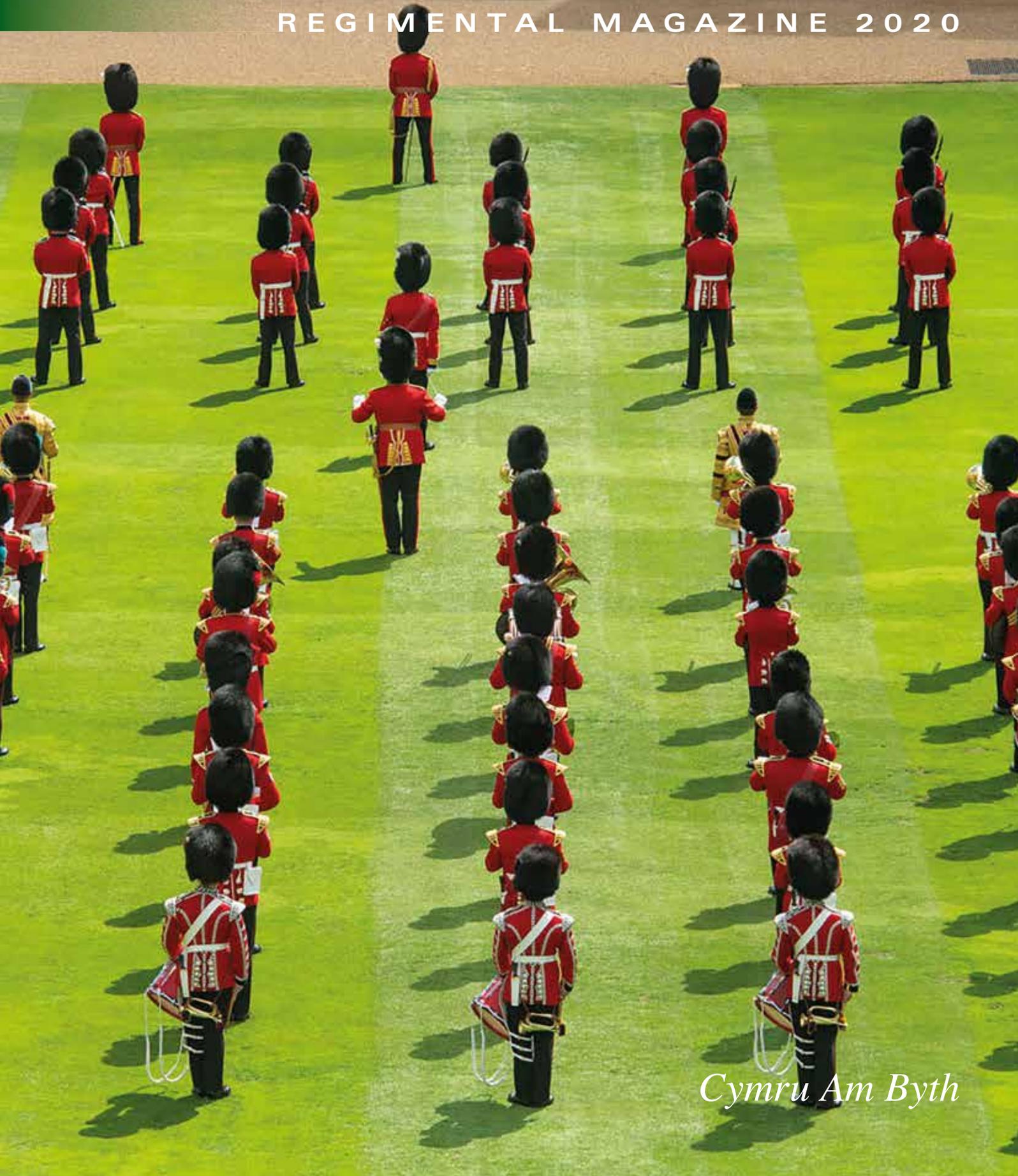




105 YEARS ~ 1915 - 2020

WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2020



Cymru Am Byth



1. Gdsm Wilkinson being promoted to LCpl.
2. Gdsm Griffiths being promoted to LCpl.
3. LSgt Sanderson RLC being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
4. Sgt Edwards being promoted to CSgt.
5. Gdsm Davies being promoted to LCpl.
6. Gdsm Evans 16 being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
7. LSgt Bilkey, 3 Coy Recce, being promoted to Sgt
8. LSgt Jones, 3 Coy Snipers, being promoted to Sgt
9. Sgt Simons being awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
10. LSgt Lucas, 2 Coy being promoted to Sgt



WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

2020

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 ÆStanford MBE

REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Colonel T CS Bonas BA

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Major M E Browne BEM

REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

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HMS Prince of Wales

5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

Régiment de marche du Tchad

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**Welsh Guards
Fourth Regimental Council Meeting
Clarence House, London
Wednesday 19th February 2020**

Left to Right:

Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE, Lieutenant Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher,
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 RJÆ Stanford MBE, Major General RH Talbot-Rice CBE, Colonel TCS Bonas



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Major General R J E Stanford MBE, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

FOREWORD



Regimental plans for 2020 included Trooping our Colour on the Queen’s Birthday Parade, a review of The Prince of Wales’s Company and a battlefield tour to Arras to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the defence of the city, however, corona virus put paid to those plans. Since the virus began and the world changed so much there has been a constant; Welsh Guardsmen, both serving and retired, have stepped forward and responded magnificently to the challenges we have all faced.

The Battalion has been extensively involved in running COVID-19 testing stations and other support to the civil authorities and veterans have come together to offer support to those in need and who had to isolate. It is good to see that in times of need the Welsh Guards has provided support across a spectrum of needs. The family spirit within the Regiment continues to be alive and well.

The impact of COVID-19 has demonstrated, once again, how the Army is able to respond quickly and with its usual professionalism to the unexpected. The Battalion was heavily involved in running COVID testing centres during the spring and summer, mostly in London but also as far away as Portsmouth and Grantham. Operation RESCRIPT, the name given to the task, has given junior non-commissioned officers and guardsmen responsibility and the chance to demonstrate how good they are.

There was a life before COVID and I am delighted that No 2 Company had such a successful deployment to the Falklands at the end of last year and the The Prince of Wales’s Company deployed to the jungles of Belize for six weeks in late January. Both companies performed very well and gained a lot from the respective experiences.

Amidst the gloom of COVID there was a highlight for the Nation in the form of a Birthday tribute to Her Majesty The Queen. With the opportunity to Troop our Colour in front of Her Majesty on Horse Guards cancelled it was decided to mark Her Majesty’s birthday with a tribute in the quadrangle at Windsor Castle on 13th June. In a unique parade the Queen’s Colour was Trooped in front of Her Majesty by a small contingent from the Battalion supported by a composite Household Division Band. New drill movements were required to maintain the required distance and the challenges of parading on grass were mastered. The end result was watched by millions and

those on parade did the Regiment proud with glowing feedback from Her Majesty downwards.

As I write the Battalion's programme for the remainder of the year is being developed and is likely to consist of platoon and company training as well as State Ceremonial and Public Duties. The focus will soon shift to the operational deployment to Iraq next summer. The Battalion remain in excellent form, are extremely well led at all levels and morale high under the dynamic leadership of the Commanding Officer. We continue to have some superb officers and Warrant Officers who continue to occupy key appointments across the Army. My congratulations to WO1 Dean Morgan 10 for his appointment as the Command Sergeant Major for Home Command and to Lieutenant Colonel James Aldridge for being selected to command the Irish Guards. Just two examples of the quality amongst our ranks.

I covered recruiting quite extensively in my foreword last year. In spite of COVID delaying the process manning numbers are improving steadily and there appears to be no shortage of men and women who want to join the Army. Thanks to the efforts of the Battalion and better, faster and more streamlined recruiting processes there are grounds for optimism. There is still a lot of work to do and full manning is unlikely to return until next year, but the direction of travel is set. As all will know females are now able to join the Infantry and I am delighted that two are now in the Battalion, having joined in May from Catterick. An historic moment for the Regiment and we extend a warm welcome to Guardsmen Morgan 35 and Williams 64.

The Regimental Band continues to remain front and centre of the Regiment but due to COVID they have been a little less visible. They were involved in some key events including St David's Day held with the Battalion in Windsor and the St

David's Day concert held in the Guards Chapel which was very well attended again. They have also participated in the VE Celebrations at Buckingham Palace on 8 May and the VJ Commemorations on Horse Guards on 15th August, the 50th Anniversary of the King's Royal Hussars held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the City of London Police Parade at the Guildhall in London. Undoubtedly one of the highlights was the recording of the Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty for 13th June and many were on parade as part of the Household Division Composite Band. My sincere thanks to all the Band for being such fine Ambassadors for the Regiment, the variety and quality of their music and to our inspirational and dynamic Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday

Association activities have inevitably been restricted this year with many events cancelled or postponed. In spite of all the restrictions there was a really good Association attendance for St David's Day in Windsor with the Battalion. My thanks go to the Regimental Sergeant Major for opening his Mess up for Association members the evening before and again for the lunch on 1 March. I am particularly pleased that the Falklands Cross, made in 1982 in theatre by members of No 2 Company, was re-dedicated during the Service in Holy Trinity, Garrison Church, Windsor. The Association continues to communicate and thrive through social media and, as already mentioned, has come together to help those in need during the pandemic. As always I would like to thank all the Secretaries, including the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, for their hard work and effort for all Association and Branch members.

The Welsh Guards Charity continues to be a force for good in so many areas. Through the careful management of funds, the Regimental Trustees have been able to fulfil all spending requests and authorise substantial funding and grants

in all areas to support our charitable objectives. In Financial Year 2019/20 the Charity expended some £553,653 on supporting the charitable objects. Full details of the Charity and its workings are set out in the Charity's Impact Report which is circulated widely throughout the Regiment and can be viewed on the Charity's website. It is packed with a variety of up-to-date information on the Regiment and charitable activity. My thanks to the Assistant Regimental Adjutant who does such a good job running the website. I remain extremely grateful to the many who continue to donate to our Charity. They are in many ways our life blood and, without them, our Charity would not be able to operate as successfully it does. There are far too many to mention individually but on behalf of the Regiment, and personally, my warmest thanks for your support. **I would also like to thank the Battalion for the magnificent support they give to the Charity through the Days Pay Scheme which has very close to a 100% subscription rate which is an amazing achievement. These subscriptions form a large part of our income and it helps enormously in reinforcing the Charity's success.**

Our Charity continues to employ Jiffy Myers as our Regimental Veterans Officer. The links and liaison he has now established with other Service Charities and the wider welfare community both in Wales and elsewhere is extensive. He does an excellent job in helping those in need and signposting them to where they can receive help. He remains incredibly busy and although for much of this year he has been unable to personally visit veterans and families, he has maintained close links through social media. Mental health issues, many not related to PTSD, continue to remain a constant in his cases and we may see a spike after we emerge from the pandemic. The RVO remains totally committed and our veterans are much better supported thanks to his efforts. He again deserves our thanks and recognition for being so key in supporting

those in need which ranges from those who have recently left service to those who fought in World War 2.

We have not been able to do as much with our 'Friends of the Regiment' this year as we would like but we do remain in touch with them and they continue to support us. A very successful charity fund raising dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club following the St David's Day Band Concert at the Guards Chapel on 6th March which raised £20,000. The dinner as generously sponsored and organised by Colonel Alan Peterson who does so much for the Regiment, the Charity and the Cadet movement in Wales. We look forward to welcoming our 'Friends of the Regiment' back to London, Windsor and other places as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Drapers Company affiliation goes back to 2007 and is one we cherish. The Company's benevolence to so many causes, including the Welsh Guards, is very generous. The Company supplied free meals to NHS Staff in local hospitals during the worst days of COVID which was a great support to those who were on the 'front line'.

Our heritage remains an important part of our charitable objectives; we must keep our history alive and relevant to new generations of Welsh Guardsmen. Most of the events planned for this year had to be cancelled but fortunately all was not lost at Hechtel as Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst, as the UKMILREP in Brussels, represented the Regiment at the commemoration on 13th September and lay our Regimental wreaths. He also represented the Regiment in Brussels on 3rd September to remember the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the City by the Welsh Guards.

Our Regimental Trustees remain at the core of our Charity in supporting the Regiment and our charitable objects. We are really lucky to have a very dynamic, engaged and highly

qualified group of Trustees who all bring their own areas of expertise such as financial, legal, commercial and experience of the Regiment to the table. They do so much behind the scenes, whether in or out of committee. They work tremendously hard for us and without them the Charity would not be in such a good position. They have my unfailing gratitude and thanks.

Regimental Headquarters continues to provide the foundation stone for all Regimental activity. A happy and dedicated team serve the Regiment in all its guises so very well. My thanks to Colonel Tom Bonas for all he continues to do from overseeing young officer recruiting, to running regimental events and corraling so much activity in so many areas. I must also record my sincere thanks to Yvonne Brown who marks her 40th anniversary of unbroken service in Regimental Headquarters. Her anniversary is covered by an article in this issue. She has been an important part of the Regiment over so many years and I know many will testify to her friendly, helpful and warm manner.

Subject to the situation with COVID, we have a lot of catching up to do in 2021 on the Regimental front. The freedoms of Pembroke Dock and Ceredigion have to be accepted as well as the freedom of Arras. On current plans we will see the Battalion deploy to Iraq in company strength in the summer of 2021. This will hopefully allow the Regiment and the Battalion to carry out a variety of other activities along with the Band, our Cadet affiliated schools and detachments, the Association, our affiliated Military Units, our Friends of the Regiment and the Drapers Company. I hope you will enjoy the many varied articles in our 2020 Regimental Magazine as much as I did.



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

FOREWORD



In normal circumstances I would have been writing this foreword at the tail end of the Battalion’s two-month exercise in Kenya. As it transpires, I look from my window across a wind and rain swept Combermere Barracks to see prospective Household Cavalry Troopers being carted around the riding school, being urged to “sit-deep” by their instructors; it couldn’t be a more analogous way of describing how 2020 has unfolded. When one viewed the prospects for the Battalion at the start of the year from the serene surrounding of the Austrian Alps on a visit to the annual ski trip, 2020 presented one of the most exciting and varied years that many of us could remember.

And yet it was not to be. As with so many members of the Armed Forces and public alike, all serving Welsh Guardsmen have had to overcome extraordinary uncertainty, disappointment and a recalibration of expectations as the COVID-19 global pandemic drove a proverbial ‘coach and horses’ though what was a meticulously planned, and significant year. Yet from adversity comes advantage, and throughout the year, every element of the Battalion has risen to the challenge. From the most junior Gdsm upwards, this attitude has prevailed throughout the year; we have seen junior leadership flourish and are better prepared for Operations as a result.

We rounded off the last year conducting Public Duties over the Christmas period, and began 2020 in precedential style, with our burgeoning ski team doing well in Val d’Isere, while the Austrian Alps resonated with the sound of Welsh Guardsmen learning to ski, furthering their off-piste abilities and expanding their apres ski experience. Demonstrating a truly diverse career, soldiers from Number 2 Company rapidly swapped their ski boots for desert boots, and helmets for bush hats as they joined the Guards Parachute Platoon on Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya. We continue to invest into the strong ties between the Household Division and Parachute Regiment, with several Welsh Guardsmen already serving with the PARAs and many more set to follow; of this relationship we continue to be extremely proud. The Prince of Wales’s Company were also able to hone low-level soldiering skills in the Jungles of Belize; once again capitalising on the fantastic opportunity that this environment provides to test ones soldiering ability, and in turn to set the foundations for training and preparation for Operations to follow.

With a relentless tempo of State Ceremonial and Public Duties at the start of the year, while seeking every opportunity to conduct ‘green training’, St

David's Day proved welcome respite. This being the Battalion's first celebration of our Patron Saint since moving to Windsor, the occasion was marked with suitable gravitas; the commemorative cross from the Falkland Islands was rededicated in the Windsor Garrison Church, spiritually marking our new home. Yet soon after this poignant day, where the full breadth of the Regimental family was able to gather together in one place, the impact of COVID-19 began to manifest itself. Shortly after the Government imposed 'lockdown' restrictions, I dispersed the Battalion to their homes in order to protect the force and ensure we maintained the capability to provide Military Support to the Civil Authorities (MACA) at short notice. With the Battalion dispersed for almost 4 months, a number of teams were generated to help critical tasks Under Op RESCRIPT, the MODs response to providing support to the NHS and emergency services. Initially, the Battalion were tasked with establishing Regional Testing Centres at Chessington, Milton Keynes and Portsmouth; we also contributed towards the development of Mobile Testing Units, capable of directing testing efforts to local 'hotspots'. In all, we were present at over 50 sites and enabled upwards of 15,000 people to be tested. The Battalion provided liaison to Other Government Departments and civilian agencies alike, demonstrating a truly integrated approach to managing the national response. All the while, those not on duty quickly learnt to deliver and participate in virtual training, adapting new technologies to ensure maximum output was achieved. Through these endeavours, I saw junior commanders stepping to the fore and demonstrating some excellent initiative and leadership to train and look after their people, even at reach. This was an unexpected and unconventional opportunity to prepare for Operations, one that was capitalised on at every level.

It became very clear in April that the Queen's Birthday Parade would not be

taking place on Horse Guards this year, indeed if at all; which was a difficult pill to swallow for a Battalion whose turn it was to Troop our Colour in front of Her Majesty. Yet the opportunity that resulted was truly unique, and an exceptional privilege. To become the first Battalion to Troop our Colour at Windsor Castle since 1895 was an extraordinary experience. It also came at a time of crisis, where the nation's spirit needed raising; it was our pleasure to provide this service, and to pay tribute to Her Majesty for her leadership during this strange period. **To me it underpinned the true essence of being a Welsh Guardsman; comfortable with uncertainty, able to deliver above the standard expected when asked, to maintain a sense of humour, and above all to do so with great pride.**

In the wake of this successful parade, we shifted focus to developing the Battalion's conventional capabilities. The Specialist Weapon Platoons conducted selection Cadres, and the Companies have benefitted from an unprecedented amount of time to invest in training. This is another opportunity that has arisen from the pandemic; while we have lost our opportunity to deploy on Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya, never has a London District Battalion ever had more time away from Public Duties to train. With our priority shifting in preparation for our re-subordination to 11th Infantry Brigade early next year, we have been blessed with time and training estate to deliver our own Battlegroup exercise in November, with the Companies conducting preparatory training in Pirbright, Brecon and Castlemartin throughout October.

With 2020 drawing to an end, I reflect upon the balance between what has been taken away from us this year, and what we were able to achieve; I believe we are in a better place for it. We have developed our capability in planning and adapted to changing circumstances;

our junior leaders are more empowered to train remotely and deliver output at reach; we have had time and space to train both live and blank, which – crucially – has enabled us to identify and manage weaknesses early. The Battalion is in a strong position to re-enter the Field Army on the 15th February 2021, and embrace the challenges that lie ahead.

