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Errold Jones (24581438)

18 Marshall Crescent

Penydarren

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e-mail: errold438@yahoo.co.uk

In September last year the Branch members attended a Re-Dedication Service in memory of Pte David Lloyd who was a serving member of B Company 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment who defended the small Supply Depot and Hospital on the Natal Border now known as Rorke's Drift.

It was a moving Service with the local Choir in fine form and over 600 in Attendance from all Regiments and Services with 8 Standards on parade.

We finished the last year off with various Remembrance Parades throughout the Borough which yet again are increasing in size and we are looking forward to even bigger and better this year.

The Branch attended in mass both the Homecoming Parade in Cardiff and the St David's Day celebrations in Brecon. Both events were well organised and went off very well. It was good to meet up with some old and new friends and Capt Jan Koops still looks as if he could put his rugby kit on and still do the job, putting some of us to shame.

Again, in May we attended our Presidents annual Summer Fayre thankfully more members attended along with a large contingent from East Glamorgan Branch who I hope enjoyed the day - you are more than welcome again.

We met up with Captain Tom Campbell-Schofield who is in Brecon Battle Camp. He seemed not to mind being grilled by us old cronies about what's going on in the Battalion and about normal Regimental life nowadays, so much so he will be attending our main Remembrance Parade instead of our President who is unavailable. We hope his connection with the branch deepens in the future.

June was, as always busy yet again this year, with D-Day

Parades throughout the Borough alongside the Royal British Legion and also on 8th June, a Parade in Pontypridd Park, for which we thank East Glamorgan Branch for the invitation and the information. Also, after the Parade a great welcome at the hotel mixing with locals - many thanks.

In July a few Branch Members and our Standard Bearer (Nev Hamer) were invited to the Civic Service for our New Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil. A great Service with a lot of contribution from the children of Cefn-Coed schools with their singing and dancing. Also in July the Branch attended Brecon Barracks firstly as guests of The Royal Welsh Regiments Association (Merthyr Branch - formally Dowlais RBL) but later as members. The King of Zululand was in attendance along with dancers and historians who made long speeches about the Zulu Wars and the longstanding affiliation and affection between the Zulu people and the Welsh. A fantastic march through Brecon with the Zulu dancers and Kings Bodyguards leading, followed by re-enactors of the Natal Calvary as well as civilians in costume then us veterans who numbered well over 100 marched from old Town Hall to the Barracks where stalls and shows were set out. A good Military turnout with the children very inquisitive of the equipment and vehicles on display.

A few of our younger members (mostly class of 82) have started having periodic get togethers. Although not the greatest of turnouts they are increasing so hopefully this will go from strength to strength it seems to work at moment.

In September our Branch turned up tin strength to the church service and Luncheon



in Cardiff. The Service was very good and having the Welsh Guards Band there made it that much more special. The Venue and the meal were outstanding and a big well done must go out to both Maldwyn and Neil for your outstanding effort and enthusiasm. WELL DONE BOTH.

Again this year I was very disappointed that Merthyr Branch could not field a Team for the Darts and Shoot. Once again through a mix up in bookings I was out of the country again. This will not happen next year, and we will be in attendance and I will resort to bullying and even bribery to field a team if I have to!

On 3rd November the Branch will be taking part in The Dedication of The Brand new Cynon Valley Memorial Gardens in Aberdare. This amazing project started out I believe just to have a Bench Dedicated to LCpl Sweet Killed in Action (KIA) on the RFA Sir Galahad) but the work of a few individuals and the generosity of many this has

grown out of all proportions. With at the moment a large stone as a focal point with two flagpoles with small stones on the plinth from Battles everywhere such as Arnhem, Goose Green, Loos and the Somme just to mention a few. A Memorial for Animals KIA, also four benches have been ordered to commemorate different Campaigns from World War 1 to present day. A sunken Poppy Stone in the centre with separate smaller "Bricks" dedicated to individuals KIA. This is a Tri-Service memorial and is an outstanding achievement to all those involved. The Merthyr Branch are very proud to have commissioned the "Brick" dedicated to Sgt Robert Bye VC and are looking forward to seeing it in situ.

Our thoughts go out to the Family and friends of our late members, you are always in our thoughts. Also our best wishes go out to those who haven't enjoyed the best of health this past year and wish them a speedy recovery; Vince Davies, Nev Hamer and of

course Brain Keene hope your future is less troublesome and your recoveries continue.

The Branch still hold their meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at The Ex-Servicemen's Club, Lower High Street Merthyr Tydfil at 2000 hrs (ish). Old and New members always welcome. The Branch is looking forward to a bright 2020.

1. Association Centenary Lunch, Cardiff, clockwise from Errold Jones is; Errold Jones, Rosie, Pat Reed his wife Jennifer, Bernadette with Mark Williams (25), Richard Morris (23), Martin (Dinger) Bell and Stephen Holley.
2. Merthyr Branch in Brecon Zulu March. From L-R; Pat Reed, Nev Hamer, Tom Peters (Chairman), Malcolm Watkins, Andy Spracklen, Errold Jones (Treasurer/ Secretary), Paul Carvel.



## Monmouthshire Branch

(Formed 1920)

President: Captain MGA Scriven

Chairman: Mervyn Delve (22831721)

Secretary/

Treasurer: Steve Liversage BEM (24141822)  
7 Shaw Close, Ebbw Vale NP23 6QQ

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E Mail: vicar54@outlook.com

Since our formation in 1920 every social occasion and every meeting has been an opportunity for Branch members, their families and friends to get together, enjoy each other’s company and in doing so keep the Branch active while representing the Regiment in our corner of Wales.

That is the meaning of being reunited, call it friendship, call it what you like it is that indefinable something that has kept us all together and which has produced a Branch that has lasted ninety-nine years. It has been achieved by the work and dedication of Branch Presidents and officers and loyal members who make every effort to attend functions and meetings. That support is more important than ever now with declining numbers of members throughout the Association.

In 1961 the Monmouthshire Branch was revitalised after a period of inactivity and Welsh Guardsmen were contacted by the simple but effective method of a monthly newsletter. It was typed on an old Remington and printed on an even older Gestetner copying machine. Delivery to hundreds was by Royal

Mail but the work involved and the cost was worthwhile because it reached many Welsh Guardsmen all over the country. A newsletter pushed through a letter box is still the only certain means of keeping in touch, not everyone is “on the web.”

In September 1978 the Branch newsletter referred to our many activities that “were always popular, always well supported and always attracted members from just about everywhere.” With a vast catchment area to cater for in the Eastern and Western valleys of Monmouthshire, the Rhymney Valley, from Newport on the coast to Abergavenny we faced the challenge of organising meetings and events at many venues and succeeded in taking the Branch to the members.

The Jubilee Dinner in Ebbw Vale in 1970 was the highlight

of a year in which we visited the Anchor Hotel in Tintern where former Sergeant 'Ocky' Davies was landlord and the annual Reunion Dinner in The County Hotel, Ebbw Vale drew a hundred Welsh Guardsmen. We were younger then so were able to enjoy and survive nights at the Army Apprentice College in Chepstow where RSM Bill Elcock was our host until the early hours.

In our 50th year we traversed the region with functions in the Gwent Police Club in Blackwood, Deri Rugby Club, the Pretoria Arms in Pontnewynydd and the New Imperial Club in Blaenavon. Add Branch Dinners in Aberdare, East Glamorgan and Merthyr and our diaries were full. As the song goes "Those were the days my friend, those were the days" but they are long gone and the responsibility now lies with a small number of loyal Branch members.

In 99 years there have been seven Branch Presidents, Captain Geoffrey Crawshaw, Captain Spencer Herapath, Brigadier Thursby-Pelham, Mr Charles Clarke, Captain William Prichard and latterly Captain David Davies who after well over fifty years of service to the Regiment as a serving soldier and Assistant Regimental Adjutant became our President in our 90th year. A Monmouthshire man who lives in Chepstow he was instrumental in organising the Welsh Guards Association Golf and Race Days. He has retired with our best wishes and many thanks and has handed over the Presidency to Captain Marcus Scriven who we know well and welcome as our eighth President.

The hot seat in any organisation is that of Secretary and seven have occupied that position in the last sixty or so years, Bill Knapman (2738314),



Roy Lewis (2741392), Alan Woodhouse (22831608), Neil Chamberlain (24184149), Will Hughes (23523200), Alan Mountjoy (23929747) and since 2010 Steve Liversage (24141822) who is also Treasurer. All but two of the seven occupied other posts in the Branch and with many Chairmen have dedicated a lot of their lives to it. They have travelled far to get to meetings and functions none farther than our Chairman Mervyn Delve once of Abertillery who lives in Gloucestershire. Thank goodness the Severn Bridge toll charges have now ended!

Every year we take part in an international Skittles match against English opposition, Grenadier and Coldstream of Bristol. Having won the St. George's Day Cup in 2018 we defended it in the Rising Sun pub near Abergavenny and thanks to squad training and fitness sessions we won. It was a happy day and our friendship with Bristol Guardsmen gets stronger each year. While rugby players from all parts of the

world gathered in Japan to contest the Rugby World Cup the Branch Darts & Shooting squad successfully defended their champion status at Maindy Barracks when another Association Day was greatly enjoyed.

We are a sporting Regiment symbolised by the award of the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy to the Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year. The 2019 winner, Guardsman Bilton, received the Trophy at the Annual Dinner and was honoured for his achievements in rugby and strongman athletics, an unusual double which was acclaimed by everyone at the dinner held for the 40th time at The Angel Hotel in Abergavenny, recently named the Best Hotel in Wales. Gavin Bilton and his wife were guests of honour and created a fine impression. Our President proposed the toast to the Regiment and a member of the Branch, Lieutenant Colonel Alun Bowen, Deputy Chief of Staff at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst responded. His

support of the Branch is greatly appreciated and so is that of Major Spencer Smith another serving officer we always welcome home. Next year's dinner will be very special, a reunion in every sense of the word and a Centenary to celebrate.

1. *The President and Officers of the Branch at the Annual Reunion Dinner in Ebbw Vale 31st October 1970 - Standing L to R: 2741392 Roy Lewis, 2733310 Harry Easen, 22851648 Alan Woodhouse, 2741769 Norman Howells, 2740324 Reg Buckler. Seated L to R: 5223 Jim Tanner, Captain Spencer Herapath (President), Chief Inspector Eddie Williams (Vice President), 2733910 Mervyn Lewis.*
2. *Sportsman of the Year Guardsman Gavin "The Bull" Bilton receiving the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy from Branch Chairman Mervyn Delve.*



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## Montgomery-Shropshire & Midlands Branch

(Formed 1950)

President: Captain BMH Branston

Chairman: Mr J Bates (23952205)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Mr J O Williams (23860183)

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Oswestry

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### St David's Day Lunch

The year started with the St David's Day Luncheon on Sunday 24rd February at The Henllan, Nr Welshpool. Traditionally planned early to allow branch members to attend St David's Day with the Regiment. This is a popular venue with 57 members and friends attending. First class food, the lamb is outstanding for taste and tenderness. The raffle raised £204.00 for branch funds so all in all an excellent day

### Branch AGM - 8th May

The Branch AGM was held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club on Wednesday 8th May. Brian John, Branch Chairman for the last 6 years decided to stand down from the post. Brian is one of the longest serving members who joined the branch soon after finishing his time with the Regiment. His father was the Treasurer and one of the founder members of the Branch. Mr John Bates, who served in the Regiment in 1968, has been appointed as the Branch Chairman

### Captain Sir Edward Tate, Invitation - 29th May

Branch Members were invited to a walk, talk and tea, at the Isle Estate Bicton Nr Shrewsbury. The Estate farms approximately 860 acres of agricultural land with water woodland and dwellings and the majority of the farm is

surrounded by the River Severn. The farm grows wheat (for milling) potatoes for Walkers and fodder maize which is used for making silage for cattle to eat. They also have up to 600 sheep on the farm. The fields are surrounded by margins which are specifically a 3m mown strip next to the main crop, a 3m strip left wild and a large hedge row to encourage wildlife and plants and insect population, B-lines have also been created. They grow a diverse 'cover crop' which is in between harvest and spring sowing to help prevent soil erosion. The estate also has a lake which is home to about 24 swans, with fishing and picnicking areas. Members met at the house for a short history of the Estate and then walked around part of the estate fields where Sir Edward gave short talks on the crops and farming methods used over the last 10 years to reduce the use of bagged fertilizer. After the tour it was back for tea sandwiches and cake. It was a good day enjoyed by all and we thank Sir Edward for his kind hospitality.

### Colonel DRP Lewis and Mrs S Lewis invitation - 29th June.

Branch members were invited to an afternoon of croquet or bowls followed by a buffet at their home in Leintwardine. This was a great afternoon a nice sunny day, lovely food with plenty of

refreshments and good fun. Many thanks to our hosts David and Sue for their wonderful hospitality in their lovely home.

We were reminded that it was Armed Forces Day when a DC3 decked out in WW2 invasion markings, flew at tree top height over the house.

**Branch Annual Lunch held at the Wroxeter Hotel**

This year's annual luncheon was held on Sunday 14th July, it was a low turnout mainly due to clashing of dates with holidays and family events. It turned out to be a brilliant day with lamb replacing the Beef and Yorkshire Pudding on the menu which became a popular choice of the day. Grace was given by Jim Haycock Esq. This year's Guest speaker was 2nd Lieutenant Jonathan Leonard with the addition of Gdsm J Watson and Gdsm R Cottell who originate from Telford. It was nice to meet them both and we would like to thank the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewellyn-Usher for arranging for them to attend, a trend that we hope will continue.

2nd Lieutenant J Leonard gave a talk on the Battalion and the forthcoming move from Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright to their new home at Combermere Barracks, Windsor. Captain Sir Edward Tate presented the branch with three gifts; a voucher which entitled the winner to a nights Bed and Breakfast for two at the Isle in Bicton, a canoe trip in a two or three-seater canoe on the River Severn from Montford Bridge to Shrewsbury (about 12 miles) and a 1-day dog agility class at the Isle with Chief Instructor David Russell. It was decided to offer members the opportunity to give postal bids for those not able to attend the Luncheon and to hold the auctions on the day of the Luncheon. There was some keen bidding and a lot of good fun, bringing in a total of

£205 to branch funds.

The raffle brought an additional £85 to the funds

**Branch Information for 2020**

**Branch Christmas Lunch, Sunday 8th December.**

This year's Christmas Lunch will be held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club, Meadow Place, Shrewsbury.SY1 1PD.

**Branch Meeting**

Held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club, approximately every three months, Next year's dates are yet to be finalised but will be published in the Branch January Newsletter.

**Branch St David's Day Luncheon**

Will be held on Sunday 23rd February 2020, at The Henllan, NrWelshpool. SY219EJ.

**Branch Annual Lunch**

The Branch Summer Luncheon will be held on Sunday 12th July at The Wroxeter Hotel, Atcham. NrShrewsbury.SY5 6PH.

This year, without doubt, was one of our busiest years for the branch and on behalf of the branch committee members and myself I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col & Mrs Lewis, Captain Sir Edward Tate and Captain B M H Branston for their support with special thanks to our members and their friends for supporting the branch.

Very sadly as this journal was being put together, Colonel DRP Lewis died suddenly at home during the night 28/29 October.



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1. Captain Sir Edward Tate in full flow at his Isle Estate Bicton Nr Shrewsbury.
2. Branch members standing by the lake in one of the fishing areas
3. A farewell display by Elvis the Peacock. (Photos by N Rice)
4. At the home of Colonel & Mrs DRP Lewis - Hillary, taking her shot as husband Bob looks on with John Bates and Peter Cartwright and their partners looking on too
5. Jim Haycock umpired the game, as Elaine plays her shot with husband Trevor.
6. Branch afternoon at the lovely home of Colonel & Mrs DRP Lewis
7. 2Lt J Leonard, Gdsm R Cottell, Gdsm J Watson with the Branch President Captain B M H Branston.
8. The day also gave us the opportunity to say a big thank you to one of our longest serving member Mr Brian John who was presented with the Certificate of Merit by our Branch President Captain B M H Branston.
9. Mr R S Bostock, Col DRP Lewis, Captain Sir Edward Tate, 2nd Lt J Leonard, Mrs S Lewis, Captain B M H Branston and Mrs D Parry.

## North Wales Branch

(Formed 1936)

President: Captain ACD Hopkins

Chairman: Graham "The Bear" Binnie (24060777)

Treasurer: Captain AC Hopkins

Secretary: John Burns (24823395)

45 Bangor Road

Johnstown

Wrexham

LL14 2SR

Telephone: 07758 074189

Email: north.wales.secretary@gmail.com

2019 has been a steady year for the North Wales Branch with various association members attending many of the forecasted events.

With Maldwyn moving into the General Secretary role along with Spider Web's health worries the branch has soldiered on without a permanent Secretary until John recently agreed to take on the responsibility in September. As the youngest of the core members who attends the branch regular monthly meetings John hopes to help increase awareness as well as grow branch numbers for regular attendance.

Over the last twelve months our members have regrettably found themselves attending the funerals of no less than ten veterans. As a result of losing several valuable, loyal and devoted members the North Wales Branch now currently finds itself at an inflection point. The impact is clearly visible at the branch meetings.

Members are the lifeblood of any branch so over the next few months John will be producing a strategic plan of how we can reach out to potential new members and increase the valued members regular attendance. In today's digital age of unified communications this will also include video conferencing for members who would like to attend monthly

meetings but may be unable to due to work commitments or travelling long distances. So we can look forward to some new fresh ideas to increase awareness by engaging with more veterans to grow our dependable members support and attendance.

### 2018 Branch Christmas Meal

This took place at the Nags Head in Wrexham, it was a well attended successful night with around 25 members which included partners who have also supported the branch throughout the year at various events. A great time was had by all.

### St David's Day

A few members were able to represent the branch supporting the St David's day celebration in Brecon this year. It proved to be excellent day with good weather compared to the previous year which had to be cancelled due to an incoming snowstorm. Both the Parade and Church service went very well followed by an excellent reception in the theatre after which a temporary mild case of amnesia ensued.



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### **AGM & Wrexham War Memorial Club - Presentation to the Armed Forces Community for the D-Day 75th Anniversary**

On Thursday 6 June the War Memorial Club Wrexham held a presentation from the club to the Armed Forces community. All serving and retired service people were invited to attend with guests. The Branch supported the event with an excellent turnout. President Capt AC Hopkins received a presentation on behalf of the WGA consisting of D-Day 75th Anniversary commemorative coin collection. The club also provided a buffet and bar for the event. Conveniently the branch held our AGM immediately after the event.

During the event it was an honour to meet with the main Guest of Honour, a D-Day veteran and Légion d'honneur Dennis Young of the 34th Independent Tank Brigade. Dennis who is also the father of Ann Hopkins and father-in-law to Chris Hopkins received a presentation from the War Memorial Club Chairman for his service during the Second World War. Very sadly Dennis recently passed away but his memory will live on in everyone who's heart he touched that day.

### **37th Falklands Memorial Service and Reunion**

Wrexham again hosted the annual event with credit and recognition going to Chris Hopkins for arranging yet another fitting tribute to those who never returned from the South Atlantic. Veterans of SAMA 82 travelled from all over Wales and the UK for the weekend, the day began with a packed out memorial service at the magnificent St Giles Church including the Rhosllanerchurgog Orpheus Male Choir who make the hairs stand up on the back of one's neck as well as always guaranteeing to put a lump in



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the throat. This was followed by the poignantly moving wreath laying ceremony at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Bodhyfryd.

The majority then moved onto the Wrexham War Memorial Club for feeding and hydrating, well looked after by the lovely friendly staff at the club which is also where the Wrexham Branch hold our monthly meetings.

The Memorial Service has now evolved into one of the largest annual reunions of WG veterans of all ages and eras allowing each person to pay their respects to those who never returned and give thanks to those who did come home.

### **Battalion Families Day & Farewell to Pirbright**

The Commanding Officer very kindly invited all Welsh Guards Association members to the Battalion summer party this year. It was a short notice change to Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright. The original plan was to have it in August or September when the battalion moved to Windsor. However, the CO had decided to run it as a joint "Goodbye Pirbright" event on the 13th of July in Pirbright.

We had glorious sunny weather, a live band, a large funfair with adult and children rides Children's entertainers, Ice cream van, food and Bar stalls, The Welsh Guards Corps of Drums Display, 1WG Motocross display, P Company Stands Snipers, Mortars, Guns and Vehicles. All for free!

It was a great opportunity to engage with the younger members of the Battalion and share with them our experiences and that we all have one thing in common. We are all Welsh Guards.

John from Wrexham Branch attended with wife Eleanor and sons Connor, Rhys & Ethan along with Jason Harris from Barry with Jason's wife Caroline and son Ethan.



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Both John & Jason served within the Signals Platoon during the 80's and 90's along with Major Andy Campbell who back then was a Gdsm / L/Cpl and is now the Battalion QM, it was great to catch up and listen to Maj Campbell's career progression within the Battalion over the last 30 years and reminisce the old days.

The highlight of the day which had us all in stitches had to be watching the children's entertainer trying to round up the younger children off the drill square during the CoD display and failing miserably, in his defence it was like herding cats. We all had a brilliant day with a very warm welcome especially from the Battalion Welfare Team. Everyone is very much looking forward to the next families day, invitation permitting! Dioc'h yn fawr.

**Darts & Shoot Competition**

The branch is disappointed that we were unfortunately unable to enter a team this year. We will be working on forming a team to enter next year into the 2020 competition.

**KAPE Tour**

We had an excellent turnout from the branch to support the Battalion exercising their rights to March through the Borough of Wrexham. Due to commitments the Battalion only visited one town in North and South Wales this year and Wrexham were honoured to welcome the Battalion.

It was a long march down from Hightown barracks to the council offices in the town centre, and luckily, we had another glorious sunny day with the Band playing, bayonets fixed and the colour flying on display.

Despite being mid-week and on a school day there was an excellent turnout as well as some teachers bringing children

into the town to see the parade. Some families and veterans had travelled from far distances, including the family of the late Gdsm Rob Williams (35) from Denbigh who very proudly came to support the Battalion.

Following the parade the staff at the Wrexham War Memorial Club again provided the venue for feeding and hydrating the troops who were well looked after by our lovely friendly staff at the club.

The day left a very positive impact on the town with people of Wrexham taking to social media uploading videos and photos all afternoon and evening proclaiming the parade was such a positive and uplifting event, just what the town needed with many many more stating they would have loved to have supported had they have known. Another great success for the Battalion in promoting the Welsh Guards within the community. Da lawn.