Cymru am Byth.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

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



1

Maj Starkey COLDM GDS
 Lt Leonard
 2Lt Syms
 2Lt Phillips
 WO2 Scarf
 CSgt Cunningham
 Sgt Hiscock
 Sgt Rutledge
 Sgt Braithwaite
 LSgt Noyes
 LSgt Lovell
 LSgt Okeke
 LSgt Pritchard
 LSgt Williams 70
 LCpl Viavalevu

LCpl Collins
 LCpl Divavesi
 LCpl Jackson 59
 LCpl Roberts 72
 LCpl Thomas 76
 LCpl Phillips
 Gdsm Armstrong
 Gdsm Aylott
 Gdsm Blake
 Gdsm Campbell
 Gdsm Cleave
 Gdsm Davies 12
 Gdsm Dean
 Gdsm Deemer
 Gdsm Evans

Gdsm Griffin
 Gdsm Gurung
 Gdsm Harrison
 Gdsm Hewitt
 Gdsm Howarth
 Gdsm Howells
 Gdsm Hunt
 Gdsm Jacobs
 Gdsm Jackson 09
 Gdsm Jones 78
 Gdsm Jones 71
 Gdsm Kinsey
 Gdsm Lias
 Gdsm Lewis-Webb
 Gdsm Mclean

Gdsm Nabukebuke
 Gdsm O'Connor
 Gdsm Osborne-Keddy
 Gdsm Ryan
 Gdsm Ryder
 Gdsm Sandall
 Gdsm Smith 35
 Gdsm Suleman
 Gdsm Thomas 59
 Gdsm Thomas 83
 Gdsm Underhill
 Gdsm White
 Gdsm Wannell
 Gdsm Williams 30
 Gdsm Williams 93



The last 12 months could not have been predicted by anyone, even members of The Prince of Wales's Company. Whilst the start of the year was unscathed by the global effects of COVID-19, it completely changed the shape of everything the Company has conducted since March 2020.

Back in November the primary task for the Company was balancing the delivery of Public Duties and preparation for the challenges of the Jungle.

The Company Second in Command, Lt Jonny Leonard, and LSgt Williams 70 spent the end of 2019 in the jungle of Brunei on the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course. This enabled them to return to Windsor and help plan and deliver the preparatory training for Ex MAYAN WARRIOR in Belize.

2020 began with members of the Company enjoying the cold of Alpendorf on the Battalion ski trip. This quickly switched to warmer training in preparation for Ex MAYAN WARRIOR which saw The Prince of Wales's Company being augmented by Guardsmen from across the wider Battalion making the Company Group 120-strong. Pre-deployment training was conducted under the watchful eye of the Jungle Warfare Instructors and included a live firing package at Lydd and periods of dry training in Pirbright.

Thankfully the training and preparation, including a mammoth logistical effort led by the Company Quartermaster Sergeant, CSgt Cunningham 89 and his stores second in command LCpl Collins, was not in vain as the departure of the Company was just ahead of the issues that COVID-19 brought to training delivery, especially outside of the UK.

Needless to say, the jungle environment is a physically and mentally demanding one, which the Company met head on. The training involved a full transition from both the initial acclimatisation to the heat and humidity, enabling individuals to live and administer themselves in the jungle environment, all the way up to a complex company attack. This was overseen by a visit from the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major. Alongside this programme the Company also conducted live firing, culminating in live Platoon jungle camp attacks.

As well as training to fight in the complex jungle environment, The Prince of Wales's Company also helped give something back to the Belizeans with wider Community Engagement. This included giving the Dorothy Menzies Orphanage a 'face-lift' to help improve the quality of life of the children who reside there, as well as building shelters for a school and putting up mosquito curtains in an elderly people's home.

The tough jungle exercise was rewarded with a period of rest and recuperation in San Pedro and Caye Caulker; a part of the world that most would not have had top of their holiday list outside of a visit with the Army and all enjoyed.

There is no doubt that The Company returned from

Belize better soldiers, but with a very different task ahead.

Upon return from Belize the Company was restructured as personnel were released back to their parent companies. There was not a lot of time to settle back into life as a new look Company or to readjust to the battle rhythm back on the 'Blue Line' due to COVID-19 taking a hold across the UK.

The change of circumstance resulted in an adjustment to training delivery, seeing all members of the Battalion conducting dispersed training. Facilitated through Zoom led lessons, physical training programmes being given to individuals to carry out at home and an opportunity to deliver some more cognitive and education training. This was a difficult and uncertain time for all but reinforced the importance of regular contact across the Company and the maintenance of some form of formal routine.

The green light was given to the Company to return to some form of normality in mid-June, as elements rotated back through camp. It was clear that the majority were happy to be back, exchanging the Zoom screen for the more familiar muster parade. The customary low level physical training and basic soldiering skills were quickly reintroduced to blow away any cobwebs.

The Prince of Wales's Company provided a number of Guardsmen to support the unprecedented Queen's Birthday Parade in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle; Sgt Rutledge provided further Jam Boys presence as a key member of the escort.

Sgt Rutledge has also continued his work driving

forward his Defeat Don't Repeat (DDR) initiative that continues to gain considerable traction outside of the Welsh Guards, more recently even gaining very positive national press coverage.

As ever the summer period has seen a further change of personnel across the Company, including the departure of Major Davies and more recently the arrival of 2Lt Syms following a COVID-delayed Platoon Commanders Battle Course in Brecon.

Shortly after the Company returned to work in Windsor, they were rapidly tasked to support the COVID-19 testing at various locations across London; including parks, car parks and other Local Council areas. The task was a busy 24/7 commitment which was delivered faultlessly by the Guardsmen, who used all of their communication skills and good humour to ensure that this vital testing was carried out in a manner that saw the Welsh Guards' reputation enhanced further.

Once the testing had been handed over to civilian organisations, there was an opportunity for the platoons to get back together and re-bond as formed teams again. 1 Platoon, led by Lt Phillips and Sgt Hiscock, strapped in for some competitive socially distanced go-karting and 2 Platoon, led by Lt Burfiend and Sgt Braithwaite, practiced their amphibious skills at a waterpark in Datchet.

The focus for the Company after supporting COVID testing has quickly switched to more conventional soldiering pre-Christmas. Preparation is being conducted close to home before the Company deploys to Sennybridge to conduct both Dry and Live firing up to Platoon level. Training will culminate



before Christmas in Otterburn, under the direction of Bn HQ, to operate as a Company. Complementing this training effort is the ever-improving inflow of guardsmen from the Infantry Training Centre, of which 11 have arrived over the past couple of months to be taken under the Jam Boys wing.

Flexibility remains key for all member of The Prince of Wales's Company moving forward into an unpredictable Christmas period and New Year. However, the Company are in high spirits, are looking forward to returning to conventional training and testing ourselves in the winter months; all in preparation for what is more than likely going to be a very busy 2021 for 1WG.

1. *Jungle lessons delivered by Lt Leonard.*
2. *POW's Company Platoon HQ in Belize. Standing: Lt Anscombe-Bell, Lt Burfiend, 2Lt Phillips. Kneeling: Sgt Rutledge, Sgt Braithwaite, Sgt Hiscock*
3. *Belize. Company move into jungle post drop off.*
4. *International 7's Competition at Price Barracks, Belize. POW's Coy Support Team.*
5. *Lt Burfiend and Sgt Braithwaite presenting the lead care worker of Dorothy Menzies Orphanage with 'something for the wall'.*



NUMBER TWO COMPANY

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



1

Maj Fenton
 Lt Haines-Henderson
 Lt Powell
 Lt Richardson
 2Lt Haynes
 WO2 McEvoy
 CSgt Edwards
 Sgt Ducie
 Sgt Parry
 LSgt Burrows-Jones
 LSgt Bond
 LSgt Forde
 LSgt Jones 91
 LSgt Jones 88
 LSgt Love
 LSgt Macaulay
 LSgt Moriarty
 LSgt Prothero

LSgt Roberts
 LCpl Dean
 LCpl Griffiths
 LCpl Kemp
 LCpl Lucas
 LCpl Patel
 LCpl Thapa
 LCpl Wilkinson
 Gdsm Blackstone
 Gdsm Boland
 Gdsm Coles
 Gdsm Craig
 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Dowdeswell
 Gdsm Edwards
 Gdsm Fury
 Gdsm Greenaway
 Gdsm Griffiths

Gdsm Hamer
 Gdsm Heffernan
 Gdsm Herbert
 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Johnson
 Gdsm Jones 36
 Gdsm Jones 46
 Gdsm Jones 73
 Gdsm Jones 90
 Gdsm Jones 94
 Gdsm Krajewski-Moore
 Gdsm Lamond
 Gdsm Marshall
 Gdsm McBride
 Gdsm Miles
 Gdsm Moore
 Gdsm Morgan
 Gdsm Murphy

Gdsm Olsen
 Gdsm Owen 56
 Gdsm Owen 97
 Gdsm Owen 98
 Gdsm Osman
 Gdsm Phillips
 Gdsm Podmore-Criddle
 Gdsm Roberts
 Gdsm Scott 01
 Gdsm Scott 82
 Gdsm Stringfellow
 Gdsm Warrender
 Gdsm Williams 64
 Gdsm Williams 93
 Gdsm Williamson

The men and women of the Island of the Mighty have proved their flexibility and professionalism during a year of unexpected opportunities and disappointment.

We finally had the chance to unpack our boxes from Elizabeth Barracks upon returning from the Falkland Islands in early Nov 19, some five months after the rest of the Battalion had completed their move. We departed on Christmas leave proud of our achievements in the Falklands, of our second place in the Leuchars Cup, and of LCpl Brace and LCpl Tucker for winning the best Guardsman and Leadership awards respectively.

Following a well-earned rest, the Company returned to an intense three-month period of State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD); there were though plenty of opportunities for travel and adventure as well. A lucky few deployed with the Battalion's ski team on Ex FROSTED BLADE. A composite section of volunteers led by LSgt Burrows-Jones deployed with the Guards Parachute Platoon on exercise in Kenya. Most of the Company went on the Battalion ski trip to Alpendorf and three members of the Company managed to get out to Belize: 2Lt Haynes as part of a Short-Term Training Team; along with Lt Powell and LSgt Forde (the Company's Jungle Warfare Instructors) who helped deliver the Jam Boys' exercise.

No sooner had the troops returned from Belize than the Battalion undertook a significant re-OrBat. 17 members of our Company departed to join Specialist Platoons in Number 3, Support and Headquarters Companies. Our manning level has since recovered, but it will take some time to make-up for the loss of their knowledge and experience. The disruption

to training resulting from the onset of COVID-19 hasn't helped with the development of our relatively inexperienced Company, but it did provide us with some unexpected opportunities.

Having been directed to disperse the force, training programmes were hastily re-written to allow training to continue at reach. The soldiers took it all in their stride and soon became used to delivering presentations over Zoom or competing on Strava. It was humbling to see the effort and imagination that went into some of the online lessons and presentations. Our experience of dispersed training has certainly changed and improved how we will conduct training once back in camp.

Some respite from the online lessons was provided in the form of Op RESCRIPT. Following a couple of potential tasks that didn't materialise, we were directed to provide a small team to become COVID-19 testers. Under the guidance of Sgt Potts (Corps of Drums), an initial team of four were sent to the testing site at Chessington World of Adventures. The commitment steadily grew and by the end of our support to RESCRIPT almost everyone from the Company was supporting the COVID testing commitment across the Greater London area. All who participated must be commended for their professionalism in completing an unfamiliar and sometimes unpleasant task; several compliments were received from members of the public complementing our Guardsmen.



2



3

In the midst of the national lockdown and our commitments to Op RESCRIPT came the welcome news that there would be a Birthday Parade for Her Majesty the Queen. Number 2 Company were well represented on parade; some might even say we were key to its success! We were represented by: Company

Sergeant Major McEvoy who assisted Drill Sergeant Heath in getting those taking part up to the required standard; Lt Richardson who had the honour of being the Ensign; LCpl Griffiths 86 and Guardsmen Heffernan, Qumivudia, Owen 97, Rokovadu, Jones 73 and Morgan 35.



4



5

Members of the Company have creatively and proactively made the most of the unexpected time on our hands. Sgt Brown (5 PI Sgt) organised and completed a virtual 7 Half Marathons in 7 Days raising an impressive £2,910 for NHS charities. Sgt Ducie (4 PI Sgt) planned and led a team over the 3 Peaks Challenge – scaling the three highest peaks in the UK in less than 24 hours – raising £1,520 for Combat Stress in the process. LCpl Lucas deployed with a composite Foot Guards Short-Term Training Team to the Cayman Islands to train their new Defence Force. Most recently Lt Haines-Henderson has led a team of novices from the Company in the Infantry wakeboarding championships. Thank you to all of you who have supported our fundraising efforts this year. We have started planning our challenges for 2021 and will keep you informed via the Battalion’s social media accounts.

As ever, there has been a great change in personalities in the Company. Upwards of 36 Guardsmen have joined, most directly from Catterick, but we have also benefitted from the addition of some more experienced Guardsmen from across the Battalion. We have welcomed and said goodbye to Sgt Davies 83, our stand-in Company Quartermaster Sergeant who handed over to CSgt Edwards. Other new arrivals to the Company include: Sgt Parry 26 who has taken over as 5 Platoon Sergeant after returning from the Infantry Training Centre (ITC); LSgt Love who has returned from MPCT; LSgt Jones 88 who joined us from the Jam Boys; and LSgt Roberts who has spent the last four years with the Guards Parachute Platoon.

With sadness we said goodbye to some familiar faces and long-serving members of the Company, including: Capt

Ward who moved on to the temporary role of Battalion Media Officer; Sgt Langley who has taken over as the Guards Parachute Platoon Sergeant; Sgt Brown who took over the Machine Gun Platoon; Sgt Ducie, SG, who has returned to his parent unit after a memorable two years as 4 Platoon Sergeant; along with LSgt Jones 91, LCpl Dean and a number of others who have left the Army, or who have transferred. We are grateful for their contributions to the Company and wish them every success in their new roles or careers.

As the year draws to a close, the Company’s focus is on green training in preparation for the Battalion’s battle camp in November. We have a lot of cobwebs to blow off but are excited by the prospect of three months of green soldiering whilst still officially on the Blue Line. The deployment on Op SHADER still seems a long way-off, but preparation has certainly started.

1. *Some of the 2 Company personnel on parade for Her Majesty’s Birthday.*
2. *Members of the 3 Peaks Challenge Team (L-R LSgt Prothero, Gdsm Owen and LCpl Griffiths).*
3. *Platoon level training in Pirbright.*
4. *Platoon level training in Pirbright (Gdsm Morgan).*
5. *LCpl Lucas leads a CASEVAC during Platoon training in Pirbright.*



NUMBER THREE COMPANY

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



1

Maj Young
 Capt Scott-Bowden
 Capt Anderson
 Capt Vincenzini
 WO2 Evans 31
 CSgt Cummins
 CSgt Evans
 CSgt Crew
 Sgt Bladen
 Sgt Browning
 Sgt Brown 68
 Sgt Doyle
 LSgt Buretini
 LSgt Chambers
 LSgt Davies 47
 LSgt Everett
 LSgt Forgan

LSgt Haines
 LSgt Howells
 LSgt Morgan 14
 LSgt Moseley
 LSgt Retallick
 LSgt Roos
 LSgt Sandison
 LSgt Williams 91
 LCpl Bilkey
 LCpl Ceesay
 LCpl Davies 14
 LCpl Duval
 LCpl Dyer
 LCpl Goodwin
 LCpl Goss
 LCpl Jones 71
 LCpl Jones 13

LCpl Phillips
 LCpl Watters
 LCpl Williams 88
 Gdsm Cattell
 Gdsm Caufield-Dollard
 Gdsm Dade
 Gdsm Davis 82
 Gdsm Davies 37
 Gdsm Downes
 Gdsm Emanuel
 Gdsm Green
 Gdsm Graham
 Gdsm Hender
 Gdsm Hoyle
 Gdsm Hughes 92
 Gdsm James
 Gdsm Lee

Gdsm Morgan 05
 Gdsm Newth
 Gdsm O'Brien
 Gdsm Perring
 Gdsm Podmore
 Gdsm Roberts 28
 Gdsm Seward
 Gdsm Sinclair
 Gdsm Taylor
 Gdsm Toombs
 Gdsm Valentine
 Gdsm Walker
 Gdsm Watson
 Gdsm Wilkinson
 Gdsm Winney



2



This year has been full of 'firsts' and seminal events, many of which will continue to influence and affect us all going forward.

However, during the initial weeks and months of this year the Company's attention remained on State Ceremonial and Public Duties, with many looking forward to a change of pace and focus towards the training of the specialist platoons which together make up The Little Iron Men, namely: Anti-Tanks; Reconnaissance and Snipers.

The change in focus, however, came due to the most disruptive single external factor of the year, namely COVID 19. The Little Iron Men were dispersed and commanders at all levels had

to rapidly become competent and creative in continuing training at reach, whilst also monitoring fitness, the welfare of the men and keeping morale high. The wonders of modern technology forced us into the twenty-first century and many of the practices adopted during dispersal have been retained, to enable us for more efficient working practices.

On return from dispersal the specialist Platoons commenced the practical elements of their cadres, which had been prepped through extensive theory

lessons conducted at home. The successes and achievements of the cadres are testament to the proactive nature of all ranks and the willingness to learn and improve at all levels. To summarise, the Little Iron Men continue to provide key capabilities to the Commanding Officer through the provision of trained and qualified battalion assets.

In line with our role as specialist, battle winning assets, the Company supported a number of key activities this year. The Reconnaissance Platoon deployed to the Belizean Jungle with The Prince of Wales's Company Group, demonstrating their expertise and competence in operating in challenging environments. The Company shared its jungle warfare knowledge on the exercise with four Jungle Warfare Instructors; WO2 Evans (the CSM, previously Recce 2ic), Sgt Bladen (Recce 2ic), Sgt Browning (Sniper Platoon Commander) and LSgt Morgan (Recce), deploying to Belize.

In other theatres, Sgt Brown deployed on a long term training team task to Tunisia and LCpl Bilkey to the Cayman Islands demonstrating the continued and varied opportunities available to members of the company where they can employ their skills and qualifications. Less glamorous but also vital, LSgt Watters has been seconded to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick to teach new trainee Guardsmen during a recruiting surge, from which the battalion continues to benefit.

Success on courses (beyond the cadres) peppered the year for many Iron Men. Excellent performances on Infantry Battle School courses were

delivered by LSgt Sandison, LCpl Bilkey, LCpl Jones 13 and LSgt Watters all completing the Section Commander's Battle Course. At the time of writing, LSgt Morgan is attending the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course and I am confident he will continue the successful streak set by others! We also made our presence known at the Support Weapons School as the second in command, Captain Scott-Bowden attended the Anti-Tanks Course.

LCpl Davies 14 not only completed the gruelling All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection Course (aka P Coy) but was also awarded top student, no mean feat! In a similar vein, LCpl Phillips 65 is currently undertaking selection to join the Pathfinders having already passed and promoted from the HDPRCC (Household Division & Parachute Regiment Combined Course) Tac Course (for promotion to LCpl) this year.