1. *Wrexham Branch Meeting, L-R: - Ted Francis, Glyn Rogers, Chris Hopkins, Graham Binnie, Chris Phillips, John Burns*
2. *WG KAPE Tour Wrexham*
3. *WG Association North Wales Branch - Remembrance Parade 2018 - Holyhead*
4. *WG KAPE Tour Wrexham - L-R: Bill Briton, Chris Phillips, Mrs Caroline Binnie, John Burns, Graham Binnie, RSM WO1 Mike Parry*
5. *WG Association North Wales Branch - Remembrance Parade 2018 - Wrexham, L-R: Bill Briton, Glyn Rogers, Ted Francis, Richard Bates, John Burns*
6. *Families Day / Farewell Pirbright - Bottom Centre - L-R: John Burns, Major Andy Campbell, Jason Harris*

## North of England Branch

(Formed 1946)

President: Post Vacant

Chairman: Post Vacant

Treasurer: Mr Arnold Brassey

Secretary: Mr Stephen Ollerhead

10 Penfold way

Dodleston

Chester CH4 9NL

Telephone: 01244 661091

**A**nother year passes and the branch continues with its meetings on the last Sunday of every month at the the Tudor Rose Hotel, Ledsham On The Wirral, at 1200hrs.

We continue on with the usual dozen or so people in attendance sometimes a few more dependent on how many of our ladies decide to grace us with their presence.

Sadly, we have attended quite a number of Funerals this year, but these have been mainly for ex comrades who had never attended the branch, but I suppose that this is the case in many of our branches.

It seems as usual that the problem in getting more people to attend the meetings is predominately due to the fact that most people have such busy lives today with their families or their work and that it is difficult for them to fit the Association in - especially at weekends.

Nevertheless, every month we continue, and it is draw up a sandbag time and we entertain one another with stories from our time served in our great regiment mostly funny and some not so.

If there is anyone out there from our area who cannot for any reason get to the meetings and needs our assistance please do not hesitate to give me a call on the number above - we will help all we can.

## Ogmore Branch

(Formed 1932)

President: Major AL Denman MVO MBE

Chairman: Mr Paul Mockett MBE (22217125)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Mr Mike Jones (23523201)

40 Garfield Avenue

Litchard

Bridgend CF31 1QA

Telephone: 01656 650367

E-mail: mike\_jones928@msn.com

**R**eport provide by Bob Chambers (246457540). As we know, due to recent bereavements and with struggling to recruit members, the Branch is just about existing with members attending once a month at the Bridgend Ex Servicemen's Club.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the passing of 2739455 Sgt Philip John Hinton aged 93, who served in the Guards Armoured Division during World War II. John was known as a man of great stature standing at 6'4" and was as "straight as a Guardsman" of today. RIP John your duty is done.

Also joining past members on the "Parade Ground in the Sky" is CSgt Eddie Jones aged 86 years from Caterham Surrey who served and bunked together with our Chairman Mr Paul Mockett MBE as Squad Instructors at the Guards Depot Caterham in 1952 until February 1954. Paul would telephone Eddie every Sunday and reminisce about their times together.

Our thoughts go out to their families and widows; Mrs Ann Hinton and Mrs Vi Jones.

In March this year the Branch celebrated St David's Day in Brecon where serving Welsh Guards and Branch members enjoyed the service at Brecon Cathedral followed by marching behind the Regimental Band and a Company from the 1st

Battalion through Brecon Town centre with the traditional presentation of the Leeks outside the wellington Hotel. Refreshments were then served at The Brecon Theatre, Canal Wharf where past and present Welsh Guardsmen and their families were served with Lamb Curries, Welsh Cakes and Coffee along of course with a few beers.

On Thursday 23rd May Branch member Bob Chambers (24645750) and his Partner Sarah Leaves attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on the request and kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen in support of "The Not Forgotten" charity that supports all branches of the Armed Forces charities and Benevolent Funds. In attendance was Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester who perambulated with guests and took the salute at the closure of the event.

Both Robert and Sarah enjoyed the occasion where they not only experienced the presence of Royalty but also famous guests such as Peter Andre, Linda Lusardi, Christopher Biggins, Anthea Turner, Gabby Roslin, Sue Pollard and Shirley



Ballas to name but a few. Fellow ex Guardsmen and their families then had a gathering at the "Adam and Eve" Public House to the rear of Wellington Barracks that was enjoyed by all.

In early September this year the Branch had an afternoon lunch at the Hunters Lodge, Brackla, Bridgend which included members and their wives, widows and accredited members enjoying their chosen meals followed by reminiscing and pleasantries.

A reminder that we hold our monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month at the Bridgend Ex Servicemen's Club. All Welsh Guardsmen or Women will be made extremely welcome.

Season's Greetings for Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year.

**Afternote added by Bob Vranken, President Twinning Committee Hechtel-Eksel/Bridgend**

I sadly announce the passing of Gilbert Van Goethemd. Gilbert became a member and a friend

of the Branch in 1997. As a young boy of 16 years old he lost his father and uncle during the day's of the battle of Hechtel. They were executed in cold blood with 9 other men by the Germans on Sunday the 10th September 1944. He visited his friends in Bridgend and the surrounding area several times over the years and also hosted his Welsh Guards Friends in his house for holidays or during the commemorations for the liberation of Hechtel. He was laid to rest wearing his blazer with the Welsh Guards crest which he was immensely proud of. Each and every year he attended he commemorations and 2019 was not exception. He will be sorely missed.



1. Ogmore Branch members enjoying the Association Centenary lunch.
2. Bob Chambers and partner, Sarah, enjoying the Buckingham Palace garden Party.



## Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch

(Formed 1927)

President: Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD

Chairman: Mr Bryn Pennock (23877288)

Treasurer: Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD

Secretary: David Williams (24623938)

17 Golwg yr Eglwys

Pontarddulais

Swansea SA4 8EE

Telephone: 07779 246345

Email: wgaswansea@gmail.com



The branch has gone from strength to strength after a very successful recruiting drive by Major John Harford and there are now between 15 to 20 members at each meeting. As a result, the branch has been able to attend many of the forecasted events.

David Williams (Jock) has taken over as Honorary Secretary from Peter Williams. Peter has held the post for over 9 years and felt it was time to hand over the role and laptop. The branch would like to thank Peter and wife Pauline for all their hard work supporting the members and keeping the branch going during the leanest of times.

Like all branches we have lost many members throughout 2019 and one in particular Dave King, who was our Sweepstake Promoter and branch photographer will be a huge loss to the branch. He will be missed very much.

As for Regimental functions, it has been a busy year for the branch also:

A number of branch members made the trek to Brecon to attend the St David's Day celebration and hope to be able to travel to Windsor to celebrate with the Battalion next year.

The Association Battlefield Tour to Hechtel to celebrate 'The 75th Anniversary of the Liberation' by the 2nd Battalion was a great success and we were made very welcome everywhere we went. We then travelled to Mons and Arras. A very busy, but immensely enjoyable 5 days for all that attended.

Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch after a few years of missing the Darts and Shoot event were at this year's event and what a great day it was.



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After a long and entertaining first leg darts match with Llanelli Branch we were the first to be knocked out of the Darts. However, the Branch went on to win the Shooting Competition and will look forward to defending the Cup next year.

A great day had by all and a thank you to Maldwyn Jones and Neil Rice for organising the day. See you next year to defend our cup.

The celebration of the centenary of the Association, which was held in the Angel Hotel in Cardiff, was a tremendous success. Our grateful thanks to Neil and Maldwyn for organising the event and to the Association President, Colonel TCS Bonas for his support.

In October the Association along with Colonel Bonas attended the Cardigan Memorial dedication – which is covered by an article in this publication.

1. *Presentation by the Branch President, Major Charlie Carty to Peter Williams on relinquishing the role of Branch Secretary.*
2. *A nice bottle of Port for Peter Williams to fill his Decanter.*
3. *And of course not forgetting the better half, a nice bouquet for Pauline*
4. *Peter Williams and Dave King RIP*
5. *Mr & Mrs Tony Walshole & Pauline Williams at the Centenary Lunch*
6. *Mr & Mrs Hurbert Ellis at the Centenary Lunch*

## Welsh Guards Reunited Branch

(Formed 2006)

President: Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) AJ Davies OBE

Chairman: Keith Smith (24283390)

Secretary: Dennis (Knocker) Knowles (24122474)

69 Bryntiron

Matthewstown

Mountain Ash

Rhondda Cynon Taff CF45 4EX

Treasurer & Tech Support:

Mike Cummins (24472964)

Webmaster: Post Currently Vacant

Vice Presidents:

Alan Parry-Booth (22326094)

Served 1WG 1950-1952

Ray Skinner (22329571) Served 1WG 1950-1952

Mike Wakely (24076183) Served 1WG 1968-1977

Larry John (24141857) Served 1WG 1969-1982

David Woods (23879346) Served 1WG 1962-1977

Served AAC 1977-2003

Gwynfor Pritchard (22831515)

Served 1WG 1956-1963

William (Bill) Franklin (22831429)

Served 1WG 1955-1970



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I can't quite believe that it's been 12 months since I composed my last notes, but here we are, ready to produce our next Regimental Magazine.

So what have we been up to in 2019? I suppose after the Christmas and New Year period, our first big event must have been St David's Day.

Quite a few of our members ventured into the town of Brecon suited and booted to take their places in the ranks to march behind our most excellent Regimental Band through the streets of Brecon. On the heel they strutted their stuff, stomachs in, chest out, neck in the back of the collar to relive what they were taught many years past.

Leeks were issued, march

past completed and it was down to the two things that Guardsmen past and present excel at; eating and drinking. With sandbags pulled up, members were heard reciting stories from Aden, NI, Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan. Many had been heard before, but Guardsmen just love swapping tales from the various active service tours. In this day and age, with mental health issues so relevant, it's good for the boys to talk - bottling it up does nobody any good!

The reports I had were all good, as I wasn't present and next year (2020) I will be away again, for a month in Benidorm- am gutted I can't be with you all with the Battalion in Windsor, but I will

be thinking of you all on the day (or until such time as the Spanish beer dulls the mind.)!

On the Reunion front, as a Branch we did not hold a specific event, but our members attended many far and wide. We had mini reunions at Swansea and Cardiff and again this year, Wrexham was my big one - thanks must go out to Captain Chris Hopkins who as always goes that extra mile to give us a great weekend. Labelled as a Falklands Reunion and Remembrance weekend, it attracts every generation of Welsh Guardsman, so if you didn't go South in 1982, don't let that stop you, all are most welcome!

The Association Darts and

Shoot is always a big day in the calendar for us at WGR and this year we fielded 4 shooting teams and 2 darts teams. We didn't come away with any silverware as a team, but our A team under Larry John came away as runners-up in the shooting competition, Jim Price 65 was champion shot in the over 70s and Tony Davies (not dinky-doo) took the highest score award in the darts.

Many pints of beer were quaffed, and a good day was had by all. For this, the praise must go to the organisers, Maldwyn and Neil - thank you both.

In September, a luncheon was held in Cardiff to celebrate 100 years of the Welsh Guards Association. A service was



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held in St John The Baptist City Parish Church and then to the Angel Hotel for lunch. A three-course meal was eaten, then speeches and toasts were made and then, yes, you've guessed it, alcohol and yarns.

To take us one step further in our celebrations, about 20 or more convened to the United Services Mess (USM) and carried on the motion. Songs were heard amidst laughter and the barman asked me to thank all for a very enjoyable afternoon/evening. With most wandering off to catch trains etc, my daughter and I were left in the company of Terry Gauden who introduced us to the Coyote Ugly bar where dancers danced on the bar. I think I'm a bit old for that game!

Unfortunately, it's not all laughter. As with every year, we lose members who pass on and move to that great RV in the sky. We treat every death as a lost family member, as Brothers in Arms we were and Brothers we will always be. Everyone, is a great loss, but I'll highlight one who'll be terribly missed.

Bill Franklin enlisted in the Welsh guards, stepped off the signed on again. He finished as a Sgt in the Jam Boys before enlisting in the Metropolitan Police, achieving the rank of Sgt as a firearms instructor in SO19, the armed branch of the Metropolitan Police.

He lost his wife Barbara some years back and WGR gave him the will to live as life was very lonely without her. In his own words, we brought him alive again, of which we are proud. He is laid to rest in Brookwood cemetery and we thank Bobby Roberts (Potsy) Wyndham Jenkins (Skinny) Al Rogers and Phil Davies 38 for attending his last parade. Our President Tony Davies 22 read the Eulogy. We thank you Gentlemen.

Being your Secretary, is something I pride myself in. I was busted just a few times while serving, but I haven't been told to pack it in yet, so I must be doing something right! I have the Committee President and my Vice Presidents helping me steer the good ship WGR for which I am grateful. I thank you all!

1. *Larry John laying the WGR Wreath at the Falklands Anniversary in Wrexham*
2. *Knocker with the standard in Wrexham*
3. *Branch President and Wife at St David's Day*
4. *Potsy and Larry John at St David's Day*
5. *The Battalion homecoming Cardiff*
6. *WRR Standard on the BFT*
7. *WGA Centenary Lunch*

As every year, a poem from our Bard  
and Vice President Alan Parry-Booth.

### MY FAVOURITE NAAFI GIRL

*In Caterham Guards Depot where the "Jocks" all called me Taffy  
I chatted to a pretty girl who worked up in the NAAFI.  
Her mother was a Lady and her daddy was a Baron  
And she had run away from home. She said her name  
was Karen.*

*She showed me photos of her dad, taken at the palace  
Talking to the King and Queen, Prince George and Princess Alice.  
Her parents lived at Ashstead Hall, a stately home in Surrey  
And because she wouldn't "Toe the line" she'd left there  
in a hurry.*

*An act she now regretted and was anxious to atone  
But didn't have the courage to face her folks alone.  
We talked for several hours and eventually t'was planned  
That I would travel home with her, just to hold her hand.*

*I borrowed an old "Roller", so that we'd arrive in style  
But my courage it was ebbing as we covered every mile.  
Eventually we got there and as we turned up the drive  
I crossed my fingers and just hoped that I'd get out alive.*

*His Lordship was delighted when he saw his darling child  
He'd thought that she'd be either dead or horribly defiled.  
His questions came in thick and fast, her answers soothed his grief  
The poor chap wept profusely, great tears of relief.*

*Eventually he shook my hand and called me his dear fellah  
And plied me with a gorgeous wine from his extensive cellar.  
Her Ladyship was charming and invited me to dine  
She led me to the dining room, already laid for nine.*

*A Bishop and a General and a gentleman from Coutts  
Together with two ladies, one with laced up boots.  
The General, who sat next to me, enquired of my career  
"A raw recruit from Caterham" he said "Oh dear Oh dear".*

*He then said "Look here laddie, if I have your permission  
I'll get you in the Life Guards with a regular commission".  
I must say, I was flattered but I told the gallant gent  
That my only real ambition was to get back home to Gwent.*

*The party gathered round me as I said my fond goodbyes  
Karen kissed me on the lips and tears were in her eyes.  
I pushed the pedal down quite hard, the weather it was fine  
And I was due in barracks by eleven fifty-nine.*

*My basic training over, they sent me home on leave  
And when I got to Chepstow was delighted to receive  
A billet-doux from Karen, who said that she desired  
That we should get together and see just what transpired.*

*Her letter really touched me, I'll admit a lonely tear  
How difficult to tell her that my girlfriend was Maria.  
But time is a great healer and quite a few months later  
I had another letter but this time from her pater.*

*Karen had now settled down and shortly was to marry  
A very suitable young man, the son of Lord Glengarry.  
The news came just in time to bring these verses to an end  
Good luck and health to Karen, my lovely NAAFI friend.*

**A.P-B ( BAOR 4) September 1950.**

### A Unique Walking Stick

by Alan Parry-Booth (22326094)

Welsh Guards Reunited

Many years ago I acquired a beautiful coin which was completely unique. The designer of the coin had intended to produce a commemorative item for the famous ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS but somewhere along the way the gremlins got in and the coin was erroneously minted with the title ROYAL WELSH GUARDS surmounting the fusilier plumes.

Having somehow escaped mandatory destruction, this was a real collector's piece, but more was to come.

I commissioned a friend and tutor Michael Bray, who at that time was the British Champion Stick maker, to make a country stick with a staghorn handle, into which the "Mint Error" was to be mounted.

Several weeks later the stick was completed and greatly admired by all who saw it before it joined the great number of walking aids, which make up the Parry-Booth stick collection.

On Friday 11th October, I had the honour to welcome to my home in Holmfirth

the President of the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch and long-time friend Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies and his wife Beverley and I took the opportunity to present him with this most unique stick. He is the ideal recipient having served a full career and been commissioned in the Welsh Guards and then served a lengthy period of time with the Welsh Brigade (V) also.

1. *The Royal Welsh Guards Stick handle.*
2. *Mr Alan Parry-Booth (22326094) presenting the most unique of sticks to Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE (23876522)*



## The Welsh Guards Collection

(established 1995)

**President:** Brigadier JF Rickett CBE  
**Chairman:** Colonel TCS Bonas  
**Treasurer:** Major (Retd) ME Browne BEM  
**Secretary:** RQMS D Davies 03  
**Curator:** Mr ST Evans  
 Cartref ni  
 44 Crossfield Avenue  
 Winsford  
 Cheshire CW7 1EG  
**Telephone:** 01606 593953  
**Email:** stanevans67@hotmail.com

Firstly, if I may, I would like to clear up some rumours regarding the future of the Welsh Guards Museum at Park Hall Shropshire. These rumours are to the theme that the Museum will close and be transferred to a location in Cardiff. To put things straight and in perspective the Regimental Trustees are exploring (I stress exploring) the possibility of creating a state of the art "Welsh Guards Experience" within the grounds of Cardiff Castle. When I say "state of the art" I mean bang on up to date virtual reality technology combined with uniforms, vehicles and weapons of war used by the Welsh Guards since our formation in 1915 and covering every battle and activity throughout our history, with film and newsreel footage never seen before and in the new digitalised colour format. This will not compromise the existing Museum here in Oswestry, but rather compliment it in a way that will portray the Welsh Guards as a modern up to the minute infantry fighting force as well as undertaking immaculate ceremonial duties and defending the Royal Households. No completion date has been given for this venture but I can tell you, it comes to fruition, it will be a monumental undertaking

showing the bravery and foresight of our very forward thinking Trustees.

The other rumours concern myself - I am still here and as keen as ever and no, I have not been replaced and I will support and welcome this wonderful new venture with open arms (should it be feasible). I had hoped to retire at aged 75 having run the Collection for some 26 years but that has now come and gone. I will carry on until the new facility is open unless it takes longer than expected and in that case I would hope someone can take over the reins from me. If that does happen I would support who ever becomes Curator until they were comfortable in their new position and the, if health allows, I will be just one of the volunteering team.

During my 26 years here I have been supported by some dedicated retired Welsh Guardsmen most of who have moved on to other things, retired, or sadly passed away. Volunteers are a very special bunch who want to give a lot but receive very little in return, only the knowledge that they are helping preserve and protect our wonderful Regiment and presenting it to our visiting public. At this point I would like to tell you a little bit about our present

staff and the wide ranging experiences they bring to the collection.



**Alan Simcox (23908718)** enlisted in the Welsh Guards in January 1965. In the first few weeks sharing a billet with the squad in front of us who were in their fourth week of training. Their barrack room Trained Soldier was Alan "Taff" Richards of SAS fame. Later becoming Staff Quartermaster 22 Regiment G Squadron SAS. My Squad instructor was Peter "Snakey" John, later Drill Sergeant QGM (RIP). My CSM was Bill Elcock and Trained Soldier was Mike Corbet. Who could want for better Instructors, thank you Sir's. I saw service in Chelsea, Aden, Kenya, Cyprus and Windsor finishing in 1968. I also served 19 years in the TA as a WO2 where I was posted to Germany many times.

I have known Stan Evans since I joined the Battalion, he was one of our Section Commanders at Hotel 10 in Aden. He was also Secretary of the North of England Branch and he installed me as Treasurer which I did for 13 years until I moved to Mid Wales. My Wife and I bought a smallholding and have pedigree sheep. We also make our own hay in summer and cider.

I started helping out at the Welsh Guards Collection 2 years ago, a round trip of 50 miles. Once again teaming up with Stan who had put the call

out for volunteers (who said never volunteer)? The thing about working there is you never know who is going to walk in and surprise you. I like it when families of ex serving soldiers visit and hopefully, we can show them a photograph of their loved ones from the extensive collections of squad photographs we hold.

Last year reunited four of us who had served together in Aden back in the day. Stan, Myself, John (Valley) Jones 11 and Paul Liddy. It was nice to catch up and times like that make doing the job very worthwhile.



**Gerald Tildesley (23523212).** I enlisted in the Welsh Guards in 1959 and did my initial training at the Guards Depot Caterham Barracks. I took part in Ceremonial duties in London and was stationed in Germany with the BAOR during the cold war of the early sixties. Upon my discharge in 1962 I took up a career in the antiques and fine arts industry. Working with some of the most prestigious company names in the world, including my main employer Wright, Manley and Company. Becoming their Fine Arts Manager and professional Auctioneer covering all of Cheshire and Shropshire from 1995 until the present

time. I became involved in the Welsh Guards Collection when I got to know Stan who was then the Secretary of the North of England branch of the Welsh Guards Association to which I always retained my membership and offered my services in the running of the WG Collection. Having worked, lived and travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles plying my trade and expertise, I now reside in Malpas in Cheshire where I am very active in the local church Committee and the local Conservative party. I am still a qualified first aider and speak Portuguese, French and some Spanish.



**Robert Edwards.** Better known as "52", is a local man from Selattyn Oswestry virtually across the road from the Museum in Park Hall. Rob a quite reserved Gentleman but a "fountain of knowledge" on most things, volunteered to join the team having seen an advert in the Qube in Oswestry five years ago. The Qube is a volunteer centre covering all aspects of industry. Rob has been a tower of strength to me and has assisted in demonstrations and displays we put on around the country. With Rob living so close he is on hand at a moment's notice and spends more time at the site than anyone. Rob's other passion is archery.