The headquarters team has seen much change with a new CQMS, CSM and Company Commander all moving into post this year. All three have previously been Little Iron Men in various posts, but notably the Company Commander is the first Welsh Guards Officer since Maj Badham left post in 2016.

1. *The Recce Platoon at the end of their cadre.*
2. *The Anti-Tank Platoon at the end of their cadre.*
3. *The Sniper Platoon at the end of their cadre.*





SUPPORT COMPANY

NAC OFNA OND GWARTH - FEAR NOTHING BUT DISGRACE



Maj Charles-Jones
 Capt Minihan
 Lt Wilkinson
 WO2 Johnson
 DMaj Rees
 CSgt Qaimuri
 Sgt Brown
 Sgt Griffiths
 Sgt Lewis
 Sgt Potts
 LSgt Davies
 LSgt Lewis
 LSgt Matthews
 LSgt Price
 LSgt Skates
 LSgt Van Eyssen
 LCpl Burchill
 LCpl Dennis
 LCpl Durkin

LCpl Gassama
 LCpl Morgan
 LCpl Siwale
 LCpl Todd
 LCpl Waqanisaravi
 Dmr Hillman
 Dmr Jones
 Dmr Hughes
 Dmr Price
 Dmr Parry
 Dmr Roberts
 Dmr Sarpak
 Dmr Thomas
 Dmr Woodward
 Dmr Brain
 Dmr Bowden
 Gdsm Bastable
 Gdsm Cobb-Evans
 Gdsm Cadd

Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Davies
 Dmr Evans
 Gdsm Evans
 Gdsm Green
 Gdsm Healy-Roberts
 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Korosaya
 Gdsm Lewis
 Gdsm Lynch
 Gdsm Mitchell
 Dmr Maund
 Gdsm Milne
 Gdsm Namakadre
 Gdsm Nightingale
 Gdsm Pilcher
 Gdsm Parry
 Gdsm Qaranivalu
 Gdsm Qumivutia

Dmr Roberts
 Dmr Roberts
 Gdsm Richards
 Gdsm Rowlands
 Gdsm Rokovada
 Gdsm Stott
 Gdsm Sherlock
 Gdsm Smith
 Gdsm Turner
 Dmr Trematick
 Gdsm Tennant
 Gdsm Thomas
 Gdsm Woosnam
 Gdsm Willaims
 Gdsm Willaims
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Winnan

It has been an extraordinary year for Support Company full of unprecedented challenges. As ever the men of the Company have risen to the occasion and excelled themselves across the broad spectrum of specialist tasks that they have been directed to master.

2020 kicked off with support to State Ceremonial and Public Duties and the Corps of Drums, led by DMaj Rees, collecting a large amount of Forecourt time as they accompanied the Queen's Guard and Windsor Castle Guard to their posts. All of this hard work paid dividends when the heavily adapted Queen's Birthday Parade took place at Windsor Castle with DMaj Rees, along with 6 Drummers, were on parade made conspicuous by their tunics at the rear of the massed bands. Their turnout and performance on the day brought praise from all who saw them, both live and on the television. Special mention must go to LCpl Siwale who was the Lone Side Drummer for the Troop and is the Welsh Guards Cutlers' Sword entrant for 2020. At the time of writing the results had not been published.

As well as putting the Corps of Drums through their paces in the public eye, they had 14 Drummers competing for the Battalion's Silver Bugle. In a close run competition it was Dmr Thomas 75 who emerged victorious taking home the Bugle and a cash prize presented by the Commanding Officer.

As soon as tunics had been hung up and the final note petered out, Support Company were back in belt kit and on the training area running cadres for the Machine Gun and Mortar Platoons. On successful completion of the cadres both Platoons are up now able to

deliver support to the Rifle Companies on exercise and operations. The Commanding Officer gave out Machine Gun and Mortar badges on parade and acknowledged the exceptional performances of Gdsm Davies 60 who won Best Mortarman and Gdsm Qumvutia and Healy-Roberts for best machine gun pair.

Soon after leaving the cadres behind Support Company was tasked to conduct Military Aid to the Civil Authority (MACA) tasks in support of the COVID-19 testing program. Sgt Potts volunteered to become the first man in Battalion to qualify as a 'trained trainer' and then took the rest of the Battalion through the training required to complete the testing. During the month long task the Company carried out testing at sites across South London. This culminated with the testing teams training the civilian contractors before handing over to them and heading back to Wales for a well-earned summer leave.

Focus for the Company is now on sharpening our skills and drills ready for a Battalion exercise at the end of the year which will lead us into the move to 11 Bde in 2021. The keystone to this will be the Company's ability to perform physically while carrying our specialist weapons. The Company PTI, LCpl Dennis, is instrumental to this and has been working hard to write and run a PT program focused on operational output.

With our cadres complete, the Machine Gun Platoon can

man 6 SF role GPMGs, the Mortar Platoon can bring 4 barrels into action and the Assault Pioneers are qualified and ready to support the Rifle Companies. With a well-planned and executed physical training program working alongside a military skill development program Support Company is in a strong position as we move towards the prospect of Operations next year. I will go as far as to say that the men of Support Company need Fear Nothing but Disgrace.

1. *The Machine Gun Platoon at the end of their cadre.*
2. *Gdsm Healy Roberts on the cadre.*





HEADQUARTER COMPANY

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

Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher	SSgt Kittle REME	LSgt Putty	Gdsm Arnold
Maj Spencer-Smith	CSgt Marsh	LSgt Rana RLC	Gdsm Asamoah
Maj Butler	SSgt Nukutabu AGC	LSgt Roberts 25	Pte Baker RLC
Maj Campbell	Sgt Cardin AGC	LSgt Sanderson RLC	Gdsm Boswell
Maj Knight	Sgt Davies 83	LSgt Smith 18	Gdsm Clarke
Capt Becket	Sgt Davies 83	LSgt Stirling	Gdsm Collins
Capt Bowen	Sgt Davis RLC	LSgt Tsorme REME	Cfn Davies
Capt Byrne	Sgt Frowen	LSgt Watts RLC	Gdsm Doyle
Capt Clarke	Sgt Hillier	LSgt Williams 60	Cfn Durrant REME
Capt Elletson	Sgt Jakes RAMC	Cpl Weedall RAMC	Gdsm Evans 16
Capt Evans	Sgt Limbu RLC	LCpl Brace	Gdsm Faulkner
Capt Griffiths	Sgt Lucas	LCpl Brophy REME	Gdsm Fitzgibbon
Capt Limbu AGC	Sgt Morgan 65	LCpl Butler	Pte Gurung RLC
Capt Parkinson	Sgt Pienar	LCpl Clarke AGC	Gdsm Hughes 61
Capt Taylor	Sgt Richardson AGC	LCpl Francis	Gdsm McGlauchlin
Capt Ward	Sgt Simons	LCpl Grant RLC	Gdsm Openda
WO1 RSM Parry 19	Sgt Soko	LCpl Howells 27	Gdsm Powell
WO2 RQMS(M) Peters	Sgt Stallard R Sigs	LCpl Jones 73	Cfn Rai REME
WO2 RQMS(T) Cope	Sgt Thompson REME	LCpl Lewis	Gdsm Roberts 300
WO2 AQMS Carlin REME	LSgt Adams	LCpl Mason	Cfn Slevin REME
WO2 RAWO Cofie AGC	LSgt Asare-Bediako	LCpl Messam-Green RAMC	Cfn Thomas 10
WO2 RCWO Moffat RLC	LSgt Ceesay AGC	LCpl McCarthy REME	Gdsm Thomas 500
WO2 DSgt Heath	LSgt Clowes	LCpl McKay REME	Pte Usiagwu RLC
WO2 DSgt Walton	LSgt Edwards	LCpl Mjungu RLC	Pte Valentine AGC
WO2 (Master Tailor) Wilks	LSgt Evans 94	LCpl Phombo AGC	Gdsm Ward
WO2 Lewis 29	LSgt Horrell	LCpl Pun RLC	Gdsm Williams 07
WO2 CSM Hughes 39	LSgt Jones 89	LCpl Regan RAMC	Gdsm Williams 93
WO2 CSMiM Green	LSgt Jones 78	LCpl Rowlands-Bell	
CSgt Bick	LSgt Lewis 51	LCpl Siviter	
CSgt Cunningham	LSgt Martin	LCpl Sullivan	
CSgt Evans 88	LSgt Mottram	LCpl Tucker	
SSgt Foody RLC	LSgt Muteti	LCpl Wiffen RAMC	
CSgt Fuller	LSgt May	LCpl Wonnacott RAMC	
CSgt Jones 73	LSgt Pickersgill-Jones	Gdsm Adekoya	



1. The Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major at the new Welsh Guards Memorial, Combermere Barracks.

This year has most definitely not played out as we thought it would, although starting as we expected, the last 6 months has seen a lot of changes to the programme. As the enablers of the Battalion this has had its challenges in some places but has mostly given us the opportunity to show in each department that we are a flexible group of experienced Welsh Guardsman, and attached units, who's aim is to facilitate the rest of the Battalion.

We have had members of Company deployed all over the world, firstly at the tail end of the FIRIC (Falkland Islands Roulemont Infantry Company) deployment this time last year with some HQ Coy elements still out in the Falklands. Shortly after Christmas we had members of the Signals platoon, Quartermaster's (QM's) department, Light Aid Detachment (LAD) and Medics

deployed to Belize to take part in Ex MAYAN WARRIOR and we were just preparing for Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya when lockdown was enforced.

During Lockdown we started to trial 'working from home' which was easily achievable with certain more senior members of the Company but took a little experimenting for everybody to get to grips with the virtual

training programme. That being said, all departments were soon conducting valuable training over the internet.

Our main excitement over Summer was the Queen's Birthday Parade where we had troops on parade in Windsor Castle celebrating Her Majesty's Official Birthday. Backstage we had troops supporting the event too; a large amount of planning was involved in getting the Guardsman to parade as we were very much in the public eye, we had to be seen to be leading by example when it came to all of the social distancing measures.

There have been numerous changes of personnel in the Company, some of which include Capt Griffiths taking over as RCMO after successfully commissioning. WO2 Walton

transferred from the Grenadier Guards and took up the role of Drill Sergeant. WO2 Hughes moved over from 3 Company to become the Company Sergeant Major. CSgt Jones 73 has taken over as Company Quartermaster Sergeant after completing his assignment in Kenya. Gdsm Ward has left the Tailor Shop for Company Headquarters. Departing the Company recently was CSgt Buller who was assigned to Warminster as Company Quartermaster Sergeant. Now, towards the back end of the year, we are again planning for an exercise in Otterburn which will see all elements of HQ Coy tested as we make up for not deploying to Kenya. It has been a full-on year, full of surprises but we have handled everything thrown our way and can't wait to see what the next year brings us.



1

The Signals Platoon Update

by Captain GF Elletson, Regimental Signals Officer

The last year has been centred around one theme for the Signals Platoon; re-establishing the ability to operate as a dismounted Battlegroup in a conventional war fighting environment.

Previously we had been focussed on Op TORAL 6 (Afghanistan post 2014) where the focus was manning Ops Rooms, whereas this year we were planning on deploying to Kenya for a Battlegroup exercise and so had to change the way we were doing business.

The first realisation of this was the significant uplift in manpower we received in January. The Commanding Officer instructed each Company to give the Signals Platoon two of their finest Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO's) in a clear display of intent to show the Signals Platoon as a career enhancing opportunity for intelligent and keen Welsh Guardsmen. This

uplift in manpower saw a pool of experience and talent enter the Platoon, and after a couple of weeks all the new members had come to understand their novel role in Battalion.

The role of a member of the Signals Platoon is to enable communications up and down the chain of command, understand what is going on in the battle space and to help enable commanders make informed decisions. We have been focussing on firmly establishing this in the mindset of the Platoon and building a cohort of Welsh Guardsmen who are able to transition between the Rifle Companies and the Signals Platoon. The intention of this is to create NCO's who can both be Section Commanders/Platoon Sergeants in a Rifle Company but also have a much greater understanding of the bigger picture having spent time in the Signals Platoon.

COVID-19 has put the brakes on our training, but we have been able to achieve a lot remotely, and since coming back to work, training in camp and a cadre in July. On top of this we have sent our maximum allocation of troops on every course in Bovington to get qualified, and even though Kenya has been cancelled we are hoping to be put through our paces on the 1WG Battle camp in November.

1. *The Signals Platoon setting up Battle Group Headquarters*
2. *Battle Group Headquarters set up on the Signals Platoon Cadre*



2

The Training Wing Update

by Captain JW Parkinson, Training Officer

Since the return from lockdown the training wing has been keeping itself busy, whether this be planning and conducting Battalion Screening Cadres, managing the ever-changing Battle Camp or providing advice and guidance to the companies during the Platoon and Company level training.

The Screening Cadre is designed to give students, and their Chain of Command (CoC), an understanding of their suitability prior to attending the Household Division & Parachute Regiment Combined Course (H DPRCC) Tac course and H DPRCC pre-courses. At the end of each cadre, students are given individual feedback on their performance and a report is sent to their CoC. Individual training plans are then produced and given to those who require them and are managed by Platoon HQ. Students can attend the screening cadres as often as they require.

Shortly after returning from lockdown the Battalion was given the unfortunate news that Ex ASKARI STORM was cancelled due to COVID-19. However; the Battalion still needed to train in order to deploy on Op SHADER (Iraq) in Jul 21. The training wing was given the responsibility of planning and conducting CT2 (Collective Training Level 2) exercises as well as conducting Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) up to Company level. Initially this was a relatively straight forward task, this was soon to change.

Prior to the main body of the Battalion returning to work, the Training Wing started booking training estate to allow it to achieve its aim of achieving two CT2 Exercises and Company level LFTT. During that time

there was plenty of training estate to play with. A short time after, the Battalion and the rest of the army returned to work, and it didn't take long before all for the training area bids the Training Wing had submitted started to get cancelled to facilitate other operational training. At the time of writing the Battalion is currently set to conduct an exercise in Nov with the hope of conducting LFTT shortly after.



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1. The current training wing
2. Sgt Simons teaches subtenants on a Screening Cadre how to improve their navigation skills.
3. Gdsm on a Screening Cadre listen in on a set of orders.



1

Regimental Administration Office (RAO) Department Update
 by Lieutenant RJ Drury,
 Detachment Commander

The last twelve months has seen the detachment settle nicely into Windsor and continue to support the Battalion both in camp and deployed during what has been an unusual and uncertain year to say the least!

The detachment has said farewell to some great members of the team such as SSgt Woodhouse, Sgt Naicobo and Cpl Wells but has welcomed new members Sgt Cardin, Sgt Richardson, LCpl Phombo and Pte Osei-Owusu.

The start of the year saw three members of the detachment deploy to support The Prince of Wales's Company in Belize. WO2 Cofie, LSgt Gurung and LSgt Macaulay all deployed to provide administrative support to the Company. The deployment allowed the members of the Detachment to experience operating in the jungle environment all be it for a much shorter period than their infantry brethren.

Spring 2020 brought along new challenges as the detachment were dispersed across the UK and had to develop new ways of working and training. This allowed the detachment to demonstrate their adaptability and continue to deliver first class administration as they supported the teams deployed as part of Op RESCRIPT in support of the COVID-19 effort.

It hasn't been all work though! The detachment has had multiple members represent both the Corps and the Battalion. LSgt Macaulay and Pte Reynolds have been invaluable to the football team.

In June 2020 Sgt Cardin and LCpl Fitch had the honour of representing the AGC(SPS) at Her Majesties Official Birthday Parade held in the grounds of Windsor Castle. It is a great privilege to part of these events and is just an example of what is available to a member of the AGC(SPS) attached to the Battalion.



2

- 1. LSgt Macaulay - Belize
- 2. Sgt Cardin & LCpl Fitch - QBP

Regimental Aid Post Update by LCpl Messam-Green RAMC

It has been a busy year for the Regimental Aid Post (RAP). In the past year we have seen Medics deploy with Number 2 Company to the Falkland Islands and with POWs Coy to Belize on Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR.

It has also seen the RAP take part in Her Majesty The Queen's Official Birthday Parade, selection support in Nepal and supporting the Battalion during the COVID pandemic.

As part of the Battalion's role in the Falkland Islands the RAP deployed both LCpl Wiffen and LCpl Wonnacott. During their time there, both Medics found themselves split between Onion Range, providing medical support to Live Fire Tactical Training and Mount Pleasant. When back in Mount Pleasant they also conducted activities like training the local Scout group in first aid, providing medical cover for sporting events like rugby matches and half marathons.

There was also the chance to show what they do in an interactive medical stand on the Capability Day. Whilst deployed, both LCpls Wiffen and Wonnacott received a Commander's Coin for their excellent work with the Company and community engagement.

Ex MAYAN WARRIOR was a big task for the RAP, deploying Maj Knight, Cpl Weedall, LCpls Regan and Messam-Green in support of POWs Coy

LCpl Messam Green said about this task:

"I deployed to Belize on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR as a Coy Medic. This was my first time working in jungle conditions, so I was keen to conduct as much clinical training as possible to

enable me to best support the soldiers on the ground. I really enjoyed working as a lone medic and felt that I was able to be a force multiplier and became an asset to the Coy.

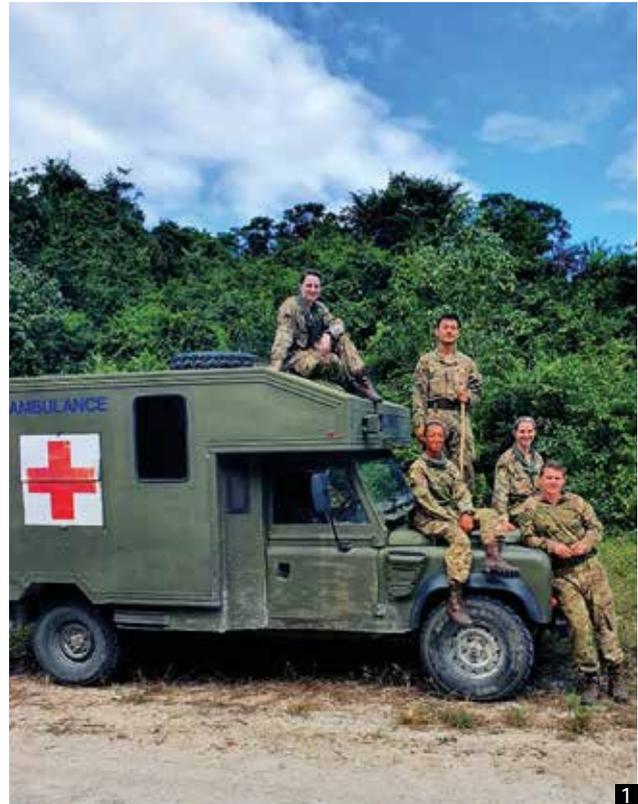
I spent the first week working in the Medical Centre running sick parades, being duty medic and on standby to receive any patients from the HLS point and transporting them to either the hospital or back to Camp. To do this I needed to have a thorough knowledge of the Medical Plan.