**Albert Barker (23122904).** Albert, from Dudleston Heath some 8 miles from Park Hall attended Oswestry Technical College then served his apprenticeship as a painter and decorator before being called up for national Service in 1955. He enlisted into the 1st Battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and after training was posted to Kenya during the time of the Mau Mau conflict. Then in 1956, he was posted to Bahrain for the 2nd Suez crisis. After his demobilisation in 1957 Albert started his own business of painting and decorating around the Shropshire area and retired in 2014. At 82, he still brings his brushes into good use around the collection. Albert is still involved in his first love of County cricket of which he has been an umpire and organiser of some very top class test matches and is still active on several cricket committees and vows as long as he can still be of help he intends to carry on.



David Martin, a professional author and an authority regarding all things WW1.

David has studied warfare for over 20 years now and say's "he was born into it". From a university background he then spent five years "fieldwork" as a tour guide on the battlefields of the Western Front, at the Somme and Ypres. So, unlike some historians he knows the ground very well and is used to educating people about what went on at these battles. He then went on to work in the public centre looking after Castles, Abby's and other historic buildings. This is his first Museum job although he studied museums, he didn't want to work in one until he got older.

Well here we are. An e-mail out of the blue via Shrewsbury Museum landed in his email box in 2012 and that basically was that. He works as an author on 1st WW and is currently writing a Regimental history. Research for which took him to Hounslow Barracks where he was dined in the Officers Mess of the Irish Guards. Not that he is disloyal or anything, he had to visit before the barracks closed for good. So he is more an academic than a soldier, that's why he has come to work in the Museum. Best bit of working in the Museum is showing school groups around and researching soldiers for family members.

I am well blessed with the team I have got at the Museum at present, but I feel we are still "undermanned" and desperate for more help. So, I would ask everyone out there Ex-servicemen or not, if you have a love of things military and are able to spare a few hours a week please contact me. Nowadays thanks to the Regimental Trustees we are able to cover travelling expenses to soften the blow on one's pocket. Age is no matter, as enthusiasm is what is required so please give me a bell if you think you may be able to help out.

November can be a very busy time for us with schools and already we have got two separate visits of 80 and 50 school children coming to the Museum. This is the time when the boys really shine explaining our artefacts and relating genuine stories of our forefathers during their time in the Welsh Guards. With hands on weapons and dressing up as a Welsh Guardsman outside a genuine sentry box their eyes light up in awe and amazement and the school children as well - my joke of the day!

18th April visit by a detachment of Cadets ACF Royal Welch Fusiliers from Crecy Company of Clwyd and Gwynedd (Kimnel camp Rhyl)





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**St David's Day 2019 – Brecon**

by Mr Neil Rice

Assistant Secretary General Welsh Guards Association



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**A** truly wonderful Saint David's Day in Brecon. The disappointment over the weather-related cancellation of last year's celebration was soon forgotten as Brecon pulled out all the stops to make us feel welcome.



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The day started with a service at the Eglwys Gadeiriol Aberhonddu with the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General RJÆ Stanford MBE reading the lesson and the new Battalion Padre Captain Matthew Dietz giving a terrific sermon with of course, the Regimental Band providing an excellent accompaniment to some very rousing hymn singing.

Following the service, the Battalion marching party

resplendent in Bearskin and Greatcoat and Association members fell in behind the Regimental Band for a march through Brecon. The streets were thronged with people many clapping, waving flags and cheering the parade and being half term, it was great to see so many children and young people enjoying the spectacle.

The parade formed up in the centre of town opposite the Wellington Hotel, where the



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salute was taken by Councillor David Meredith the Chair of Council who also handed out the leeks. Once suitably adorned with their leeks the parade moved on to the Theatr Brycheiniog for a most enjoyable reception with a fine curry.

The splendid day was rounded off with an evening Band Concert in the theatre where The Musical Director, Major David Barringer MBE and the whole band were able to show off their virtuosity and versatility with a delightful

and varied mix of music which was greatly appreciated by all who were there.

We are indebted to Powys Council for inviting us to Brecon and in particular would like to thank Elizabeth Protheroe for all she did to ensure the day went without a hitch and was enjoyed by all who attended.

1. *The Director of Music Welsh Guards Band, Major David Barringer MBE conducting the Band in the wonderful Brecon Cathedral.*
2. *The Battalion Marching Party formed up outside the Wellington Hotel Brecon in preparation for the presentation of Leeks.*
3. *Members of the Welsh Guards Association led by Brigadier JF Rickett CBE march through Brecon.*
4. *Parade formed up and presented to Councillor David Meredith the Chair of Council*
5. *Presentation by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General RJA Stanford MBE and Regimental Adjutant, Colonel TCS Bonas to Ms Elizabeth Protheroe, Secretary to the Chair of the Council for all her support to the Regiment during her time in post.*
6. *Presentation by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General RJA Stanford MBE and Regimental Adjutant, Colonel TCS Bonas to The Honourable Dame Elizabeth Shân Josephine Legge-Bourke DCVO with her son Captain HR Legge-Bourke, President Merthyr Tydfil Branch of the Welsh Guards association.*



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**Welsh Guards Association Centenary Lunch**

by Mr Neil Rice

Assistant Secretary General Welsh Guards Association

**T**he first meeting of the Welsh Guards Association was held in Cardiff on Saturday 29th November 1919 and so 100 years later we gathered in Cardiff to celebrate our centenary with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, the Commanding Officer, the Regimental Sergeant Major and over 160 Association members and their families.

With the kind permission of the Priest-in-Charge, The Reverend Sarah Jones, we started our celebration in Saint John the Baptist Church with a beautiful service designed and delivered by the Welsh Guard's Padre, Captain Matthew Dietz wonderfully supported by the Band of the Welsh Guards.

In his homily Matthew spoke of his recent visit to

Belgium and France on the Association Battlefield tour and he remarked that it was clear to see the values and the standards which serving in the Welsh Guards had imbued into the lives of the veterans on the tour, he went on to say "Life isn't meant to be a solo-sport, it's a team game, and I believe that it's part of God's plan that we should encourage one another – as



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well as hold each other to account as we progress through life's journey, with all its twists and paths. As we move into the next century of the Welsh Guards Association, let's pass on the wisdom to the next generation."

The Regimental band were magnificent and the congregation were in fine voice and we concluded the service with a rousing Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau before making our way to the Angel Hotel for lunch.

The excellent lunch presented a great opportunity for old comrades to pull up sandbags and swap stories, and for many old friendships to be rekindled. After the meal Colonel TCS Bonas, the Regimental Adjutant and the President of the Welsh Guards Association gave a short address highlighting the importance of the Association and detailing some of its key activities and achievements, he thanked the current Secretary General for his hard work and also thanked Stan Evans for producing the "Welsh Guards Association

Centenary Brochure." After which he read the replies to our loyal greetings to both the Colonel in Chief and the Colonel of the Regiment and proposed the toasts to the Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales the Regiment and the Association.

As lunch finished we all made our way out of the Angel Hotel, some going home, others to continue the movement in some of Cardiff's finest hostelries and a few brave souls to attend the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club dinner in Llanelli that evening.

1. *Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Daniel De'Ath and Colonel Tom Bonas await the start of the service.*
2. *The Welsh Guards Padre, Captain Matthew Deitz*
3. *Lunch at the Angel Hotel Cardiff*
4. *Colonel Bonas*
5. *Welsh Guards Band providing music throughout lunch*



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# DARTS AND SHOOTING COMPETITION 2019



## Darts and Shooting Competition 2019

By Mr Neil Rice

Assistant Secretary General Welsh Guards Association

**S**aturday 14th September 2019 and we gathered again in the Sergeant Mess at Maindy Barracks Cardiff to compete in the Welsh Guards Association Annual Darts and Shoot competition.

As every year, the good natured and extremely friendly atmosphere masked the fierce rivalry and competitive spirit that always lurks just below the surface on this occasion. It was immediately obvious that teams had been training hard to hone their skills and that the time spent in their training camps at altitude alongside the likes of the WRU and Team Ineos had paid dividends, the standard had never been higher, the participants never fitter (!) nor the expectation of what we were about to witness greater!

The day ran like clockwork despite some of the darts matches taking longer than should reasonably be expected and double one finishes were not uncommon. This year the shooting

reverted to Figure 11 targets rather than the compound clearing exercise of last year and there was some very fine shooting from many of the competitors, a huge thank you must go to Sergeant Kev Jury and the members of the Regimental Support Team (South) who ran the range and assisted us not only with the weapons handling but, in some cases, helping us to stand up again after getting into the "prone position".

A hugely successful day and an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. A big vote of thanks to the staff of the Sergeants Mess for their hard work and hospitality and to Major Charlie Carty MBE TD, President of the Swansea Branch, who presented the trophies.



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**RESULTS**

**DARTS**

*Winners of the Welsh Guards Association Cup:*  
**Monmouthshire Branch**

*Winners of the Abertawe Shield and Runners Up:*  
**East Glamorgan Branch**

*Highest Score Individual Score:*  
**Tony Davies**

**SHOOTING**

*Winners of the Leatham Trophy:*  
**Swansea Branch**

*Runners Up:*  
**Welsh Guards Reunited (A)**

*Winner of the Aberdare Cup (Best Shot):*  
**Gareth Liversage (Monmouthshire Branch)**

*Winner of the Gerry Greenstock Cup:*  
*(Best Shot over 70 years of age)* **Jim Price**

1. *Welsh Guards Reunited (A) Team, comprising of; Bob "Potsy" Roberts, Kev Webber, Larry John & Jim Price, being presented with the prize as Runners Up in the shooting*
2. *Swansea Branch team of Maj Charlie Carty, Kenny Williams, Mark "Winker" Watson and Ian Davies being presented with the Leatham Trophy as winners of the shooting competition*
3. *Gareth Liversage being awarded the Aberdare Cup (Best Shot)*
4. *Jim Price being presented with the Gerry Greenstock Cup for the Best Shot over 70 years of age*
5. *Tony Davies being awarded the prize for the highest darts individual score*
6. *Winners of the Abertawe Shield as runners up in the darts competition, East Glamorgan Branch team comprising of; Brian Owen 52, Peter Mann, Steve Perry, John Hooper, Dai Gaule, Mal Porch, Mathew Turner, Paul Bronwell*
7. *Winners of the Welsh Guards Association Cup, Monmouthshire Branch team comprising; Terry Gauden, Gareth Liversage, Ray Clayton, Paul, Charlie Akin, Terry Evans, Terry Davies, Will Hughes*

# WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION AGM

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Guards Association

Held at Maindy Barracks Cardiff at 12:00 hrs  
Tuesday May 14th 2019

**President:** Colonel TS Bonas  
**Vice President:** Brigadier J F Rickett CBE  
**Vice President:** Captain ACD Hopkins  
**Treasurer:** Major M E Browne BEM  
**Secretary General:** Maldwyn Jones (92)  
**Assistant Secretary General:** Neil Rice

### Those present:-

Colonel TS Bonas (President), Major (Retired) Martin Browne (Assistant Regimental Adjutant and Treasurer), Maldwyn Jones (Secretary General), Neil Rice (Assistant Secretary General) The following branch secretaries:

Alan Cunningham (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire), Steve Liversage (Monmouthshire), Terry O'Shea (Cardiff), John Williams (Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands), Dennis Knowles (Welsh Guards Reunited), Errol Jones (Merthyr Tydfil & Aberdare),

### Other branch officers and members:

Capt AC Hopkins (President North Wales), Mr J Harding (President Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire), David Gaule (Chairman East Glamorgan Branch), Larry John (Vice President WGR), Terry Evans (Cardiff), Tony Fundell (Cardiff)

### In Attendance:

Jiffy Myers (Regimental Veterans Officer) Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher

(Commanding Officer) WO1 Parry 19 (Regimental Sergeant Major) WO2 Cope (Recruiting Warrant Officer)

### Apologies for absence:

Ken Haines (Secretary East Glamorgan Branch), Paul Wilkinson (Secretary North Wales), Lt Colonel Tony Davies (President WGR), Alan Denman (President Ogmore Branch), Mike Jones (Secretary Ogmore Branch), Colonel CJ Dawnay (President Cardiff) Capt TC Macdonald-Milner (President East Glamorgan) Lt Col CFB Stephens (President London) Captain H Legge-Bourke (President Merthyr Tydfil) Captain Barny Branston (President Montgomeryshire & Shropshire & Midlands) Major CGH Carty (President Swansea & West Glamorgan), Captain DM Davies (President Monmouthshire).

### Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and for their hard work throughout the year, he was pleased that the

Association was in a good place and appreciated that this was entirely due to the hard work and efforts of all those attending, he also stressed that a big vote of thanks was due to Major (Retired) Martin Browne who is doing an excellent job as Assistant Regimental Adjutant; looking after the finances, managing the Welsh Guards Charity Website, producing the Charity Impact Statement and for carrying out many other important jobs for the benefit of both the Regiment and the Association.

He was both pleased and grateful to the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General and thanked them wholeheartedly for the effort and time they both put in to ensuring the Association is in a good place.

The Chairman also thanked Jiffy Myers for his excellent work as the Regimental Veterans Officer, Major CGH (Charlie) Carty for the work he does organising the Falkland Island visits, Capt Chris Hopkins for his great work organising the Falkland Anniversary services and Stan Evans along with all the volunteers for the great work that they are doing at the Welsh Guards Collection at Oswestry.

The Chairman went on to say that the Regiment was in rude health, our relationship with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is incredibly close and that he maintains a good contact and keen interest in the Regiment.

The Welsh Guards Charity is in a very good place, we have possibly the best Regimental Charity Website in the army, looked after by Major Martin

Browne, and whilst it is primarily a charity website it is also a great source of information about the Regiment, Battalion and the Association and he recommends that everyone bookmarks it and makes use of it at [www.welshguardscharity.co.uk](http://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk).

The homecoming parade in Cardiff in February did us proud and he thanked everyone for attending and the Saint David's Parade in Brecon was a huge success.

Looking ahead the Chairman said that both the Association and the Battalion have a lot to look forward to. This year marks the centenary of the forming of the Welsh Guards Association and we are organising a service and lunch in Cardiff to celebrate this on Friday 20th September. St David's Day will be held in Windsor and the Battalion are planning a celebratory weekend to mark that and there will be 2 KAPE Tours in Wales in September and a 1WG Families Day in July (which the Association are invited to).

### 1st Battalion Welsh Guards update

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, said that it was a pleasure and a privilege to come along and talk to the AGM he said that he took over the Battalion along with Regimental Sergeant Major Parry on the 27th February. He went on to say that the Battalion is in fine fettle but that there are some pressures within the system, principally manning. The Battalion went on the "Blue Line" on the 17th March and since then they have pretty much been focussed on

all thing's public duties. The Battalion are currently carrying out London and Windsor Guards, preparing for street lining on this years Queens Birthday Parade and having to respond to fulfil short notice requests for any number of events including a requirement, at very short notice to provide a guard of honour for the President of the United States which will be taking place in Portsmouth.

Whilst all this is going on the Battalion is also preparing to move home. Elizabeth Barracks will be handed over on the 22nd July with the Battalion moving to Combermere Barracks, Windsor. Everyone is looking forward to the move as they will be going into an excellent facility which is also on the main transport routes to Wales.

In early August half of the Battalion will be deployed to The Falkland Islands until November.

Next summer the Battalion will be together for the Queens Birthday Parade where they will be Trooping their colour before heading off to Kenya on exercise Askari Storm before their deployment to Iraq and Sudan in the Summer of 2021.

The Commanding Officer is keen to reenergise some of the Battalions historical events and intercompany competitions so to this end he is looking forward to running the Prince of Wales Shield, the 300 Cup and the Leuchars cup.

This year the Battalion is also marking the 10 year Anniversary of those that were lost on Op HERRICK 10 with a Drumhead Service.

The Commanding Officer is very keen that the Battalion develops strong links back into Wales and also with the Association and its branches.

Recruitment and retention is

key, the Battalion is upwards of 10 platoons short of manpower. This is difficult to manage but manageable but it does mean that there has to be a significant focus on recruitment and the Association should be doing everything it can to help with this.

There are a number of recruits in the pipeline with the first female Guardsmen currently in training and due to join the battalion this summer plus there are more in the pipeline, this is a positive. The view from the men is that they don't really care what their sex, creed, colour or religion is as long as the individual can do the job they are asked to do.

There are 100 potential recruits in the pipeline with 45 in training, factoring in the numbers leaving the battalion that only gives a net gain of 20, the Battalion needs 50 plus new joiners per year to move on.

The Commanding Officer said that he would like to visit all of the branches of the Association but given his diary that may not be possible but he asked that if any of the branches are holding an event please contact him, he will try to come along but failing that he will endeavour to ensure that there is a presence there from the Battalion.

WO2 Cope gave an overview of the current recruiting position. He said that the current situation was much improved principally because we now have the right people in the right places to ensure that the Welsh Guards can identify potential Welsh Guardsmen and then go on to help, support and mentor them throughout the entire recruitment process.

We now have Welsh Guards cap badged soldiers in every Army Careers Centre in Wales. The recruitment process has been reduced from 300 days down to 100 and there has been a year on year improvement in numbers:

- 2017 - 19 Welsh Guards in training
- 2018 - 28 Welsh Guards in training
- 2019 - 46 Welsh Guards in training

It is important that we understand that as an Association we to have a role to play in assisting with recruitment.

#### Battalion Families Day

The Battalion will be holding a Family Fun Day in Pirbright on the 13th July. This will be a "Farewell to Pirbright" event running from 1300hrs till 1800hrs at Elizabeth Barracks. There will be a live band, a large funfair (with adult and children rides) Petting zoo, Children's entertainers, Ice cream van, food and Bar stalls, possibly the Welsh Guards Regimental band 1WG Motocross display, Company Stands (Snipers, Mortars, Guns and Vehicles). The Commanding Officer has graciously invited us to attend. More information will be available soon.

#### Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of Annual General Meeting held on the 16th May 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Confirmation of the minutes was proposed by Alan Cunningham (Secretary, Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire) and seconded by Steve Liversage (Secretary, Monmouthshire) they were confirmed with no matters arising or comments.

#### Guardsman Robinson Legacy

The Association has been left a legacy of £53,000 in the will of Guardsman Robinson. This generous bequest has been made with no caveats or conditions on how it is to be used. This will allow the Association to fund a number of activities and initiatives without having to draw on the Regiment or The Colonel's Fund.

#### Welfare Support

Jiffy Myers the Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO) gave an overview of his role, he explained why and how his role came about and gave details of how it is funded. He gave an overview of the types of activities that he carries out which include, but are not limited to:

- Receiving applications for welfare / support grants.
- Visits throughout the UK to give advice and support.
- Referrals for mental health issues.
- Help, advice and support on many issues including debt, housing, benefits and potential suicide.
- Managing a Facebook page dedicated to securing employment for ex 1WG people
- See FaceBook - Soldiers to Veterans Support Group Welsh Guards.
- Managing the welfare issues for the injured or those with disabilities.
- Support for bereaved family members
- Attending many external armed forces forums

He informed us that the majority of contacts and requests for help that he receives come from concerned relatives or friends and that it is uncommon for those actually affected with issues to contact him directly.

He does not get involved with funerals but he may well be the first port of call for the bereaved friends or relatives, in which case he will pass all information over to the WGA.

For Sat 6 Jul he has organised a walk up Moel Siabod, a mountain in Snowdonia, North Wales, which sits isolated above the villages of Betws-y-Coed and Capel Curig. At 872m it is the

highest peak in the Moelwynion mountain range. It is very much hoped that serving Welsh Guardsmen, Veterans, families and friends will take part. Further details are available on the WG Charity website (events section).

At the end of his presentation Colonel Bonas thanked Jiffy for the great work he is doing and that everyone is very aware that what he does makes a very tangible difference to the lives of everyone he works with.

### Charity Impact Report 2018/19

We produce an Annual Charity Impact Report which gives a full breakdown of how the charity is performing as well as containing a great deal of information on the events and activities the charity supports. It is a very high-end document that would be a great tool for anyone to use when talking to any potential sponsors, if anyone requires copies they can be requested from Major Martin Browne, there is also a PDF copy of the report on the Welsh Guards Charity Website.

### Accounts Overview

The Assistant Regimental Adjutant produced the balances and income and expenditures for the WGA account for the period 2018/19 (copy attached as Appendix B (separate sheet)) and explained that in some instances payments by individuals attending events (particularly WGA Golf and the Ludlow Race Day) are made prior to the start of the accounting year (1 Apr) and so appear in the previous year's accounts. For instance, the Race Day income is recorded as £1,568 and expenditure as £2,633, which might indicate that excess of expenditure over income was £1,065 when in reality excess of expenditure was just £33.15 as £1,031.85 was paid in by those attending prior to 1 Apr 19

when the accounts close (race day held on 12 May).

There were no questions raised concerning the accounts and the ARA explained that with the generous Robinson donation, the WGA could stand alone without having to rely on grants from the Lt Col Fund for around 2 or 3 years. With an increased forecast of expenditure of £51,400 for 2019/20 due to it being the centenary year and forecast income of £27,455, the [potential] overspend of £23,945 can be absorbed, but the level of spending will need to reduce for 2020/21.

As at 14 May 19 the ARA gave the WGA Fund balance as £50,544.33, but with £1,323 of this paid in for the Ludlow Race Day and £6,049 for the WGA Battlefield Tour, there is a real balance of £43,222.

The Trustees agreed to fund or subsidise the following in 2019/20:

- The trophies for 4 x WGA Golf Competitions
- Annual Darts & Shoot Competition
- WGA Ludlow Race Day Trophy
- WGA Battlefield Tour
- St David's Day 2020 coaches for branches
- WGA Centenary Lunch
- WGA Centenary Brochure
- 1WG Families Day coach for WGA

Free issue of 2019 Regimental Magazine to branches (up to 20 per branch)

### Wrexham 37th Anniversary Memorial Service 22nd June 2019

Captain Chris Hopkins gave an update on the event, he stressed that whilst it is called the Falklands Anniversary Memorial Service it is not restricted to Falklands Veterans and that it serves as a service of

remembrance for all those lost in any conflict. Once the service is over and the wreaths have been placed there follows a fantastic social gathering that has been universally enjoyed. All is on track for this year's event but those attending should get their names to him ASAP.

### Bobby Joyce's Medals:

Bobby Joyce's medals along with his Silver Dragon and his personal copy of "The Victor" comic No. 594 from June 1972 depicting the actions that earned him his Military Medal came up for auction at Spink & Sons Auctioneers. The Regiment was able to purchase these and they are currently being mounted and framed for presentation to the Regimental Sergeant Major to be permanently displayed in the Sergeant's Mess.