Working in the Medical Centre enabled me to carry out my own professional development such as practicing gaining IV access and using DMICP (Defence Medical Information Capability Programme). I also gave a lesson on snake bites to 26 Engineer Regiment who were also deployed in Belize."

On the 13th June 2020, Maj Knight, LCpl Regan and LCpl Wiffen had the honour of represent the Royal Army Medical Corps by taking part in Her Majesty's Official Birthday Parade.

COVID-19 has represented its own unique challenge to the RAP. However, we are striving to play our role and ensure that everyone remains safe and can access the same medical care as before.

1. *The RAP on Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR*
2. *Major Fenton speaking to local scouts in the Falkland Islands*



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2

Catering Department Update
by Warrant Officer Class 2 Moffat,
Regimental Catering Warrant Officer

The move from Pirbright to Windsor has been challenging for the Catering Department, changing contractors from Sodexo to Aramark and all that entails has not been easy, particularly for the young chefs, however each of them has taken it in their stride and has overcome several hurdles.

Along with the Battalion move the Catering Department have also deployed on the Grenadier Guards Ex MAYAN STORM in Belize, feeding in excess of 300 Service Personnel. We have also seen 4 chefs' complete short deployments to the Falklands sporadically throughout the last year, whilst also supporting the COVID-19 Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) by ensuring they had their 3 meals a day at whatever time they required them.

The catering team's selfless commitment was also at the forefront of the department and every member of the

team joined together to raise £2,314.50 for the NHS by completing an in-camp Lands' End to John O Groats challenge, which was a run, bike, run challenge set over 4 days. They did not stop there and went on to have the privilege of catering for Veterans Aid Charity for lunch and dinner.

All in all, a great year for the department supporting the Battalion.

1. All Chefs completing the event after 4 days of hard work
2. The catering team

Quartermaster Department
by Major A Campbell, Quartermaster

A very unusual but challenging year in the Department. Early November saw the department have a full LSA&I (Logistic Support Assurance & Inspection) and this was Major Campbell's first as the new Quartermaster.

After returning to work after Christmas leave, the department prepared The Prince of Wales's Company for their deployment to Belize on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR for a six-week. This consisted of obtaining, sorting and issuing all items required for them to train and have a successful exercise and this was WO2 Cope's first experience, as an RQMS, of preparing a Coy to deploy overseas - suffice to say, it all went without a hitch. The department also supported the overseas exercise by deploying Sgt Lucas as the ammunition storeman.

In February, Maj Butler (BGLO (Battle Group Logistics Officer)), Capt Bowen (QM(T)), Capt Evans (Ops Offr), WO2 Cope (RQMS) all travelled

to Kenya for a "Wildlife safari trip" and for a recce in preparation for 1WG's Ex ASKARI STORM. The recce went well, and 3 PARA were great hosts and the team found their experiences on the 3 PARA exercise a great platform for 1 WG to have a rewarding exercise also. But unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our exercise to Kenya was cancelled.

In April the department and Battalion was stood down as part of the UK lockdown directed by HQ Land and in line with the government guidelines. Nevertheless, it saw the department, as always, sorting admin for the Coy's to deploy Mobile Testing Units in and around the SW of England. The department used the time wisely and



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conducted extra education and gained civilian recognised qualifications whilst stood down and after a long three months, the department returned to work, in a somewhat different socially distancing workplace.

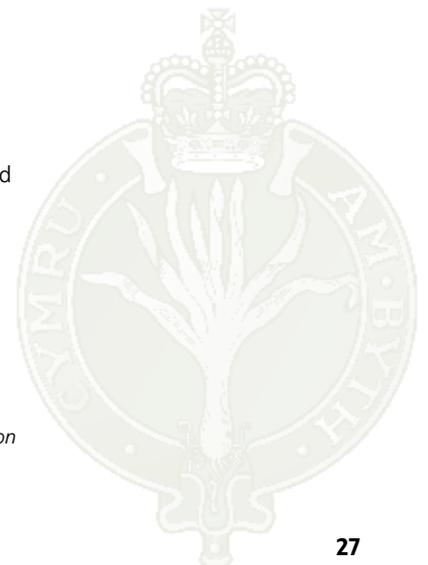
No sooner had we returned to work and we were straight into a full LEA (Land Equipment Assurance) organised by Capt Bowen, WO2 (RQMS) Cope and WO2 (AQMS) Mott. WG passed the

inspection with flying colours and for the first time with no non-conformances and no non-compliances.

August saw the battalion tasked with a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) tasking to train the Cayman Island's Defence Force. As a department we had to receive all the kit resourced by AHQ (Army Headquarters) for the STTT tasking in a very tight time period to enable the kit to deploy with Support Coy.

Looking forward will see the department support the Battalion battle camp in November and facilitate the preparation leading up to battle camp in Otterburn and future operations in Iraq on Op SHADER.

1. *Ex Askari Storm Recce*
2. *The Prince of Wales's Company freight inspection at South Cerney*





Motorised Transport Platoon (MT PI)
 by Captain R Beckett COLDM GDS,
 Motor Transport Officer

After a long and memorable (busy) final quarter to 2019, the MT PI settled into 2020 planning driving courses and training which would see the outputs met for the forthcoming Op SHADER 2021 tour.

These plans were short lived and few courses took place due to COVID-19 restrictions. Vehicle maintenance continued which would see the highest availability of task worthy Green Fleet vehicles in a considerable amount of time. This was thanks to LSgt Williams and his team in close conjunction with AQMS Mott and his team in the LAD.

Due to the pandemic taking hold in late March, the Green Fleet played second fiddle to the sheer amount of White Fleet that we had to either hire in or request from other London District units. LSgt May was working flat out throughout and consistently delivered what was needed, even within the constraints of some very short notice periods. At times we had over 60 extra platforms to either deliver what was required of the Battalion or in anticipation of what could be asked of us.

September has brought new planning and more training

in what has become a very congested training pipeline. General Service (GS) courses are running internally back to back under the watchful eye of Sgt Pienaar; Quad Courses are on the horizon under the leadership of Sgt Hillier and driver training has seen Sgt Davies deliver more Theory and Practical tests than in any single month before. We are anticipating a very busy autumn to get us back on track and put the lockdown behind us.

1. GS Course
Vehicle Recovery
2. Op RESCRIPT
Vehicle Uplift



Light Aid Detachment (LAD)
 by Warrant Officer Class 2 Carlin,
 Artificer Quarter Master Sergeant

Having completed a unit move and all the subsequent fall out work that resulted, the LAD was looking forward to some routine, however this was not to be the case. With most of the Battalion stood down due to COVID-19, the LAD continued our work to keep the vehicle fleet roadworthy and weapons available.

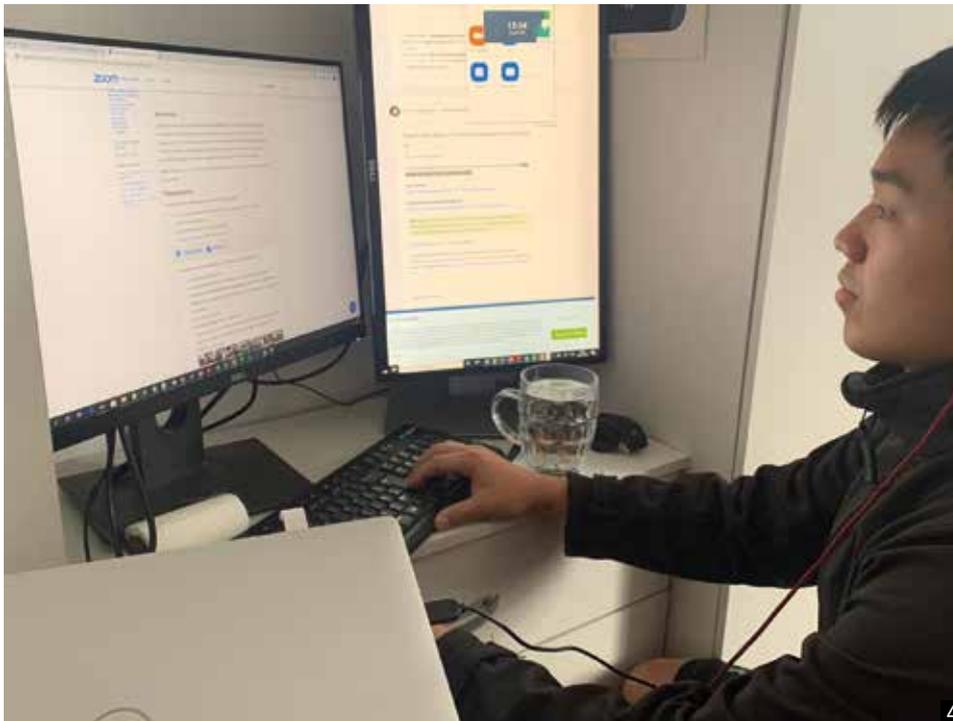
Should the Battalion have been called to assist the UK in any way, the equipment would be ready for use immediately. The LAD also continued to complete online training with use of DLE (Defence Learning Environment) and Open University.

The LAD tackled social distancing in work by splitting down into three two man working teams. This meant that tradesmen could continue to service and maintain the vehicles in order to keep the Battalion BUF (Basic Unit Fleet) above 85% readiness, whilst

also minimising the risk of the virus spreading in the workshop. We also provided 3 tradesmen to provide camp security.

The vehicle fleet had been assigned to Op RESCRIPT, meaning all our vehicles were at readiness for tasking. This was especially important to us because it gave us as a LAD a high priority for spares, meaning items can take less than 4 days to arrive. This in turn shortened the time a piece of equipment is unserviceable and unavailable to the Battalion. As a result, the availability of the Battalion





time in preparing the vehicle fleet for the Battalion Battle Camp in Otterburn. From MEI's (Mandatory Equipment Inspections) to services and fitting new parts, the LAD has made sure everything will be ready for Battle Camp. We had some excellent news, with two members of the LAD being selected for promotion to Corporal. We would like to congratulate LCpl Rob Brophy and LCpl Charlie McKay on achieving their promotions and thank you in advance for the doughnuts. Unfortunately, LCpl Brophy will be leaving the LAD in May 2021 to continue his career with 4th Battalion the Rifles based in Aldershot, whilst LCpl McKay will be staying with the Welsh Guards and will promote in post with effect 1st October 2020.



fleet increased to 93%, the highest it had been for 18 months.

During the working week, the tradesmen within the LAD had been forced to become inventive with their PT sessions, using items within the workshop as gym equipment. For example, using toolboxes as deadlift weight and a gantry crane as a pull-up bar. This is not the usual way of doing physical training but has still been effective in keeping the LAD's fitness to a high standard. We have also been involved with the HQ Coy WG1000 challenge completing 1000 miles in a week for charity.

In all a busy 12 months for the LAD, seeing members deployed to Belize, Falklands, being part of The Queen's Birthday Parade, raising money for Charity, providing Equipment Care lessons and effective Equipment Support to the Battalion whilst still managing to have some fun along the way.

Since June, the LAD has said farewell to WO2 (AQMS) Terry Mott and welcomed WO2 (AQMS) Chris Carlin. From all of us here at the LAD, we would like to wish WO2 (AQMS) Mott all the best as he continues his career with 128 Field Company 103 Battalion REME.

After returning from summer leave, the LAD has wasted no

1. *LCpl Thomas keeping us safe*
2. *Cfn Strutton "OP Massive by any means necessary"*
3. *Cfn Sleven feet up on the job*
4. *Cfn Rai learning twice as fast with 2 screens*
5. *LCpl McKay loving the 40mile point*





BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS



MAJ HALLIDAY
 WO2 LAWRENCE
 WO2 GRIMWOOD
 CSGT HOLT
 CSGT EVANS
 CSGT SMOUT
 CSGT BLUE
 SGT FOMES
 SGT MERCER
 SGT BARNETT
 SGT CLARK
 SGT MILWARD
 SGT LIGHTFOOT
 LSGT WILCOX

LSGT GURNEY
 LSGT WING
 LSGT COLE
 LSGT ELLEN
 LSGT ELDER
 LSGT LACEY
 LSGT LOVELL
 LSGT MASON
 LSGT SHELLARD
 LCPL LOCKWOOD
 LCPL LIBBY
 LCPL RAMPLIN
 LCPL HIRST
 LCPL DANN

LCPL COETZER
 LCPL ARMSTRONG
 LCPL AUSTWICK
 LCPL COOK
 LCPL ELDER
 LCPL SHEPHERD
 LCPL HOWARD
 LCPL OYENIRAN
 MUSN PHILP
 MUSN COLEMAN
 MUSN STOWELL
 MUSN MILES
 MUSN FINNEY
 MUSN LAWLOR

MUSN HERMAN
 MUSN MUSTO
 MUSN WATSON
 MUSN GRAHAM
 MUSN BUCKNEL
 MUSN SMITH
 MUSN COX



Band of the Welsh Guards
by Musician J Lawlor

During these unprecedented times our normal work routine has changed dramatically. With State Ceremonial events on hold and a ban on public audiences, we have been unable to perform our traditional role.

As the rest of the country started to conduct their business online, the Band of the Welsh Guards followed suit. Virtual performances continue to take place each week using a range of video sharing software. This has been beneficial for all musicians, especially those in preparation for their Career Employment Qualification (CEQ) tests. The opportunity to record oneself enables one to self-evaluate and thus take the necessary steps for improvement. Furthermore, it has given musicians the

chance to play to a live audience online on a regular basis. This has been a valuable opportunity as it allows us to replicate a performance environment. This is so important to ensure that the Band of the Welsh Guards continue to deliver the highest standards of musical performance. In addition to music, the band have been fortunate to receive physical training and yoga sessions online.

Whilst the majority of the band have been working from

home, some of those that remained in Central London were able to contribute directly to Op RESCRIPT - the military operation providing assistance to help tackle COVID-19. Lance Corporal (LCpl) Emma Dann and Musician (Musn) Stephen Bucknell were part of a team tasked with providing laundry services for key military personnel during this time. For nearly four months their duties involved driving all over Central London delivering clean laundry to those working on the operation. Lance Corporal's Adam Hirst and Melissa Ramplin were stationed at London Central Garrison Headquarters at Horseguards as part of the G4 welfare team. Their role was to assist military personnel working at the NHS Nightingale Hospital in Stratford, East London.

This included administrative work for senior officers and general driving duties where necessary. One project in particular involved distributing thousands of chocolate bars to key workers across London after a generous donation from Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie.

This year would have seen the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Troop their Colour in front of Her Majesty the Queen. Due to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade was sadly cancelled. Throughout 68 years of Her Majesty's reign the parade had been cancelled just once before, this was due to the national rail strike of 1955.

Fortunately, a Tribute to Her Majesty the Queen was able to take place on the Quadrangle



at Windsor Castle. On the 13th June a detachment from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Trooped their Colour whilst supported by a massed band from the Household Division. The massed band was far smaller than what is traditionally seen on Horseguards Parade and included some of the finest musicians from the Household Division. For those from the Band of the Welsh Guards, it was a particularly proud moment to be part of such a significant moment in history. Although a smaller event physically, the occasion lacked no sense of grandeur as the highest standards of personal drill, discipline and turnout was viewed by millions around the world - all whilst adhering to social-distancing guidelines and on grass. It was the first time in 120 years that Trooping the Colour had

been held at Windsor and was thus an historic moment for those involved. In what was her first public appearance of the lockdown period; Her Majesty observed from the dais with a beaming smile alongside senior officers in what was a very personal and unprecedented affair.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of HRH the Princess Royal as Colonel in Chief King's Royal Hussars. To mark this celebration the band were thrilled to provide musical support for a short parade that took place at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 23rd June. Princess Anne was not present at the event but was able to watch the parade live via video link. As the parade came to a close, The Princess Royal chuckled as she was asked for "leave to log-off Ma'am please", which was the

cue to end the live stream, a first for all on parade.

A few weeks later, on 17th July the band travelled to the Guildhall in the City of London to provide musical support for a pass-off parade for the City of London Police. Both parades adhered to Government guidelines and social distancing was maintained throughout.

On 8th May 1945 at 15:00 BST, Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the nation to announce Nazi Germany's surrender to the allied forces, thus marking the end of World War 2 in Europe. This year marked the 75th anniversary. Naturally, large-scale celebrations were unable to take place amongst the lock-down measures however some commemorations were still able to go ahead. As

part of the celebrations on BBC1, musicians from the Household Division Bands and the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra performed at Buckingham Palace alongside singers Katherine Jenkins OBE and Beverly Knight MBE to name a few. It was a truly marvelous performance in a spectacular setting conducted by the Commanding Officer Household Division Bands, Lieutenant Colonel Haw. A proud evening for Britain, The Corps of Army Music and indeed the Band of the Welsh Guards with Sergeant Andrew Mercer, Lance Sergeant Robin Cole, Lance Corporal Andee Birkett and Musician Ben Smith all playing in the orchestra.

Some three months later on the 15th August 1945, Japan surrendered to the allied forces, commonly known as Victory in Japan Day and the



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official end of the Second World War. After weeks of preparation, musicians from the Household Division Bands came together once more to join the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra for another wonderful evening of music, commemorations and an opportunity to reflect and to remember those that served in the Far East and indeed the Second World War as a whole. The BBC's VJ Day: The Nation's Tribute was an emotional yet inspirational performance which saw Horseguards Parade illuminated with spectacular light effects and projections as they illustrated the personal accounts of the Veterans. Soloists included the likes of Sheridan Smith, Nicola Roberts and Sir Bryn Terfel. With the orchestra centre-stage, the Band of the Welsh Guards also played

a part in the celebrations alongside the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the RAF in what was an impressive marching display flanking the orchestra in symmetry.

In August the band were thrilled to be given the opportunity to record some of our favourite Welsh music. After months of solo practice and online sectionals the band were elated to finally be able to perform together in person at the Royal Military Chapel (The Guards Chapel); the first time since the Saint David's Day Concert. Sir Edward German's Welsh Rhapsody features a selection of Welsh Classics such as Men of Harlech and David of the White Rock which cleverly transitions into Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. A true Welsh masterpiece conducted by

the Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday, played in a magnificent venue and a personal favourite of many in the band. All recordings can be found at <https://www.householddivision.org.uk/scm>

The band would like to wish Lance Corporal Andee Birkett the very best of luck as she leaves the band to begin the British Army Bandmaster course at Kneller Hall; an incredible achievement and we wish her every success for the future. After 4 years of exemplary service in the band, our Principal Trumpet player Sergeant (Sgt) Dan Evans leaves the band on promotion with a posting to the Band of the Household Cavalry. Sgt Evans joined the army aged 18 and has performed in all State Ceremonial events including concerts such as the

Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance and Scarlet and Gold to name a few. Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) (BM) David Hatton joined the Band of the Welsh Guards in March 2017 as Bandmaster. During his time in the band WO2 Hatton completed a master's degree in Symphonic Wind/Brass Band Direction with the London College of Music and also passed the FRSM (Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music)

examination in Brass Band Direction. WO2 Hatton's most memorable moments include leading the band during several concerts over the years and performing on the Trooping of the Colour. Bandmaster Hatton leaves the band on a posting to Kneller Hall as the Training Design Warrant Officer.



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It gives us great pleasure to welcome our new Bandmaster, WO2 Claire Lawrence who brings a wealth of experience in military music also having served in the Central Band of the Royal Air Force. After graduating from the Royal College of Music, WO2 Lawrence spent 9 years as a freelance professional violinist. She played with orchestras, opera companies and touring shows, including a 4-month trial with Welsh National Opera, and work with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Philharmonic Orchestra. Following a multitude of awards whilst studying on the Student Bandmaster Course, WO2 Lawrence was assigned as Bandmaster of the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra and later

the Band of the Coldstream Guards. We would also like to welcome our new Band Sergeant Major, WO2 Neal Grimwood. In 1993 WO2 Grimwood joined the Band of the Scots Guards, serving for 27 years and travelling all over the world. Highlights include the handover of Hong Kong to China, two 3-month tours of North America and Canada and the Edinburgh Tattoo in Australia and New Zealand. His time with the Band of the Scots Guards included several tours of Europe taking part in a variety of State, Public and Regimental Engagements. In addition, WO2 Grimwood played at the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees, the funerals of both The Queen Mother and Baroness Thatcher and the Royal Wedding of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. In 2007 he

was selected to undertake a Masters in Performance degree with Salford University which he passed with a Merit. In November 2017 WO2 Grimwood was the Unit Welfare Senior Non-Commissioned officer at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. A successful two and a half years in a role which he is very passionate about, caring for others. In September 2020, WO2 Grimwood joined the band as Band Sergeant Major Band of the Welsh Guards.

The Band of the Welsh Guards look forward to the future and are excited to resume State Ceremonial duties in the new year. Cymru Am Byth.

1. *The Household Division Band and Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra performing on Horseguards Parade for VE Day celebrations*
2. *During the VJ Day celebration, the main building at Horseguards Parade was used as a projection screen, showing images and videos all related to VJ Day*
3. *The famous spin wheel, on a smaller scale, still featured in this year's Birthday Tribute whilst socially distanced and on grass!*
4. *The Tri-Service Marching Band and the fly past featured on the VJ Day celebrations on Horseguards Parade*
5. *Major Halliday leading the Band at the Holy Trinity Parish and Garrison Church, Windsor as part of St David's Day celebrations*



DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS as at 1 January 2021

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 TC Spencer-Smith	Second-in-Command
Major CEB Starkey COLDM GDS	Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Major CSN Fenton	Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Major JM Young	Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Major D Pridmore	Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Major GCF Charles-Jones	Officer Commanding Support Company
Major A Campbell	Quartermaster
Major K Knight RAMC	Regimental Medical Officer
Captain WD Clarke	Adjutant
Captain TWJ Evans	Operations Officer
Captain MRC McNeill Love	Operations Officer B
Captain GF Elletson	Regimental Signals Officer
Captain OA Clarke	Intelligence Officer
Captain J Brown SG	Technical Quartermaster
Captain R Beckett COLDM GDS	Motor Transport Officer
Captain JW Parkinson	Training Officer
Captain AL Griffiths	Regimental Careers Management Officer
Captain J Byrne GREN GDS	Unit Welfare Officer
Captain EWD Andersen	Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Captain TS Minihan	Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Captain LMF Vincenzini	Officer Commanding Anti-Tank Platoon
Captain SA Ward	Media Officer
Captain EJ Scott-Bowden	Second-in-Command Number Three Company
Captain C Jones RACHD	Battalion Padre
Captain DC Williams AGC(SPS)	Regimental Administrative Officer
Lieutenant JDG Leonard	Second-in-Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant OMF Powell	Second-in-Command Number Two Company
Lieutenant J Wilkinson	Officer Commanding Machine Gun Platoon
Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Lieutenant JJD Phillips	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant TRP Haynes	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant FWP Syms	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant CG Clarke	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant RMJ Cross	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant G Cadogan	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant T Brown	Platoon Commanders Battle Course
Second Lieutenant O Fiddes	Platoon Commanders Battle Course
Second Lieutenant R Flaherty AGC(SPS)	Gap Year Commission
	AGC Detachment Commander



EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL	Former CGS, CDS and Gold Stick
Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE	UK Military Representative, NATO HQ, Belgium
Major General RJA Stanford MBE	Senior British Liaison Officer, Oman
Brigadier GAJ Macintosh CBE	Special Advisor to UN Special Envoy, Yemen
Colonel GR Harris DSO OBE	Chief of Staff, SPO EURO Atlantic
Colonel BPN Ramsay OBE	DA Training
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	SO1 Plans in 3 (UK) Div
Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent MBE	MNC NE J5 SO Plans Land Szczecin, Poland
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 HST, MOD, London
Major AJ Salusbury	Academy Adjutant, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley
Major ES Mathieson	Instructor, Maneuver Captains' Career Course, Fort Benning, USA
Major CJP Davies	EFPC, EDF HQ, Op CABRIT
Major CHL Beare	SO2 Strategic Engagement, Army Staff (London)
Insert: Major AJH Dunlop	OC No 1 Coy 1 COLDM GDS
Major BJ Figgures-Wilson	SO2 Junior Staff Centre Warminster, RMAS Group
Major AL Hughes	SO2 Tactics, Infantry Battle School, Brecon
Major MJ Wright	SO2 KSQA Loan Service Dhofar, Oman
Major ER Emlyn-Williams	Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land)
A/Major AW Budge	SO2 CBM Infantry Trials and Development Unit
A/Major JR Farmelo	SO2 J5 HQ European JSU Casteau, Belgium
Captain D Luther-Davies	SO3 ISTAR, HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade, Colchester
Captain JP Marsden	Assistant CI Senior Term, RMA Sandhurst
Captain JO Dinwiddie-Choat	SO3 Operations, Deployments and Commitments, Home Command
Captain AJN Smith	Adjutant, ATR Grantham
Captain JP Gill	AMA to Commander 16 Air Assault Brigade, Colchester
Captain OFA Alsop	MOD
Captain TR Campbell-Schofield	PCBC Instructor, Infantry Battle School, Brecon
Captain PDE Razzall	Linguist, Op SHADER
Captain FFB Ruscombe-King	Terminal leave
Captain JJ Jones	Second in Command, Chavasse Coy, 1 ATR, Pirbright
Captain E Griffiths	Second in Command, W Company, AFC Harrogate
Captain SG Bowen	Awaiting assignment order
Captain CA Taylor	Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land)
Lieutenant JH Anscombe-Bell	Platoon Commander, ATR Pirbright

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, CATTERICK

Lieutenant WDeR Richardson	Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company
Lieutenant G Davidson	Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company
Lieutenant S Burfiend	Platoon Commander (Standby Training Team), Guards Training Company

*This list is not complete as one Officer has declined to share his appointment.



DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2021

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	25079695	W02	RW Parry
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REGIMENTAL BAND

Band Master	B8515599	W02	C Lawrence
Band Sergeant Major	24899542	W02	N Grimwood

1ST BATTALION

Regimental Sergeant Major	25067519	W01	ME Parry
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main)	25088682	W02	S Peters
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech)	25102725	W02	DP Cope
Drill Sergeant	25122844	W02	RJ Heath
Drill Sergeant	25171950	W02	D Walton
Recruiting Warrant Officer	25141529	W02	DR Lewis
CSM The Prince of Wales's Company	25189789	W02	K Cunningham
CSM Number 2 Company	25188733	W02	J McEvoy
CSM Number 3 Company	25176931	W02	DLR Evans
CSM Headquarter Company	25124239	W02	DT Hughes
CSM Support Company	25157883	W02	RJ Johnson
Company Sergeant Major In Musketry	24963177	W02	G Green
Master Tailor	25095800	W02	LC Wilks
Regimental Catering Warrant Officer	25130865	W02	P Moffatt RLC
Artificer Quarter Master Sergeant	25179263	W02	C Carlin REME
Regimental Administrative Warrant Officer	25120131	W02	SA Coffie AGC(SPS)
Drum Major	30035357	Sgt	C Rees

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Home Command Sergeant Major	25044310	W01	DS Morgan
Royal Military School of Music RSM	25061898	W01	M Ridgeway-Buckley
Honourable Artillery Company RSM	25106903	W01	J Davies
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst RQMS	25036627	W01	G Williams
Validation Warrant Officer ATC(P)	25102911	W02	RS Young
Infantry Battle School Junior Division Sergeant Major	25114097	W02	M Jefferies
Infantry Battle School Covid WO	25085915	W02	CD Scarf



HONOURS AND AWARDS 2020

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

Colonel GR Harris DSO MBE

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (MSM)

25067519 WO1 (RSM) M E Parry

1st Battalion

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

25031018 Sgt PA Duffy

1st Battalion

25191316 Gdsm PS Evans

1st Battalion

25150034 SSgt MAJ Foody RLC

att 1st Battalion

25198891 LSgt P Gurney

Regimental Band

25098448 Sgt GI Lucas

1st Battalion

25196299 Sgt LA Rowlands

Infantry Training Centre

25197481 Cpl (LSgt) Sanderson RLC

att 1st Battalion

25196352 Sgt PAESimons

1st Battalion

25200727 Sgt B C Thompson REME

att 1st Battalion

CLASP TO LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

25032608 Sgt L Fomes

Regimental Band

GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING LONDON DISTRICT COMMENDATION

Mrs Yvonne Brown

Regimental Headquarters

COMMANDER HOME COMMAND COMMENDATION

25133076 CSgt A M Cunningham

1st Battalion



THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE 2020



The Queen's Birthday Parade 2020

by Lieutenant WO de R Richardson, Ensign

The Queen's Birthday Parade was well and truly in line with the surprises that 2020 has offered us so far this year.

The decision was made at the start of lockdown that Her Majesty's Birthday Parade would not be going ahead due to the risk of COVID-19. Naturally the Battalion was disappointed not to be Trooping their Colour on Horse Guards Parade. However, no one predicted the alternative that would be offered.

Shortly before the 13th June, the Battalion was told that their Troop was on, but that it would not be held in the traditional Horse Guards

Parade format. Due to the risk of COVID-19 the Battalion would now be conducting a unique and bespoke Trooping of the Colour at Her Majesty's home in Windsor Castle. A buzz of excitement swept through the Battalion, as the appropriate preparation of kit and parade choreography was assembled. The Battalion would now be the first of the Foot Guards to Troop their colour in Windsor Castle since 1895, and it had to be perfect.

COVID-19 threw several large spanners in the works



during the preparation for the parade. The Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1 Parry) and Drill Sergeant (WO2 Heath) had their work cut out, creating a parade that adhered to social distancing guidelines but was still in keeping with the long-standing traditions of a Troop. This feat was not without its challenges, having to create new drill movements as well as marching in 'open order' to keep 2 meters apart whilst on grass, was not as straightforward as the Guardsmen made it look on the television. We went down the road to Elizabeth barracks, the home of the Coldstream Guards to rehearse for up to 6 hours a day, as they have a perfectly sized lawn. For the two weeks leading up to the Troop there were numerous camera

crews present and endless interviews taking place for all involved.

On the morning of the parade, there was a buzz of excitement around camp, with the BBC cameras present, interviews happening in the Officers' Mess and the coaches ready to take the Guard to Windsor Castle. As we entered the castle the crowd and press outside was building up trying to catch a glimpse. The Parade itself ran like clockwork and will go down in the history books. I am sure it will never be forgotten by all those involved.

By the look of the expression on Her Majesty's face, she thoroughly enjoyed the parade and was grateful for the effort the Battalion had put in. It was a privilege for the Battalion to



make a tribute to Her Majesty and to raise the nations' spirit in a time of crisis.

The Battalion are very much looking forward to 2023 when it will be our turn to Troop our Colour again, when hopefully COVID will be a thing of the

past and we can proudly be back in front of our friends, family and the Sovereign on Horse Guards.

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN WINDSOR CASTLE - 13 JUNE 2020

The following members of the Welsh Guards took part in the parade



Lieutenant Colonel GCGR Stone
Brigade Major



Lieutenant Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher
Commanding Officer
Field Officer in Brigade Waiting



Colonel TCS Bonas
Regimental Adjutant



Major JW Aldridge MBE
Second in Command
Major of the Parade



Regimental Sergeant Major ME Parry
Conducting Warrant Officer
Windsor Castle Guard



Captain EJ Clarke
Adjutant
Adjutant of the Parade



Captain O Clarke
ADC to the General Officer
Commanding The Household Division



Drill Sergeant RJ Heath



Guardsman G Openda
Regimental Sergeant Major's Orderly



Company Sergeant Major J McEvoy
Senior Sergeant Windsor Castle Guard



Sergeant R Rutledge
Sentry



Lieutenant WO de R Richardson
Ensign



Sergeant R Brown
Sentry



Lance Corporal CSiwale
Lone Drummer



Drum Major C Rees



Sergeant S Potts
Garrison Sergeant Major's Scribe



Drummer P Hillman



Drummer A Trematick



Drummer L Price



Drummer J Bowden



Lance Sergeant R Jones 89



Lance Corporal J L Siviter



Lance Corporal R J D Dennis



Lance Corporal Phillips 65



Lance Corporal LT Tucker



Guardsman RT Morgan



Guardsman S Suleman



Lance Corporal J Mason



Guardsman CR Jones



Guardsman J N I K Qumivutia



Guardsman B N Rokovada



Guardsman M Roberts



Guardsman A L Smith 85



Guardsman D Griffiths 86



Guardsman M C White 72



Guardsman L D Walker



Guardsman S D Morgan 05



Guardsman M L Jones 14

**MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL
BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS ON PARADE**



Major S J Halliday
Director of Music



Colour Sergeant J A Smout



Sergeant A P Mercer



Sergeant A W Lightfoot



Lance Corporal S M O Shepherd



Lance Corporal A Hirst



Musician S Miles



Musician B Coleman



TRAINING AND EXERCISES



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Jungle Warfare Instructor's Course 2019

by Lieutenant OMF Powell, Number 6 Platoon Commander

The need for maintaining our ability to operate in the Close Country Tropical Environment (CCTE) as an army and a battalion is undoubtable. In a world of everchanging circumstances and uncertainty the next theatre we find ourselves operating in could be anywhere and in a number of different terrains.

As history has shown, to be unprepared to operate in the tropical jungle is to be at a severe disadvantage. The Household Division has been at the forefront of jungle warfare and particularly in the Welsh Guards we are proud to be one of most experienced and current CCTE units within the Army. With The Prince of Wales's Company deployment to Belize in February it was vital that the Welsh Guards had a number of up to date and qualified Jungle Warfare Instructors (JWI) to ensure that that hard won reputation was maintained. I counted myself very lucky to be chosen to complete the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course (JWIC) as the majority of those on the course were vastly more experienced with the likes of Sgt Bizzle a fully qualified recce platoon sergeant.

We arrived at Gibraltar Barracks numbering 10 from the Welsh Guards and were met by a further 45 from various other infantry battalions Royal Marines and 2 from cavalry regiments. There was the obligatory kit check to ensure that our kit was clear from all weapons and ancillaries, that would cause havoc in the airport, sat a quick competency test which all passed and set off to the airport.

14 hours later we arrived in a stiflingly hot Brunei, average temperature of 35C and humidity of 90%, all quite jet lagged but keen to get started with the course.

We then travelled about an hour and half west to the town of Seria, the location of Medicina Lines which was to be our home for the next 2 months. The town itself provided all that we needed, with tailor shops to do any adjustments to clothing and kit, hardware shops to purchase various items to make our lives easier whilst living in the Jungle and a great choice of restaurants when there was a call for something different from the excellent food provided.

Medicina Lines is ideally suited to its purpose, with 20-man rooms to ensure cohesion amongst are newly formed sections and platoons and the lack of air conditioning to enable us to fully adjust to our new climate.

The first 8 days of the course were fairly low tempo due to the compulsory acclimatisation program. Therefore, the days were taken up with early morning PT, lectures on the environment that we would



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deployed by helicopter and where dropped into the middle of the Labi Jungle. Another highlight of the course, seeing the jungle from the air you are able to get a feel for the sheer enormity of it and the topography underneath the thick vegetation. Miles of a sharply undulating green ocean spread as far as the eye could see.

The exercise was broken down in to 2 phases the first of which being section-based tactics. Tracking, navigating, fighting and surviving in 8-10 men groups, it was during this phase that the majority of the casualties of the course happened, with a total of 15 men being taken of the ground due to the hard terrain and testing climate. It was the first time operating in the CCTE for many of us and it became apparent why the jungle was treated with such trepidation and respect. Your ability to manoeuvre is severely compromised due to the thick vegetation and the steep terrain it covers. We quickly found that moving along the ridge lines was the best way to get around the jungle but even so covering 4km took all day when moving tactically. Nights in the jungle at this stage were for rest and recuperation. At last light stand too would be called and once that was over hammocks were erected in the pitch black and you were surrounded by the sounds of the jungle (to some an interesting lullaby but to others a great irritant).

The second phase of the exercise was platoon based which brought us back to a more familiar way of operating with the tried and tested platoon harbour coming into play. Over the week a number of Close Target Reconnaissance (CTR) where sent out coupled with



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be operating in and the tactics that we would be using in that environment, coupled with practical sessions out on the ground, applying those lessons learnt.

During this phase there was a survival day, one of the many highlights of the course. It introduced us to the jungle for the first time. This satisfied the Robin Crusoe in all of us and reassured us that we could survive in the jungle alone if the worst came to the worst. Stands were set up ranging from what you could eat and how to prepare it, to the construction of what some would describe as luxury make shift shelters.

After the acclimatisation phase there was a further week based out of Medicina lines. By day the majority of the time was spent in the Jungle honing our newly learnt jungle tactics, navigation and tracking skills, then returning to the lines by night to prepare for the next day's training.

The hard work started when we embarked on our first jungle exercise. 14 days straight in the field. We



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patrols to locate the enemy which all culminated in a platoon camp attack.

Returning to Medicina lines, post exercise administration was conducted as quickly as possible as all were keen to get away on a long weekend. The majority of the course headed to Kuala Lumpur for some well deserve R&R. On the return to Medicina lines well rested we were met with a savage PT session on the beach at 5am Monday morning which blew the last of the weekends beer out of our systems and refocused us on the job at hand.

Two weeks were then spent in camp, where live fire tactical training (LFTT), instructor qualification and riverine operations were conducted. Another highlight of the course has to have been the riverine operations as the

challenge of working out of boats coupled with operating in the jungle made for very hard, realistic and enjoyable training.

The final exercise was an 8-day stint in the jungle operating at company level. It was the culmination of all we had learnt and the final test to ensure we met the standards to be JWIs. The final 24 hours of the exercise was spent in preparation and the execution of the final camp attack. Orders were given and then we moved off to a lay-up point for the night. The attack went in at first light and was an explosion of gunfire with an area the size of a football field packed with bunkers, trenches, fox holes, spider holes and tunnels being cleared by those left on the course in under an hour. A week's worth of locating, closing with and defeating the



enemy was hard graft but the best exercise that I have been on so far.