### WGA Centenary Lunch 20th September 2019:

To mark the centenary of the formation of the Welsh Guards Association we will be holding a church service and celebratory three course lunch in Cardiff on Friday the 20th September 2019. Preparations are proceeding well; St John the Baptist Church and The Angel Hotel have been booked and Stan Evans is producing a brochure outlining the history of the Association. The band will be attending and will play during the service and throughout lunch. The Association will pay for the meal and wine for the tables, pre-dinner drinks and any expenditure at the bar will be down to the individuals.

### Battlefield Tour:

This year's Association Battlefield Tour has 46 people attending the vast majority of whom are ex Welsh Guardsmen as well as a few Associate members and a number of wives of former veterans who took part in the battle to liberate Hechtel. In addition to Hechtel the tour will also visit Arras and Mons. This year marks the 75th Anniversary

of the liberation of Hechtel so the town will be having an even larger parade than usual followed by a military tattoo. We would like to have as many Welsh Guards Association standards on parade as possible so even if there are no members of your branch on the tour it would be good if you could make your standard available, all the standard bearers will be suitably drilled prior to the parade and it will be a great show of support for the town.

### New Branch Standards:

Some branches have recently replaced their branch standards which means we currently have a significant disparity in appearance and health amongst all the branch standards. To this end we would like to standardise both the appearance and quality of the standards, we also need to ensure that the branch standard show the correct branch names after the amalgamations in recent years. Therefore, we need every branch to send a picture of their standard (both sides and fully open) to the Assistant Secretary General who will work with suppliers to provide new standards for those branches that need them. The Association will pick up the costs, in addition to the branch standards we will also order a generic Welsh Guards Association standard.

### Queens' Birthday Parade Tickets:

The Secretary General informed the meeting that he has received the tickets for this year's QBP they have been dispatched by post, he said that everyone who applied for tickets has them. The Welsh Guards Troop in 2020 will be a very popular event therefore a very robust process for ticket applications and allocation will have to be in place. All applications from branches will have to go through the Secretary General, Sgt Laing at RHQ will not take any requests for tickets. Of

course, individuals can apply through the public ticket application process on line.

### Remembrance Sunday

This year a significant percentage of the Battalion will be deployed to The Falkland Islands and this coupled with their current manning difficulties means there will be limited capacity for the Battalion to support the branches at their Remembrance Sunday. Of course, the Battalion will endeavour to provide support where asked. All requests for Battalion presence at remembrance parades should be made through the Secretary General.

### Imber Court

There will be an Association presence along with elements of RHQ at this year's service, Ken Haines, secretary of the East Glamorgan branch is organising this for the Association. The expenditure for this is in the financial forecast.

### Regimental Christmas Card

The 2019 Christmas Card is now in production it shows the Central London Recruiting Office Guard returning to Barracks across Horse Guards in the mid 1920's in the snow. This is from an original painting by Sean Bolan. They are available from the PRI shop at £1 each. See Appendix A

### PRI Shop moved from Cardiff to RHQ

The PRI shop has now moved from Maindy Barracks to the RHQ in Wellington Barracks where it will be looked after by Kim Hibbard and Gdsm Jallow. As most orders are now placed on line and posted this move should have little impact on the PRI shopping experience.

### Welsh Guards Collection Oswestry

The Welsh Guards Collection is not moving from its present location to Cardiff, however

there will hopefully be an additional Welsh Guards presence in Cardiff Castle which will be a "Welsh Guards Experience" There is a large exhibition area above the Firing Line in the castle that is now earmarked for the Welsh Guards Experience, and there are a number of external agencies and personnel working to deliver an engaging and interactive exhibition.

### KAPE Tours

There will be two KAPE tour parades this year:

Wrexham – 17th September including an Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) 75th anniversary concert in the evening where the Regimental Band will be playing. The location TBC

Carmarthen – 19th September including a concert by the Regimental Band in the evening in Saint Peters Church.

### St David's Day 2019

All agreed that it was an excellent day. Feedback from everyone has been very positive. Powys County Council covered a significant proportion of the budget therefore the whole event only amounted to just over £4,000 funding from ourselves.

### St David's Day 2020

The Commanding Officer would like to make the 2020 Saint David's Day a Family Weekend Celebration with events on the Saturday afternoon and evening with the Service and Parade on Sunday. More details of this will be available as the planning continues.

### Wreath Collection and future purchasing

We have the wreaths for this year's Remembrance Sunday these can be collected at the Darts and Shoot. If Branches wish to and find it easier to order their two branches

wreaths direct from their local RBL Branch, they are free to do so and the WGA will refund the cost of the two wreaths (@ £18.50 each), but for those branches that wish to still collect their wreaths from the WGA this facility will remain.

### Darts & Shoot

The 2019 Darts and Shoot competition will take place in the Sergeants Mess, Maindy Barracks on Saturday 14th September. Due to operational changes at Maindy Barracks we do not as yet know if overnight accommodation will be available.

### Associate Membership of the Welsh Guards Association.

As evidenced by a number of recent enquiries there is some confusion within the branches of the rules relating to granting Associate Memberships within the branches and of the Association in general. For clarity:

Paragraph 10.3 of WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION (the 'Association')

Constitution (2014) states:

*10.3. Associate Membership Anybody who has taken a special interest in a Branch of the Association and is recommended by that Branch is eligible to be admitted as an Associate Member. Associate Members will have no vote at Branch meetings. Admission to membership shall be at the discretion of the Branch Committee concerned. The Trustees may also grant Associate Membership of the Association to any individual they believe merits this privilege and will usually be granted for their support and work for the Association.*

The President also reminded all present that ALL Branch Committee members have a vote on all matters affecting the branch (Associate Membership included).

### Regimental Magazine

Last year's magazine was a "bumper edition" however there was a marked lack of content from some of the Association Branches. Not only was there a lack of editorial content there was also a paucity of photographs with some branches not submitting a single picture. We really do need to not only improve our branch notes but also to fully record and photograph any events or activities that the branches are running or participate in and submit them for inclusion in the magazine. This is our Centenary Year so we really should be making a very big splash in the magazine. Next year each branch will be given up to 20 copies of the magazine free of charge.

### Association Membership Cards

With the proposed introduction of the National Veterans card there will be no benefit to either the Association or individual members in providing a Welsh Guards Association membership card, therefore we will not be pursuing this. There is no issue if individual branches wish to either continue using or introduce a branch membership card.

Afternote: Veterans ID Cards are being now issued to personnel who have left the military since December 2018 and it is anticipated that all Veterans will be able to apply by the end of the year. Details will be promulgated once known.

### John Henry (Jack) Perks 100 Birthday

This will be the third ex Welsh Guardsman to reach this milestone and we are planning a celebratory visit from the RQMS and Sgt Laing along with a Birthday Cake and a letter from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

**AOB**

Alan Cunningham (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire) & John Williams (Shropshire) said that it is not always possible to find a bugler to attend funerals will it be possible to get Sgt Laing to make a recording of the last post that can be put on a CD to be played when there is no bugler available. Colonel Bonas agreed that that was a good idea and will look into it.

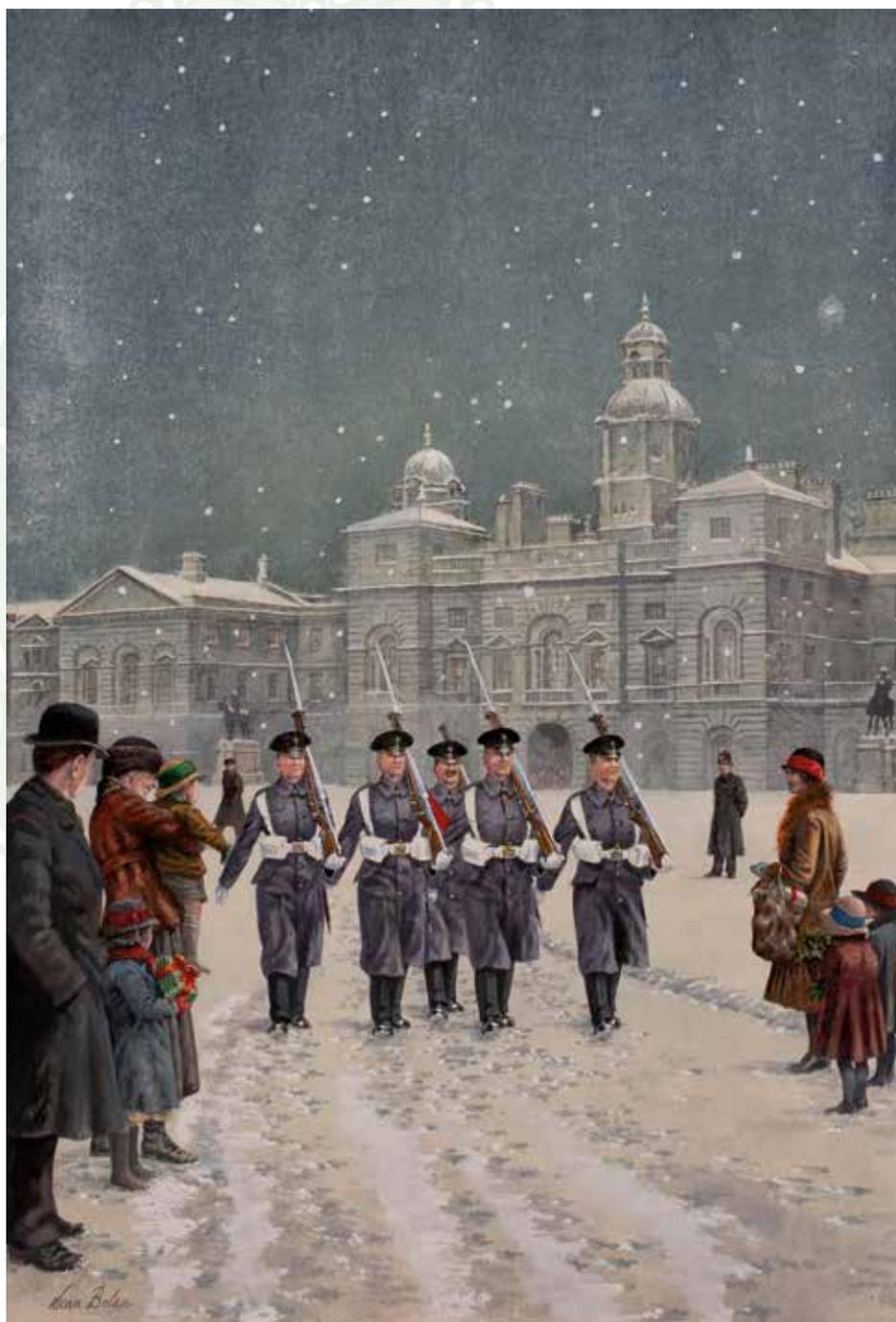
Steve Liversage (Monmouthshire) requested that Loyal Greetings for Branch Dinners be actioned in a timely manner. Colonel Bonas asked branches not to submit their requests for Loyal Greeting Telegrams too early as they simply get lost in the Buckingham Palace system, four weeks prior to the event is the best time to submit.

**Date of next meeting**

Annual General Meeting  
19th May 2020  
Future Secretaries Meetings  
will be held on the first  
Tuesday in November

# REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD 2019

Appendix A



## FORECAST OF EVENTS 2020

### JANUARY

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wed 12th	Llanelli Branch AGM
	Wed 19th	4th Regimental Council Meeting, Clarence House
	Sun 23rd	Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands Branch St David's Day Lunch

<b>MARCH</b>	Sun 1st	St David's Day with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Windsor and Rededication of the Fitzroy Memorial Cross on move from Pirbright to Windsor
	Thu 5th	Major General's Inspection of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

### APRIL

Wed 8th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
Wed 22nd	Household Division Golf Championships
Thu 30th	Preliminary rounds of the Colonel in Chief's Cup
Thu 30th	Association Biennial Lunch Wrexham (details tbc)

### MAY

Sun 10th	Welsh Guards Association Handicap (A Day at the Races) Ludlow - tbc
Thu 14th	The Prince of Wales's Company Review, Clarence House
Tue 19th	Association Annual General Meeting - Maindy Barracks, Cardiff
Thu 21st	Welsh Guards Club Dinner, Cavalry & Guards Club, London
Sat 23rd – Sun 24th	Commemoration of the Defence of Arras in 1940, Arras
Sat 30th	Queen's Birthday Parade - Major General's Review

### JUNE

Sat 6th	Queen's Birthday Parade – Colonel's Review
Wed 10th	Household Division Beating Retreat
Wed 10th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
Wed 10th	Welsh Guards Club Committee Meeting
Thu 11th	Household Division Beating Retreat
Sat 13th	Queen's Birthday Parade – Trooping The Colour
Wed 24th	Freedom of Ceredigion (tbc)
Fri 26th	Freedom of Pembroke Dock
Sat 27th	38th Falklands Memorial Service and Reunion - Wrexham

### JULY

Sun 12th	Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Annual Summer Luncheon
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### AUGUST

Wed 12th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
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### SEPTEMBER

Fri 11th – Sun 13th	Autumn Golf Meeting Sandwich
Sat 12th-Wed 16th	Association Battlefield Tour
Sat 19th	Association Darts & Shoot Competition, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff (tbc)
Wed 23rd	Finals of the Colonel in Chief's Golf Cup

### OCTOBER

Wed 14th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
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### NOVEMBER

Tue 3rd	Association Secretaries Meeting Cardiff (tbc)
Sun 8th	Regimental Remembrance Parade London

### DECEMBER

Wed 9th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
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Please monitor the Welsh Guards Charity website and Welsh Guards Social Media for updates and additions to this forecast

# IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths  
of the following members of the Welsh Guards Association:

**\*2628157 K Bardsley**

Died: 9th July 2019, Aged: 92  
Served: May 1945 to 1948

**4141830 LCpl D Bartlett**

Died: 24th April 2019, Aged: 65  
Served: August 1969 to January 1979

**24797196 Musn AFJ Bedford**

Died: 9th November 2018, Aged: 47  
Served: 1994 to 2000

**23879385 LCpl G Biggs**

Died: 24th December 2018, Aged: 71  
Served: April 1963 to September 1973

**\*2739711 MJ Bowen**

Died: 4th April 2019, Aged: 95  
Served: September 1944 to May 1947

**22217688 Gdsm HR Burgess**

Died: 13th December 2018, Aged: 84  
Served: 1951 to 1953

**24299762 CSgt ARD Chittock**

Died: 25th January 2019, Aged: 64  
Served: September 1972 to September 1994

**24815083 Gdsm D Clark**

Died: 14 October 2019, Aged: 49  
Served: 1987 to 1990

**Captain RCR Cleveland-Stevens**

Died: 6th March 2019, Aged: 99  
Served: 1942 to 1946

**\*24367826 PC Clements**

Died: 5th July 2019, Aged: 61  
Served: January 1975 to October 1980

**22217359 WO2 PFC Craen**

Died: 1st December 2018, Aged: 85  
Served: January 1951 to May 1981

**21012116 Musn E Darby**

Died: 18th December 2018, Aged: 86  
Served: April 1959 to April 1973

**22831908 LCpl BC Davies**

Died: 13th May 2019, Aged: 76  
Served: February 1958 to June 1965

**23879483 P Davies**

Died: 4th August 2019, Aged: 76  
Served: 1964 to 1967

**24233263 LSgt JM Davies**

Died 13th June 2019, Aged: 63  
Served: 1971 to 1979

**\*D H Davies Esq**

Died: May 2019, Aged: 80  
Served: 1951 to 1956

**24713093 Dmr D Davies**

Died: 14th May 2019, Aged: 51  
\*Served: August 1984 to

**22831377 Gdsm T Dillon**

Died: 2nd April 2019, Aged: 82  
Served: September 1955 to September 1958

**2740412 Gdsm H Dugdale**

Died: 28th December 2018, Aged: 92  
Served: 1944 to 1948

**\*24511370 GR Duffy**

Died: 23rd February 2019, Aged: 57  
Served: December 1978 to June 1992

**AC Elliott Esq**

Died: 7th March 2019, Aged: 81  
Served: 1958 to 1960

**22217783 Sgt LC Ford**

Died: 27th August 2019, Aged: 84  
Served: April 1953 to November 1975

**Sir Peter Forwood Bt**

Died: 12th September 2019, Aged: 93  
Served: March 1945 to April 1948

**\*22831429 WM Franklin**

Died 10th August 2019, Aged: 81  
Served: December 1955 to December 1970

**2738441 LSgt C Gill**

Died: 23rd June 2019, Aged: 95  
Served: July 1942 to June 1947

**22831465 WO1 DC Hearne**

Died: 25th October 2019, Aged: 82  
Served: February 1956 to February 1978

**Captain SP Hillard**

Died: 26th December 2018, Aged: 38  
Served: January 2004 to December 2007

**\*22217838 DS Harvey**

Died: 13th February 2019, Aged: 83  
Served: July 1953 to

**24373492 Gdsm MHT Idzi**

Died: 9th April 2019, Aged: 67  
Served: 1975 to 1979

**\*22217364 EA Jones**

Died: 3rd September 2019, Aged: 87  
\*Served: January 1951 to 1973

**22217471 DS Jones**

Died: 18th October 2019, Aged: 85  
Served: January 1952 to January 1959

**\*2470398 TL Jones**

Died: 31st October 2019, Aged: 94  
Served: December 1944 to December 1947

**\*22370875 RL Jones**

Died: 31st May 2019, Aged: 87  
Served: May 1950 to June 1955

**\*23523518 RQ Keith**

Died: 29th July 2019, Aged: 76  
Served: August 1960 to August 1969

**\*23523116 W Kendal**

Died: 5th November 2019, Aged: 79  
Served: 1958 to 1964

**\*23550188 DP King**

Died: 8th May 2019, Aged: 80  
Served: March 1958 to June 1958

**\*24281518 G H Lanham**

Died: 14th January 2019, Aged: 63  
Served: February 1972 to January 1976

**2741809 JE Law**

\*Died: August 2017, Aged: 88  
Served: April 1947 to December 1952

- Colonel D R P Lewis**  
Died: 28th October 2019, Aged: 82  
Served: 1956 to 1991
- \*22831113 DJJ Lovell**  
Died: 19th April 2019, Aged: 82  
Served: 1954 to 1961
- \*24173394 M Maloney**  
Died: 22 June 2019, Aged: 66  
Served: 1968 to 1977
- AGPM Morris Esq**  
Died: 12th August 2019, Aged: 84  
Served: February 1953 to 1955
- 24185040 Gdsm D Nicholls**  
Died: 14th May 2019, Aged: 66  
Served: September 1970 to April 1971
- 22831014 Gdsm W Parry**  
Died: 26th November 2018, Aged: 82  
Served: March 1954 to March 1957
- 2739213 WO1 (RSM) CS Payton**  
Died: 7th April 2019, Aged: 93  
Served: January 1944 to October 1961
- \*2737677 RD Porter MM**  
Died 11th October 2019, Aged: 99  
Served: August 1940 to February 1946
- Captain Sir Nicholas Powell Bt**  
Died: 7th March 2019, Aged: 80  
Served: 1954 to 1957
- \*24076152 H Pritchard**  
Died: 19th July 2019, Aged: 69  
Served: January 1968 to August 1973
- 23929612 LCpl CC Rees**  
Died: 6th June 2019, Aged: 72  
Served: August 1965 to August 1971
- 23523416 WO1 CJ Reeves**  
Died: 7th December 2018, Aged: 76  
Served: February 1960 to January 1982
- 30224861 Gdsm T Richards**  
Died: 31st July 2019, Aged: 26  
Served: 2014 to 2018
- 22217656 Dmr TE Roberts**  
Died: 28th February 2019, Aged: 83  
Served: October 1952 to May 1954
- \*22217981 MW Roberts**  
Died: 28th May 2019, Aged: 83  
Served: February 1954 to February 1957
- \*22026925 RM Sears**  
Died: 12th May 2019, Aged: 90  
Served: 1948 to ...
- 2739053 LSgt IJ Smith**  
Died: 29th May 2019, Aged: 93  
Served: August 1943 to October 1947
- 24185197 Dmr RD Smith**  
Died: 6th December 2018, Aged: 62  
Served: August 1971 to September 1975
- 23877343 Sgt M Somerset**  
Died: 2nd May 2019, Aged: 73  
Served: April 1962 to 1984
- 2735303 Gdsm CW Saunders**  
Died: 7th July 2019, Aged: 101  
Served: December 1939 to January 1946
- \*23523149 RE Strangward**  
Died: 14th June 2019, Aged: 81  
Served: 1958 to 1961
- \*23877218 WE Stanley**  
Died: 11th May 2019, Aged: 76  
Served: 1961 to 1967
- \*23879485 EJC Stephenson**  
Died: 19th December 2018, Aged: 77  
Served: March 1964
- 22831193 G Sullivan**  
Died: 13th June 2019, Aged: 82  
Served: January 1955 to January 1958
- \*24185022 D Sweet**  
Died: 20th February 2019, Aged: 64  
Served: 1970 to 1979
- \*22217544 WE Thomas**  
Died: 5th October 2019  
Served: 1952 to 1955
- 23566117 Gdsm DI Thomas**  
Died: 6th August 2019, Aged: 80  
Served: June 1958 to June 1960
- 22571463 Gdsm NJ Tucker**  
Died: 8th August 2019, Aged: 87  
Served: July 1951 - August 1953
- 2737061 CQMS J Tumelty MM**  
Died 9th September 2019, Aged: 98  
Served: July 1940 to July 1952
- \*2741821 J Vaughan**  
Died: 9th July 2019, Aged: 89  
Served: May 1947 to January 1953
- 2739697 WO1 DW Wilcox**  
Died: 31st August 2019, Aged: 93  
Served: June 1944 to October 1968
- \*24797135 RNR Williams**  
Died: 9th October 2017, Aged: 46  
Served: May 1986 to September 1994
- \*2741378 D Williams**  
Died: 25th August 2019, Aged: 91  
Served: November 1945 to May 1947
- 23523306 LCpl MK Williams**  
Died: 19th November 2018, Aged: 77  
Served: August 1959 to August 1965
- 23929779 Gdsm P Williams**  
Died: 22nd March 2019, Aged: 72  
Served: 1966 to 1976
- \*24446562 BV Williams**  
Died: 10th August 2018, Aged: 60  
Served: November 1976 to January 1980
- 23929637 Gdsm WE Woon**  
Died: 6th May 2019, Aged: 70  
Served: November 1965 to July 1974

\*Denotes missing some detail which we have been unable to ascertain



*Back Cover: Members of 5 Platoon, 2 Company, use the harsh terrain as cover during a platoon attack on Onion Ranges in the Falklands.*