All in all, the experience of operating in the jungle and completing JWIC has been amazing, at times very hard work but overwhelmingly positive. Of the 10 Welsh Guards that were loaded on to the course 6 completed it and the other 4 were unlucky to have to withdraw due to injury.

1. *LSgt Morgan (centre) happy to finish Riverine Ops*
2. *A well-deserved swim after 3 hours of camp attacks*
3. *Ready to set off for Riverine Ops*
4. *Welsh Guards Survivors: (left to right) Lt Powell, Sgt Browning (1GG), LSgt Morgan, LSgt Williams, Sgt Bladen, Lt Leonard*
5. *Members from the Household Division on the final day of Exercise*
6. *Lt Leonard blending into the Jungle*
7. *Lt Leonard stopping for a water halt.*
8. *Seria town at sun set*

The Leuchars Cup (10th December 2019)

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Evans (31),
Company Sergeant Major in Musketry

The Leuchars Cup is an inter-company patrolling competition set up by Major General Peter Leuchars when he was the Commanding Officer in the early sixties as a means of preparing the Battalion for its operational tour of Aden.



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Although not an annual event because of varying Battalion commitments, the Leuchars Cup is always fiercely contested and is an excellent vehicle for testing soldiering skills, teamwork, endurance and above all, company and platoon spirit.

In the summer of 2019, the Training Wing was tasked with planning The Leuchars Cup competition to be held in December 2019. During the initial planning, consideration was taken to ensure that the competition was challenging but also testing and enjoyable by all taking part. Firstly, it was agreed that the format would be no different to previous years where the foundation would be an inter platoon competition focussing on core military skills. The military skills being tested would be relevant to today's modern soldiering and realistic to simulate future scenarios that Guardsmen would face in real time.

Brunswick Training Camp in Pirbright was the ideal location to conduct the competition, it had all the facilities on hand and would allow the stands to be rolled into a realistic scenario. The military skills tested were based on physical fitness, marksmanship, medical training, communications and military knowledge.

The competition was held over two days and saw six platoons put through in total. Each platoon was structured the same with a platoon headquarters consisting of the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant and three sections commanded by Junior Non-Commissioned Officers. Day one saw The Prince of Wales's Company go up against Number Two Company, and day two Number Three Company against Support Company.

Each platoon worked hard throughout every stand and produced some excellent results. The competitiveness between platoons was fierce and the scores at times were very tight with only a point between each other. Throughout the competition the guardsmen showed some good tactical awareness and demonstrated a thorough knowledge of communication systems and medical treatment when given a realistic scenario. During the physical stands all those participating showed great determination and robustness when tackling the obstacles on the assault course and the casualty extraction over two miles carrying full combat equipment fighting order and a simulated casualty on a stretcher.

As ever the smooth running of any competition does not happen without the help of certain key personnel. Headquarter Company must be thanked for providing all the directing staff and subject matter experts to facilitate the stands and bring some realism to the content being tested.

This Leuchars Cup was as competitive as any other. It gave the Guardsmen the opportunity to get out of barracks and compete in a challenging environment amongst each other. At the same time, it allowed everyone to stay current in areas of soldiering that will be relevant to Exercise ASKARI STORM in 2020.

With the results being very close, a well done must be given to all platoons that took part and many congratulations must go to Number Three Company who won the competition.

1. Medical skills were tested.
2. A challenging CASEVAC stand
3. Honing our marksmanship on the ranges
4. Demonstrating teamwork on the assault course.



Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR

by Second Lieutenant JJD Phillips, Number 1 Platoon Commander

February saw The Prince of Wales's Company Group deploy to the jungles of Belize for 6 weeks on Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR. After much anticipation the Jam Boys left the UK on 3rd February. Following a short stopover in Kingston, Jamaica, the Company arrived at Philip S W Gordon International Airport. We were met on arrival by Captain Andersen, Recce Platoon Commander, and RQMS Parry who had led the pre-deployment party.

The Jam Boys operated out of British Army Training Support Unit Belize (BATSUB), using the Gallon Jug training area in the West of the country only a few miles from the border with Guatemala. During the exercise, we worked closely with the Belizean Defence Force (BDF) and the Belizean Special Forces who were attached to our own recce section. The exercise was divided into four main stages: basic, intermediate, live firing and the final exercise. Each Platoon was assigned three Jungle Warfare Instructors (JWI) who have completed the JWI course in Brunei (see separate article). This included two Grenadier Guards instructors who kindly joined us.

The basic stage allowed us time to acclimatise to living and operating in the jungle

and focused on the basic soldiering skills that were needed to operate in the jungle environment. This covered everything from putting up a hammock, to navigation in the jungle and allowed everyone the opportunity to get used to sharing their new home with some large snakes, spiders and scorpions to name just a few. This stage also included an excellent survival day led by local trackers. They took time to teach us how to collect water, hunt for food and subsequently kill it. We were also taught how to create shelter and fire with Gdsm Winney winning the title of best fire starter.

The second phase allowed sections to get out into 'the trees' and operate as a patrol, testing their leadership and cohesion as a fighting unit. We

practised Platoon level actions including the camp attack and the ambush on a two-day rotation. You could start to see the sections bonding and working together during this more challenging phase, understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses and working more and more closely as a team.

After the second phase of the exercise we had the opportunity to put the skills learnt in the first two stages to the test with a week of live firing. The ranges were designed and run by Capt Andersen and allowed all members of the Company to improve their skills in the extremely challenging environment.

The final stage of the exercise was split into two parts. In the first part each Platoon

was given an ops box to clear, with the BDF as a free playing enemy. It was up to the Platoons to decide how they would find and destroy the enemy threat. Each Platoon chose a slightly different way of achieving this, but the training delivered by the Jungle Warfare Instructors was second to none and all ops boxes were cleared.

The second part of the final stage was a full Company level operation with the Company working out of a Company harbour to destroy an enemy jungle base camp. Each Platoon moved to a Company RV, negotiating an obstacle crossing on the way before linking up with the Recce Section to take us onto the target. For this final stage, the Recce Section, commanded by LSgt Brown, had been on task for 5 days, conducting Close

Target Reconnaissance (CTR) on a complex jungle camp, building up a picture of enemy strength and routine as well as their weaknesses in order to help identify courses of action for the Company attack. After a jittery night in the FUP only 60 meters short of the enemy camp the attack was sprung at first light - a bold two up, simultaneous attack to overwhelm the enemy. The attack went smoothly with the positions taken quickly. The REORG was challenging due to the density of the jungle, making moving kit and equipment even a short distance time consuming and tiring. Making your way through the jungle is difficult at the best of times but doing this carrying a casualty is near impossible. The way around this was to hang the stretcher on a log that was on the shoulder of the two men doing the CASEVAC (Casualty Evacuation); think 19th-century colonial hunters and you won't be far off!

The Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major came to see the final stage of the exercise. This provided a great opportunity for the Company at every level to

show off the skills they had learned during the first three intensive phases.

Throughout the exercise the signals detachment from Headquarter Company provided communications in the extremely difficult jungle conditions for the Company Group, having to fight for comms and, at times get creative to ensure the Company had the vital communication it needed. Medical support was provided by the Unit Aid Post, headed up by Major Knight. Medics deployed on the ground with the Platoons throughout the exercise providing the medical support needed in such a challenging environment.

On returning from the jungle we hosted a 7s rugby tournament. We entered 4 teams, along with 2 teams from the Royal Engineers who were also on exercise and two local teams. The final, between the Jam Boys' A team and the Engineers team, was won conclusively by The Prince of Wales's Company. During this post-exercise period we also took part in some community engagement; 1 Platoon built shelters in a local

school, 2 Platoon painted in an orphanage and 3 Platoon put up mosquito nets in an old people's home. It was a good opportunity to give back to a country that had hosted us for the past month and to help in a country that is so much poorer than the UK. For the final 3 days of the trip the boys were let out on R&R, split between Caye Caulker and San Pedro. A team led by Sergeant Rutledge and his 'Defeat Don't Repeat' scheme also visited the notorious Belize Central Prison, known for being the 4th most dangerous prison in the world. The visit provided the opportunity to see what prison life was like on the other side of the world and allowed Sergeant Rutledge to share his story with prisoners of all ages, showing them that there is more to life than a life of crime.

The way back was as challenged as the journey out. Due to COVID-related delays we had to fly via Bermuda for a 24 hour stopover in a very pleasant hotel, the perfect final stage for recovery following our jungle exploits. After gorging themselves on steak and sitting by the pool for a day the Company was ready to

return to the UK and some well-earned leave.

All in all, everyone had a great experience. It was a really productive exercise with a good deal of learning and new skills acquired, setting The Prince of Wales's Company up excellently for a busy year ahead in preparation for our deployment to Iraq. Engaging with a local community in a very different part of the world, physically, culturally and economically provided us all with a real insight into the roles and responsibilities that 1WG and the British Army have in enabling the world to be a safer, more collaborative place.

1. *Gdsm Green providing protection on the reorg*
2. *Working hard to CASEVAC casualties after the final attack*
3. *Capt Harris, LCpl Regan and LCpl Messam-Green treating a casualty*
4. *Guardsman practice their marksmanship skills on live ranges*
5. *The Belize High Commissioner tasting some of Gdsm Nabukebuke's coffee. (L-R; 2Lt Phillips, Sgt Hiscock, LSgt Jones 88, Gdsm Green, CSM Scarf)*





Teaching Field Firing Awareness in Belize

by Second Lieutenant T Haynes, Number 6 Platoon Commander

Setting out with The Prince of Wales’s Company deployment for Exercise MAYAN WARRIOR, our Short Term Training Team (STTT) consisted of Capt Greene from the Small Arms School Corps (SASC), with 2Lt Haynes and Sgt Hughes from the Battalion.

After a series of delays at Brize Norton and a few hours spent on the airport tarmac in Kingston, Jamaica we arrived in Belize City in the early hours of 4th February. After settling into our basic accommodation at Price Barracks, our base for the next month, we set about preparing for the arrival of our students. The course included a total of 18 personnel hailing from Monserrat, Guyana, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Belize. Most of the group served in their respective Armies, but we also had representation from the Belize Defence Force Airwing, Belize Coast Guard, Belize Special Boat Unit and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Force.

Having settled the final details before the STTT began, the three of us took the opportunity to get out of camp and do some exploring of mainland Belize. With a couple of days to play with we covered some serious miles and managed to visit many of Belize’s ‘must see’ attractions. First stop was Altun Ha, an ancient Mayan site where a 5kg Jade head, now prized as a national treasure, was found by archaeologists in the 1960s. Atun Ha also happens to feature on every bottle of Belikin, Belize’s ubiquitous national

beer. Other stops included Bacab, Old Belize, Belize City, Gumbo Limbo, Belie Zoo, Rio Grande pools and Caracol. The highlight for us all was Caracol, although this entailed an 8-hour round trip along some particularly basic jungle roads, it was worth it. It is difficult to truly capture the imposing scale and eerie feel of Caracol, which is widely regarded as one of the most impressive pre-Hispanic sites in Mesoamerica. We returned to Price Barracks exhausted, fulfilled and excited about what more this beautiful country had to offer.

The three-week Field Firing Awareness course was largely based around the SA (A) 18 range qualification, typically awarded at the Infantry Battle School Brecon. The aim was to improve the students’ understanding of how to plan safer and more rewarding live fire training. The course began in earnest with introductions and several hours spent cutting, snapping and sanding down plastic templates. Although some students had experienced similar courses previously, it was the first time for most. With this in mind, the course was designed to allow time for the students to digest the information at a manageable pace. Once we

had run through the basic theory of safe training, we were able to progress onto trace work. Despite many being largely unfamiliar with this we were pleasantly surprised by the seamless way in which the students picked up a thorough understanding of what was required of them. The final days of the course entailed some welcome time away from the classroom, whilst we practiced the practical aspects of range safety around Price Barracks or on Hattville Ranges.

The course was stood down each weekend giving the students a well-deserved break from the unrelenting trace work and providing the instructors further opportunities to explore this beautiful country. With some previous scuba diving experience between us we sought out dive trips departing from the nearest islands. We began with a few local reef dives only 15 minutes from the San Pedro shore. We considered ourselves very lucky being able to spot, amongst many other sea critters, sharks of the hammerhead, nurse and Caribbean reef variety. We were not armed with a GoPro so sadly do not have photographic evidence but it

was definitely a lucky start. Other excursions took us to the Turneffe Atoll, the Blue Hole and Half Moon Caye. Diving 40m down into the 100m deep Blue Hole was unique and very much worth the dizzy ride there.

It was a very rewarding four weeks. The course material was dry, but teaching it was a pleasure. There were many memorable characters amongst the students, they all managed to retain a good sense of humour throughout and were all keen to learn. It was fitting that we were able to share a Belikin, or two, with the students on the last day before the closing address and presentation ceremony. All students passed the course and the Belizean Defence Force very kindly presented the three of us with a token of appreciation in the form of a rather stylish personalised plaque each. As may be well apparent from this write up, I would thoroughly recommend the Belize STTT, and Belize in general, to anyone reading!

1. Price Barracks, Belize. Our base for the four-week deployment.
2. Sgt Hughes sharing some wisdom
3. The author overseeing safe template construction.
4. The last day of the course.



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The Final Weeks of the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC)

Lieutenant S A Ward, Number 2 Company Second in Command

Our tour of duty as the FIRIC from August 2019 to November 2019 overlapped the production of the 2019 Regimental Magazine and so this article (Part 2) covers the period after the October 2019 magazine submission deadline.

Our final weeks in the Falklands were the culmination of our deployment, with big ticket events such as our final exercise, Remembrance Week (including a Battalion Remembrance Service at Fitzroy), Battlefield Studies and a rugby match. Buoyed by friends and colleagues from The Prince of Wales's Company, Number 3 Company and Battalion Headquarters coming from the UK to support our exercises for a few weeks, and with our return home creeping closer every day, we launched into our busy final stint with verve and vigour!

Exercise CAPE BAYONET, our final exercise, had been long in the planning but unfortunately quickly fell victim to the grim and

persistent Islands weather. Having started off very promisingly with a night attack onto Pleasant Peak, just north of Mount Pleasant, the Company settled into defensive positions on top of the hill. The weather closed in with fog, wind and rain hammering down and we soon started losing men to signs of cold injuries and exposure. The decision was made to collapse back into Mount Pleasant, where we continued to mount actions from for the rest of the week – live advance to contacts, blank defensive actions and deliberate attacks on the infamous Onion Ranges. Operating in such bleak conditions was a harsh reminder of what our predecessors went through in 1982.

However, having successfully beaten our exercise enemy, we went straight into a week of Battlefield Studies, organised by the Platoon Headquarters and delivered by the Guardsmen and Lance Corporals of Number 2 Company and Support Company. 4 Platoon, led by Lt Tom Haines-Henderson and Sgt Stewart Ducie (SG), delivered a brilliant and evocative tour of Mount Tumbledown. Sgt Ducie, a truly proud Scots Guardsman, was in his element as he blasted bagpipe tunes from his large man packed speaker system, whilst his Platoon recreated the Scots Guards taking of the famous hill. 5 Platoon, led by 2Lt Billy Richardson and Sgt Craig Brown, organised a study of Goose Green, where 2 Para had their famous battle. Gdsm Williams 21 delivered a

brilliant speech about what the conditions on the ground were like for Argentinian soldiers. 6 Platoon, led by Lt Joe Wilkinson and Sgt Andrew Shapland, hosted the Company for a walk over Mount Harriet. 6 PI, made up of Machine Gunners and Mortars, talked vividly about the effects of support weapons in this battle, amongst the eerily abandoned and rusting Argentinian mortar barrels and machine gun legs.

The main event however, was the Welsh Guards Remembrance Service at Fitzroy, where the RFA Sir Galahad with half the Battalion was sunk. It was brilliantly orchestrated by Company Sergeant Major Jay McEvoy, who worked tirelessly to involve Welsh Guards and other veterans, locals and families of those who died



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on the RFA Sir Galahad. It started off with a lecture from 'Sharky' Ward, a Royal Naval Warrant Officer who, amazingly, was still serving and on his third tour of the Falklands – his first being in 1982, where he worked on a hospital ship transporting Welsh Guards casualties to hospitals in South America. Sharky's address was brilliant. He humorously and emotively brought to life the events of 8 June 1982 to everyone in the room – there were many tears of laughter and sadness across all ranks and ages. After Sharky's talk and an address from Maj Fenton and Company Sergeant Major McEvoy, the Company left for Fitzroy. The wind was vicious, but the service, overlooking the bay where the RFA Sir Galahad went down and where many casualties were brought ashore, went ahead. Dedicating a cross to each Welsh Guards casualty, singing Welsh hymns and listening to poems of Remembrance, the service was incredibly poignant. It finished with 2Lt Billy Richardson releasing a wreath into the icy black waters to remember all those who died. We must thank the locals who hosted us in the Fitzroy town hall afterwards for lunch, as well as for being so accommodating throughout our deployment.

With our return home now firmly in our sights, we hosted a drinks party in the Falklands Island Defence Force Hall in Port Stanley, inviting all the local islanders that had been so welcoming to us throughout our stay in the Falklands. It was far better attended than we anticipated, with people coming from far and wide to say goodbye, and it was heartening to see Guardsmen greet landowners who had hosted them whilst they were on patrols with hugs and laughter.

Our final hurrah was a hugely anticipated rugby match between the Welsh Guards and the rest of the tri-services in Mount Pleasant and British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI). Despite 1 WG only being able to select a team from 100 or so men compared to the riches of the Mount Pleasant BFSAI side (with a population of 1000 or so), the Welsh Guards put on a heroic performance, led by LCpl Lucas. Shoulders were being popped back in (LSgt Retallick dislocated both shoulders, put them both back in and continued playing!), blood was flying, fingers and knees were being strapped up, but unfortunately the relentless pace and power from the Mount Pleasant Fijian players was too much, and the Welsh Guards narrowly lost.

The last few weeks in the Falklands were the busiest, most fulfilling and interesting weeks of our tour. We said goodbye to the South Atlantic with green soldiering, battlefield studies, services of remembrance and of course, a rugby match – all key components of the quintessential Falkland Islands experience, with a Welsh Guards twist!

1. *Number 2 Company Group gather round the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy for our Remembrance Service.*
2. *'Sharky' Ward reads a poem of remembrance on the beach at Fitzroy.*
3. *The BFSAI Padre reads a prayer before the Remembrance Rugby Match.*
4. *Lt Wilkinson anticipating the contact.*
5. *The original Battalion Flag from 1982, flying proudly over Fitzroy once again.*
6. *Practising casualty drills.*
7. *Operating in Built-up Urban Areas (OBUA) training.*
8. *Mid attack.*



Guards Company Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick

by Captain G Davidson

In a year that has been dominated by Brexit negotiations, COVID and much more Guards Training Company seems to have successfully found the calm amidst the chaos.

Despite the ITC Catterick pausing training for the months of April and May, Guards Training Company will soon be as busy as ever with ten platoons of 48 Trainee Guardsmen in training from September. The introduction of a tenth training team means that the Company will be able to hit its end of year target of Guardsmen Passing Off the square in just 10 months, a testament

to the hardworking staff up here, the streamlining of the recruitment process and the strong recruiting draw of the Household Division.

Instructors and recruits have had to adapt training to accommodate all of the Coronavirus mitigation measures. This has proven challenging in many of the training aspects in particular the field exercises, especially

the URBAN exercise but it has not hindered the key training outputs that ensure our Guardsmen are at the standard to join the field army as professional soldiers. Unfortunately, it has meant that many of the Trainee Guardsmen (TGdsm) have missed out on visits such as the Week 5 Parents' Day and the Week 4 London visit where the trainees get an insight into life in London District.

However, this has pushed us to move with the times and make the most of numerous online tools used for distance learning and online meetings which have proven to be very effective. As a Company we have taken this in our stride and the standard of training has only improved and it will continue to do so.

In recognition of the unusual situation that the Company found itself in, with limited chances for TGdsm to leave camp until mid-course leave, the Major General and the Regimental Adjutants sought to mitigate the impact that this might have had with an additional welfare grant from both the Household Division Funds and Regimental Funds to purchase a number of table tennis tables, computer games and board games in order to limit the impact of this COVID mitigation measure on morale and to provide some in house entertainment for the Platoons in training in their downtime. This will have a lasting impact on our TGdsm and is a good use of charitable funding to achieve the stated aims of the Household Division Charities at a difficult time.

The ever-evolving Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC) has been very successful over the past 2 years and further developments have been made to see the introduction of the CIC 21 in the new year. The structure of the CIC 18 will remain, but the new course will pay more attention to current operational outputs, for example instead of just conducting the pistol weapon handling test, recruits will receive further training on



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the weapon system and conduct the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test. This new course will see our Guardsmen even more ready for the Army's future operations than they already are.

Last year we saw the first females joining Guards Training Company and their success in passing out into the Welsh Guards has seen more join this year with almost all Foot Guards regiments having female recruits in training at the moment. This year has also seen an increase in Foreign and Commonwealth recruits joining the Company including countries such as Malawi, Fiji, India and Ghana. The new 'Divisional Loading' scheme which involves a

submission of a Regimental Preference Proforma is now in full flow and has resulted in a good balance of Guardsmen joining the five regiments ensuring that all Trainee Guardsmen go to the regiment that is best for them and The Household Division

To provide some statistics for those currently in Guards Training Company, The Welsh Guards currently have 15 members of permanent staff ranging from LCpl to Capt and roughly 70 TGdsm who are all due to join the Welsh Guards over the next 9 months – which I am sure will be incredibly well received news for those currently serving in Battalion. In Company Headquarters Welsh Guards

representation is CSgt Greaves as the Training CSgt delivering oversight of all training on behalf of the Company Commander with Sgt Rowlands providing welfare support as the Regimental Shepherd. Capt Davidson and Capt Ruscombe-King are currently the Welsh Guards Platoon Commanders with Sgt Small as Platoon Sergeant.

As the year comes to an end, we say good-bye to Maj Budge WG and welcome in Maj Morrell COLDM GDS who will lead the Company into a busy and exciting year with changes to the course and us operating at full capacity.

1. *Gds 16 on the first day of the arduous 4-day DEFENCE Exercise in Thetford can be seen learning how to dig, prepare and sustain themselves in a 4-man trench.*
2. *Gds 17 at the end of the Urban Exercise week commanded by Capt G R Davidson of the Welsh Guards.*
3. *TGdsm Dowdeswell out on patrol as the sun is setting on Catterick Training Area, TGdsm Dowdeswell has now successfully passed out of training and has joined Number Two Company.*
4. *Sgt Rowlands, Gds Trg Coy Regimental Shepherd, joins some TGdsm for a game of table tennis at one of the tables purchased with Household Division and Regimental charity funding.*



Mortar Platoon Cadre (June to July 2020)

by Captain T Minihan

In late June, the Mortar Platoon returned to Windsor from a long period of dispersal, ready to conduct their Distributed Training Cadre (DTC). For all support weapons platoons, a cadre is an essential opportunity to train those who have recently arrived into the Platoon and develop the skills of its mainstays.

The Gdsm were enthusiastic upon their return to work and looking forward to a change to the routine of lockdown. Having been dispersed to our homes since early April, the Platoon had had ample opportunity to develop their physical fitness and mortar knowledge and were relishing the chance to put this into practice on Salisbury Plain.

For just over two weeks, the platoon based themselves out of a newly refurbished New Zealand Farm; a large urban training complex in the heart of the Plain. The absence of running water, warm beds

and ablutions phased no one and the Platoon made the most of the acres of space around them and the warm summer evenings, training late into the night each day. The lessons delivered by both LCpls and LSgts were of an exceptional standard. Having recently been bolstered by the addition of twelve Gdsm, the platoon looked healthy in numbers and bonded well as a team. This was clear to see as Gdsm Cadd celebrated his 20th birthday in the field, sharing his cake with the platoon as they sat around cot beds in the evening. It was excellent to see the ease

with which all Gdsm took on the lessons and their desire to improve as the first week went by.

Our second week consisted of live firing, both day and night, building up to an annual marksmanship test. As the confidence of the mortar detachments grew, it was clear to see the enjoyment the Gdsm were taking from firing live rounds. A visit from the Commanding Officer proved to be an excellent opportunity for the Platoon to demonstrate their skills and proficiency.

The cadre was a resounding success, with all Gdsm passing their assessments and receiving their service dress badges from the Commanding Officer upon their return to Windsor. Freshly trained and bolstered in numbers, the Platoon will go from strength to strength for the remainder of 2020, with an opportunity already in place to live fire again in December.

1. *A mortar operator firing an area illumination plan.*
2. *The moment a mortar is fired.*
3. *Gdsm Smith 85 and Gdsm Jones 14 prepare to drop an illuminating round.*



Anti-Tank Platoon Cadre

by Captain LMF Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

Every year the Specialist Platoons conduct cadres to train new members the skills required to operate within them.

They are also used as a remind and refresh for current members and following on from a condensed cadre in the summer of 2019, the Anti-tank Platoon were excited to blow off the cobwebs and to get back up to the standard required. Fortunately, we had been joined by twelve new members in March fresh from the Rifle Companies, giving us a largely blank canvas to work with. The 'obvious' presented us with a few challenges yet the cadre went ahead; spanning across a period of three months it was largely broken down into three phases.

Phase 1: Remote learning. Whilst the Battalion were on lockdown due to COVID-19 the Platoon made the most of the opportunity to cover off the theory side of the cadre. This included Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) Recognition, the Javelin weapons system and how the Platoon operates within the Battle Group context. It is safe to say that the instructors within the Platoon are now experts in video conference calls and the likes of Zoom as much as they are on the Javelin. This period, although novel and at times difficult, set a strong foundation for the Platoon going onto the next phase of the cadre.

Phase 2: In-camp skills and drills. As soon as we were able to get the Platoon back into camp we started getting hands on the equipment. Luckily, the majority of the information had stuck and the new members of the Platoon took to operating the Javelin with ease, allowing them to progress quickly onto the Indoor Trainer. The Indoor Trainer makes up one of the most important parts of the cadre as it replicates the operation and firing of the Javelin. Just as airplane pilots spend hours in a simulator before actually flying a plane, the new members of the Platoon must prove they can handle a multitude of scenarios before they are qualified as Javelin Gunners. The sections also had the opportunity to come together for the first time and revise their standard operating procedures before deploying onto the exercise phase.

Phase 3: Exercise. The exercise itself was broken down into two phases. Firstly, a consolidated learning phase. The job of the Anti-tank Platoon is so different to that of a Rifle Platoon it was crucial to get the new members of the Platoon used to operating the kit in slow time both during the day and at night. We also had the pleasure of

introducing them to what they would call home for the rest of their career: the sub-surface Observation Post. After a week of consolidated learning and refining their drills we moved onto a gruelling five-day test exercise, designed to push the Platoon to their limits. We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to observe Challenger 2 and Warrior platforms race across the plain on one of the nights, bringing some realism to the role of the Anti-tanker. The exercise culminated in a delay back to the Main Defensive Position and in true exercise fashion it wouldn't have been

complete without a casualty extraction thrown in.

Despite the year providing peculiar circumstances the cadre was a success and the new members have confidently earned their place in the Platoon. The hard work put in on the cadre has set the conditions for the Platoon moving forward and will put them in good stead for the upcoming Battalion exercises.

1. Gdsm Walker behind the Javelin Weapon System.
2. Constructing their first OP.
3. Casualty extraction on the final serial.



Sniper Platoon Cadre

by Sergeant J Browning, Sniper Platoon Commander

It's been a year like no other for the Sniper Platoon, with a global pandemic ripping across the world, every man has had to get creative and to adapt in more ways than one.

April has seen the Platoon growing in size, as four young individuals from across the Battalion were selected to join the Sniper Platoon, having displayed to the Rifle Companies the requisite skills and mindset to [potentially] become a sniper.

The Platoon was due to start their Cadre in April but with the country going into a nationwide lockdown it was not possible. Following lockdown, the Battalion was dispersed to the four corners of Wales and remote online training began. A big focus for us was on the theory side of all things sniping and personal fitness. The section commanders gave PowerPoint presentations and the LCpls headed up discussions. Each week was concluded with a short exercise testing what was taught that week.

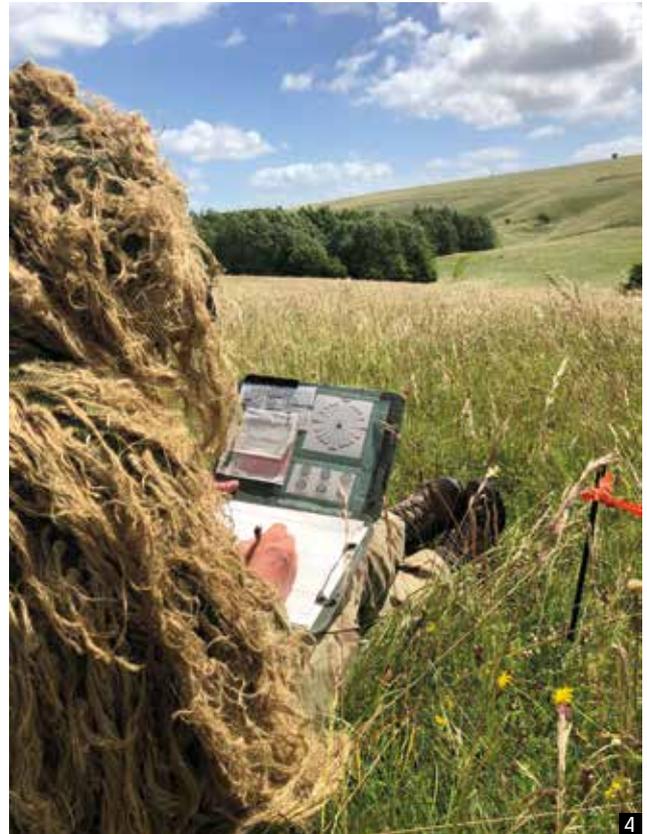
June saw the return of the Sniper Platoon after two months of being in lockdown and we started planning behind the scenes to re-book all ranges and training areas so that we could still conduct the cadre.

As a sniper you need to be a marksman with all your personal weapons. We headed to the Ash Range complex where we started with the Army Combat Marksman Test (ACMT) on the SA80. With no hiccups, every man achieved the required Marksmanship score. This allowed a seamless transition to the Sharpshooter Rifle.

The first time firing the weapon system for some of the younger members gave them a good understanding of correctly applying the marksmanship principles, and we worked back out to 600m. If the position and hold wasn't firm enough the shot was certain to miss the target. Time on the ranges is seldom wasted and with practice, we were getting consistent hits on targets at the furthest ranges.

It was then time to make a start on the sniper rifle itself! The wind was kind and the temperatures high! The first practice was for troops to get a feel of the weapon. With no suppressor fitted it gives an almighty bang as the round breaks the sound barrier into supersonic flight, the recoil is unlike any other weapon they had fired to date and there were definitely a few sore shoulders in the morning! We progressed through the live fire shoots, firing in different firing positions and moving further back. 900 meters was the furthest we went back to at which a sniper should be able to achieve a first round hit at this distance. The target (which is barely visible to the naked eye at this range) comes up and you can see the sniper identify it through their scope. The snipers take their time to settle their breathing, taking wind measurements and applying the correct adjustments to their scope. It will take an 8.59mm round 1.3 seconds to cover the 900m to hit the target, which leaves a lot of





factors that can change the flight of the round once it has left the barrel of the rifle. The 1.3 seconds feels like eternity, then the target drops.

With all the Live Firing complete it was time to get into the nitty gritty training. Over the next ten days the Platoon went through the remaining Sniper skills. There are seven skills at the core of being a sniper; Marksmanship, Observation, Navigation, Judging Distance, Sniper Knowledge, Camouflage and Concealment and Stalking. The theory had already been covered while we were in lockdown, so it was now time to put the meat on the bones, by applying what they had learnt. It was a tough ten days. Late nights navigating over Salisbury Plain and early mornings practicing judging distance or observation, but they were grasping the fundamentals of the Sniper skills enough

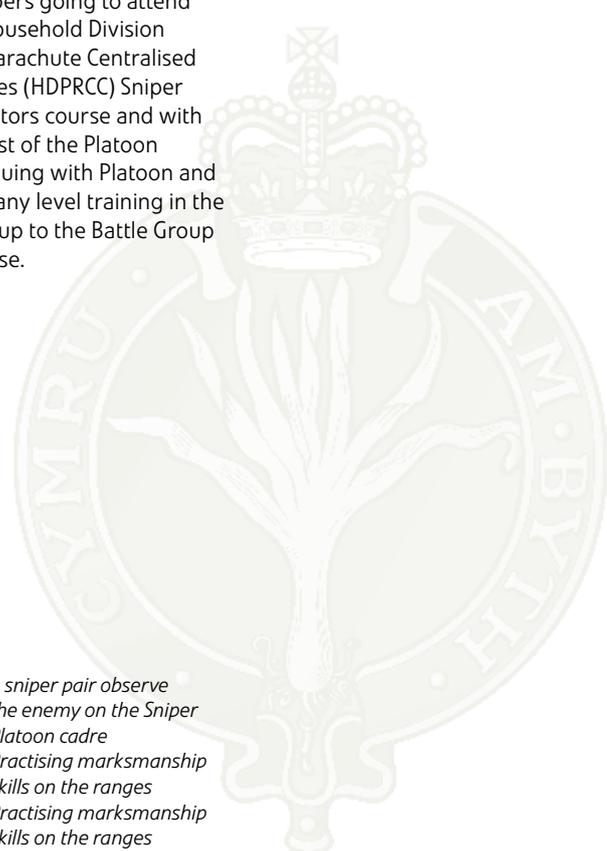
so that we could move on to section and platoon level taskings. The final stage of the cadre was to test them on what they had learnt. It would be four days of skills under test conditions, exactly how it would be done on the Sniper Operators Course. We needed to cover five skills each day, judging distance, observation, stalking, static map and navigation at night. All needed to achieve 70% or more to pass each skill, which is no easy task.

All in all, it had been a successful Sniper Platoon cadre. Having taken young guardsman with zero sniper experience and getting them up to the required standard where they are cable of attending and passing the Sniper Operators course which give them the Sniper qualification!

The Sniper Platoon now looks to the future, with three

members going to attend the Household Division and Parachute Centralised Courses (HDPGCC) Sniper Operators course and with the rest of the Platoon continuing with Platoon and company level training in the build-up to the Battle Group exercise.

1. A sniper pair observe the enemy on the Sniper Platoon cadre
2. Practising marksmanship skills on the ranges
3. Practising marksmanship skills on the ranges
4. Sketching enemy positions





Welsh Guards Contribution to Op RESCRIPT

by Lance Corporal Griffiths 86, Number 2 Company

The British Army is all about remaining flexible. This has never been so important as this year. This year should have seen Welsh Guardsmen exercising in Brecon. This year should have seen us Trooping our Colour on Horse Guards Parade. This year should have seen us deploy and exercise and conduct adventurous training in Kenya, on Exercise ASKARI STORM. However, 2020 had different plans and we, typically, showed just how flexible we can be.

In January, the first case of COVID-19 was identified in the United Kingdom – it feels like a lifetime ago. Ever since, it seems as though Army life has been dominated by the virus and how we deal with it. Initially the Battalion took safety measures, much like the rest of the country, until the announcement came, outside Company Offices, that we would be sent home or “dispersed”. What followed was weeks of Zoom lessons,

check-ins, and online pub quizzes until things finally went back to normal.

There are a few of us for whom Combemere Barracks is home and, after volunteering to take a greater role in Op RESCRIPT (Op RESCRIPT is the military operation to assist the UK’s efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom), myself and a small team of Guardsmen,

under the guidance of Sgt Potts (Corps of Drums), were sent to Chessington World of Adventures to be trained by staff from Boots to become COVID-19 Testers. What followed was a day or two of intensive training, learning about the virus and its effects, how it’s transmitted, and what we had to do to not only test people, but to ensure our own safety health and hygiene were paramount whilst doing so.

The commitment we gave to Chessington was soon upped. Suddenly there were more testers trained, members of all Companies of the Battalion were soon swabbing noses and throats. We undertook our task with enthusiasm and vigour and more than once were presented with gifts and thanks.

After about two months of testing members of the National Health Service, and

then the general public, we were stood down from our testing commitments and, for a brief period, sent back to work before being tasked again, this time to provide Mobile Testing Units in and around London District. Though our previous experience was beneficial to us, and set us in good stead, once again we found ourselves in need of new training. What followed was a two-day package set up by the Grenadier Guards to teach us the necessary skills to set up our mobile testing units.

Our first tasking, under the command of Sgt Forde and

2Lt Haynes (2 Coy), was to deploy a testing unit to Hyde Park, in Central London. We set off early in the morning and arrived at a long road near Marble Arch where we started to set up. Within a half hour we had a gazebo good to go, a welcome stand handing out leaflets, and members of the public already queuing to test.

The difference between this and our previous task was that our new-found skills – testing members of the public – were no longer called for. Instead of swabbing mouths and throats we found ourselves acting merely as

enablers, allowing members of the general public to test themselves, within the privacy of the gazebos. Both tasks took pride of place for us. We saw ourselves in the papers, online, and some of us (Gdsm Evans, Corps of Drums), on the cover of the Guards Magazine. As ever, where the nation needed the Army, the Welsh Guards led the way.

We found ourselves once again in a privileged place, as Welsh Guardsmen were able to serve the nation and show ourselves, as King George V called us on the day he presented the first set

of Colours, “true and valiant sons of gallant Wales.”

Cymru Am Byth.

1. *LSgt Prothero leaning in for a swab*
2. *Gdsm Davies testing a member of the public*
3. *Dmr Evans, this photo was used on the cover of the Guards Magazine earlier this year*
4. *LSgt Prothero in action again.*



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1. Recce soldiers in the early stages of digging a sub-surface OP.
2. LSgt Morgan teaching principles of navigation to a hopeful young Recce soldier.
3. I see you...
4. A drawing used to back brief a Recce target to the chain of command.

The Reconnaissance Patrolman Cadre 2020

by Captain EWD Andersen, Platoon Commander

Each year the Recce Platoon conducts a cadre to bring the newly joined members up to the high standard required of the Platoon and to remind, revise and update existing members on the standard operating procedures of the Platoon.

This year's cadre was conducted in a rather unusual fashion given the ever-present pandemic. The cadre was due to go ahead in March, but with COVID-19 cases rising and the prospect of a national lockdown becoming an ominous rumour, there were growing concerns over how feasible an exercise would be. The Recce pamphlet did not provide much guidance on how best to construct a sub-surface observation post whilst conforming to social distancing guidelines, given that occupants are usually living, quite literally, on top of one another.

Fortunately, the Platoon was well placed to take on such a challenge with all the key members of the commander's team having successfully passed the demanding Light Close Reconnaissance Commanders course, something that has not been achieved for several years. Owing to this wealth of experience the Platoon was able to cover all the theory for the cadre through lessons conducted via video calls.

While this approach was far from ideal it did allow a greater period of time to go into depth in areas which are usually only glanced at on a conventional cadre, especially when scheduled around a very busy SCPD (State Ceremonial and Public Duties) calendar.

On returning to Windsor from dispersal the Platoon readied itself once again to deploy to Salisbury Plain, this time deploying with the remainder of the Battalion's Specialist Weapons Platoons. The June weather was kind and provided excellent conditions for the initial skills phase of the cadre which covered navigation, patrol skills and contact drills. This phase also introduced the new members of the Platoon to digging subsurface OPs: the ideal means from which to observe an enemy position without being compromised.

The cadre's final phase saw the Platoon deploying into a screen to find and track the enemy. The patrol commanders displayed a great deal of skill by maintaining constant observation on a mobile enemy across challenging terrain. The final hurdle for the Platoon tested their ability to accurately back-brief information obtained over days of observing the enemy. The cadre culminated in a dawn raid on the enemy farm and a rather unpleasant casualty evacuation up one of the Plain's steepest slopes.

Following the successful completion of the cadre the Platoon has welcomed seven new Guardsmen to its ranks. As a result, the Platoon is now manned to a sufficient strength to operate as the Battalion's primary surveillance asset.



Machine Gun Platoon Cadre

by Lieutenant J Wilkinson, Platoon Commander

Salisbury Plain has long been the spiritual home of the Specialist Weapon Platoons. Its vast expanses of sky lines and myriad of rolling hills make it a perfect location for the Machine Gun Platoon Cadre.

The Platoon, newly replenished with a fresh stock of Guardsmen, is the largest it has been for some time. Both new and old to the platoon were thrilled to be out on the area learning new skills and honing established ones on the General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) in its sustained fire (SF) role.

The first part of the Cadre consisted of dry training which saw the Platoon get back to the basics of the GPMG. As with any military training, repetition is key, and especially when it comes to carrying out drills on the GPMG in the SF role. The Platoon spent the first few days perfecting these skills in several different tactical locations, occupying gun lines both in the day and at night, before tabbing back to New Zealand Farm which was home for the Platoon before the exercise phase of the cadre. Of course, it was a big learning curve for all the Platoon getting used to the carriage of their kit and equipment again. The Machine Gun Platoon carry some of the heaviest weight

in Battalion on the battlefield - up to 65 kilograms - so a steady progression of training was needed to get used to carrying this weight.

Once the Platoon had nailed down their drills on the gun itself, they moved onto developing their wider set of skills required to be a member of the Platoon. One such skill is that of panoramic sketching. Varying levels of artistic flare were exhibited, but all did well to recognise and understand why such a skill is necessary. The dry phase of the Cadre culminated in a 5-day blank fire exercise on the area, which gave the Platoon its first real taste of the tactical environment. After tabbing large distances across the area, the Platoon carried out several tactical actions under their Section Commanders and performed well across all areas they were tested on.

Having now experienced a taste of what being in the Guns Platoon is about, the Platoon were eager to get some live firing under their belts. The second half of the

Cadre, which took place in early September, provided this opportunity. For many in the Platoon this would be the first time they had fired the GPMG in its SF role, firing at a rate of up to two hundred rounds a minute. It is for this reason that the Platoon is such an effective asset on the battlefield. The culmination of the ranges saw all members passing their GPMG SF ACMT (Army Combat Marksman Test) at the first attempt as well as taking part in a full gun line section shoot.

The Guns Platoon has more live firing to look forward to and the opportunity to continue to hone and refine their skills on the Battalion's winter Battle Camp. The Platoon looks set to continue to grow as Guardsmen realise that the opportunity to be part of such an effective and robust Platoon is not one to be missed.

1. *A Machine Gunner in the SF role.*
2. *LCpl Dennis gives Gdsm Lewis and Healy Roberts some direction.*
3. *All over the gun!*
4. *Gdsm Healy Roberts.*





Cayman Islands Short Term Training Team (STTT) August 2020

by Lance Corporal Bilkey, Number Three Company

When the opportunity presented itself to go to the Cayman Islands as part of a STTT (Short Term Training Team) to help set up their new Defence Force, I was extremely eager to put my name forward.

I am always one for seeing a new part of the world and this was going to be my first time as part of a training team. The Cayman Islands up until now had no Army or Defence Force to speak of so we were effectively creating a small piece of history. The instructors comprised mainly of members of the Household Division with five Welsh Guardsmen, four from the Grenadier Guards, three from the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment alongside two Royal Marines.

Our trip started off at more of a walk than a run, as we were required to isolate for a week in the UK’s Defence Academy in Shrivenham before flying direct to the Cayman Islands for a further week’s isolation. It was quite a frustrating

period as we were each in our own rooms and not allowed out at all, not even at mealtimes. But there could be worse places to isolate! We tried to make the best out of the time by preparing for the task ahead. Names were put to task and lesson plans created so that when we were eventually released, we could get stuck straight into it.

After two weeks of isolation and countless COVID tests we were eventually given the all clear to go to work. Before the training could begin there was the small matter of sorting out all the kit and equipment that CSgt Qaimuri worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise and fly to the Caribbean.

The first morning of training saw over 50 new recruits eager to start their new part time role. They were sworn in by the Governor of the Cayman Islands, His Excellency Martyn Roper and then the training could begin. This incorporated a variety of different subjects including navigation, weapon handling, first aid, drill, basic communications and of course LSgt Williams 70’s gruelling PT sessions in the 30-degree heat. A large part of the training focused on the teaching of Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) techniques. These lessons could prove invaluable and save lives in the future if a large hurricane were to impact the islands again, as it did with Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Towards the end of the training package the recruits were sent on an exercise to test what they had learnt so far. The sections put their skills to the test with a night navigation serial alongside numerous challenging HADR scenarios which involved casualty evacuations. The local authorities keenly supported the exercise with both the Red Cross and the new Cayman Islands Police helicopter taking part. Once the exercise was completed the main effort turned towards the passing out parade which took place on the Islands major sporting venue: The Truman Bodden Stadium. Friends and family were invited alongside the Governor and the Cayman Islands Premier who both gave congratulatory

speeches to their new Regiment. Following this the training team were very kindly invited back to the Governors beach side Residence for refreshments.

Once the training for the Cayman Islands Regiment was complete we had a few days to get to see a bit more of the island and experience the Caribbean at its finest. Despite heading into hurricane season the weather remained scorching, which was very welcome indeed. Members of our group headed out on a helicopter ride, deep sea fishing and jet skiing. We even managed a boat trip to a place called Stingray City where you can swim with and feed the stingrays. It was here that the training team showed their

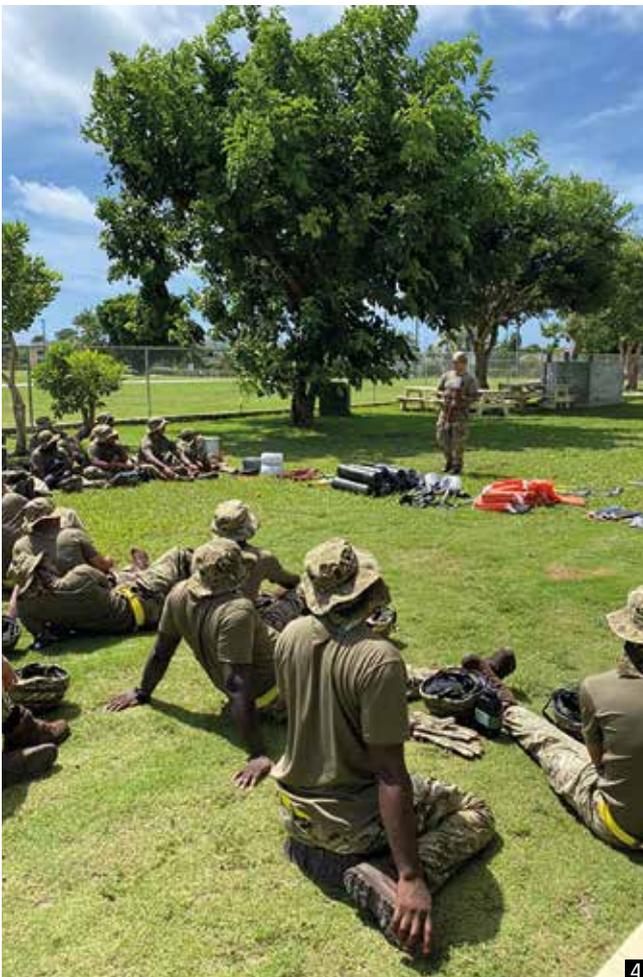
mettle: LSgt Williams shook off a ferocious stingray bite and the mere sight of the terrifying creatures sent LCpl Lucas running for the boat!

Being able to help in the forming of the Cayman Islands Regiment and visiting such a fantastic place was a real honour and privilege for all involved, and I look forward to the next STTT.

1. *Members of the STTT with His Excellency Martyn Roper*
2. *LCpl Lucas inspects the new Cayman Islands Regiment recruits*
3. *Found something!*
4. *The recruits receiving a lesson in the sunshine*
5. *Recruits receiving some navigation tips*



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Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

by Captain James Marsden Welsh Guards - Assistant Chief Instructor (Tactics) of the Senior Term

What a difference a year makes. The last report from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (RMAS) was one which concerned refinement and incremental change to the delivery of training.

Today, the home of the British Army officer faces the challenge of COVID along with the rest of the nation. It is the officer cadets who are disproportionately affected; they now undergo 'Controlled Monitoring' (quarantine) for two weeks at the start of term and subsequently operate in platoon family groups without the option to leave the Academy throughout the standard fourteen-week term. While the training objectives have remained the same, there have been significant changes in the delivery of the course itself such as the final exercise taking place in Thetford instead of Germany, Exercise LONGREACH taking place in Dartmoor instead of the Black Mountains, and Commissioning Course 192's Commissioning Parade being a much lower key affair: Multi Terrain Pattern uniform and with a simpler format to allow two-metre distancing throughout. The provision of junior officers to the Field Army has continued

and, by the following term, Blues and chargers had thankfully returned to Old College Square with a socially distanced picnic on the polo pitch (perhaps something that might become the default for summer Sovereign's Parades) hinting at a new normality beginning to emerge.

While the nation was in lockdown, RMAS as an institution continued largely unabated. However, the continuing pandemic has forced the pace on innovation in our methods of instruction. The University Officer Training Corps (UOTCs), which are the units largely responsible for the Academy achieving its necessary inflow, have proven to be at the forefront of experimentation and the Academy has, while having its own fair share of innovation and novel ideas, learnt much from the wider Group. The modernisation process is now in full swing with much of the course being

delivered virtually. Paper handouts are becoming a thing of the past and the new generation of officer cadet is arguably more conversant in doctrine and theory than their forebears. The challenge for permanent staff has been to translate effectively this theoretical knowledge into practical application within the constraints imposed by social distancing. This has led to rapid and significant work to balance transmission risk and important public perception considerations against the need to produce operationally capable young officers on commissioning. The Academy has taken the now hackneyed phrase 'Build Back Better' to its logical extension with much opportunity to improve how we deliver training in 'normal' times identified and baked into the standard Commissioning Course programme.

Welsh Guards representation in the Academy and the wider Group remains healthy with

two lieutenant colonels (one of whom is in command), the Academy Adjutant, two captains in Chief Instructor capacities, and Assistant Instructors within the colleges. We are fortunate to have a steady flow of senior non-commissioned officers attempting the RMAS Cadre and hope for good representation early next year. The quality of officer cadet who pursues a commission with us remains exceptionally high; it is as competitive as ever to gain one of the five available spaces in the battalion each year. With national restrictions affecting the ability of officer cadets to visit the battalion, the superb work done by Regimental Headquarters to point the very best of those interested in a career in the Army in our direction remains as impressive as ever and makes the job of the cadet-facing staff in Sandhurst Group, and the Academy, that much easier.

Despite the disruption, Sandhurst rumbles on. Welsh Guards stock remains very high and the battalion continues to receive, we believe, the highest quality young officer.

Cymru am Byth.

1. From left to right: OCdt Rob Cross, Capt James Marsden, Maj Austen Salusbury, and OCdt Cameron Clarke (appearing a bit slow to get the cameraman's joke)





SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING

Exercise Frosted Blade

by Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson, Exercise Second in Command

Exercise Frosted Blade (Ex FB) is the Infantry Alpine Skiing competition. Run yearly, at the French ski resort of Val D'Isere, Infantry Battalions from across the Army select a team of 8 to compete.

The teams then receive 4 weeks of high-quality instruction from the evolution 2 French ski school before spending two weeks battling it out on the different courses. All of this is leading towards a top group being selected to represent the Infantry at the Divisional, Army and then Tri-Service Championships.

This year Ex FB was run by the resident battalion skier, Lt Seb Ward. In his life before the Army, Lt Ward spent numerous winters running university ski trips to the Alps, spent a season in Whistler as an instructor and has even sampled Japan's legendary powder! Credit is due for his organisational effort as he managed to put the entire exercise together from behind a computer on the other side of the world, while deployed to the Falkland Islands.

Following a rigorous selection process, Lt Ward set off with his new ski team on 6 Dec 19. The journey over to Val D'Isere went smoothly and the team arrived in one piece the following day. The exercise immediately got into full swing with a logistical puzzle that two DE (Direct Entry) officers just about managed to resolve, with the issuing of 243 pairs of skis, boots and helmets to the exercise. We were then filtered into new

groups according to previous experience. The Welsh Guards, offering a mostly novice team, added a healthy population to the lower groups. This contributed great comedy to the nightly team meetings as we heard stories of Gdsm Sherlock snapping his ski in half after careering off the piste and Gdsm Smith spending most of the first day going backwards downhill.

As the training continued, the boys became more confident and capable on their skis and the team began to take shape. They made excellent progress, going from putting skis on for the first time to learning to race within a few weeks. Race training started with the slowest but most technical discipline; slalom. Slalom



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consists of 30-75 sharp turns down a short course and is particularly challenging due to the irregular spacings and timings of the turns. Once they had a good grasp of this, they were moved up to Giant Slalom training. As the name suggests the course is simply a faster, wider version.

On the 22 Dec the boys had earned a well-deserved break after skiing almost everyday since their arrival. Lt Ward decided to head home for the Christmas break and so the author was left to see the team through the Christmas break. This was an excellent opportunity for the team to get out and do some slightly more relaxed skiing and allowed them a little more time for social activities. To make-up for not being at home for Christmas, we gathered on Christmas Eve for a hearty family meal at a local restaurant and exchanged gifts before getting up nice and early for a big Christmas day ski.

Returning from leave the team prepared their kit for race week. Donning skintight lycra

'race suits' (very flattering after an indulgent Christmas), and edging/waxing their skis in the evenings. They were split down into A and B and commenced 'Race Week!'

Race week consisted of the four members from each team competing against the other infantry units for places on the Infantry team. The B team competed valiantly with some of the members placing in the top third of all results. The A team lead by Lt Ward achieved excellent results, managing to secure a place at the next stage of the competition.

Lt Ward once again proved his worth at the Div Champs placing in the top 15. While the author and Gdsm Richards adopted an all or nothing race ethos, which, unfortunately saw them not placing highly enough to qualify due to some truly biblical crashes. Lt Ward continued his streak and represented the Battalion at the Army Champs. On his return to the UK, Lt Ward constructed a 5-year plan that should see the Welsh Guards winter sports teams develop and challenge for Army representation more frequently.



1. Gdsm Richards at the start gate of the downhill course. He will reach speeds of 110kph+
2. The Welsh Guards team sporting leeks for the fancy dress Slalom competition
3. Lt Ward attacking the slalom course
4. Gdsm Sherlock enjoying the views



Officers' Mess Ski Trip 2020

by Lieutenant LMF Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

The Officers' Mess once again returned to the French Alps for its annual ski trip, this year being the fifth of its kind.

Despite a change of resort and a change of faces, the trip still provided an excellent opportunity for the mess to relax, catch up and enjoy each other's company.

As the Christmas holidays came to a close, twenty officers and four partners set off for the mountains from Combermere Barracks. Their destination was Belle Plagne, a small pedestrianised village within the resort of La Plagne. It is one of eleven villages that make up La Plagne and although smaller and quieter than the others, it is tucked away high up in the mountains. This affords it fantastic views over the ski area

and means it is perfectly placed to access the entire resort.

The resort itself offers 225km of marked pistes, catering for all levels of skier. This was perfect for the trip, allowing the twenty-four to break up into smaller groups of equal ability. Those who demanded speed and adrenaline could head up over the towering Roche de Mio onto the Bellecôte Glacier for steep black runs and off-piste opportunities. Whereas, the area surrounding Belle Plagne offered those with less inclination for danger a plethora of gentle blue and red runs.





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With three days of sunshine and blue skies, the groups were able to scatter across the resort and sample all the slopes that were on offer. I distinctly remember trying to reconvene with another group and quickly deciding it wasn't feasible when, in the space of forty minutes, they had ended up four miles away. Understandable when the likes of Helen Llewelyn-Usher, the Commanding Officer's wife, clocked up a speed of 111km/h down one particular run!



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Despite all the separation, the groups always found the time to co-locate for lunch on the mountain, providing the perfect opportunity to share tales of daring on the slopes. This was repeated every evening when the group dined together in the hotel's restaurant. On occasion, the dinners spilled out into town to sample what the local 'après-ski' had to offer – normally resulting in some good breakfast gossip.

A particular highlight of the trip included an evening spent at the bowling alley, a strange addition to your typical ski trip. Nonetheless, teams were created and armed with velcro bowling shoes the group's competitive spirit took over. An immensely fun evening ensued and further reinforced

the bonds between the group. All credit goes to the wives and fiancées for booking and organising the evening.

After three full days of skiing and socialising, the group wrapped up what was another immensely successful mess trip. The trip allowed the mess to enjoy each other's company outside of the confines of work and afforded the opportunity to integrate wives and fiancées into the fold – a testament to the family regiment that we are. The Officers' Mess would like to extend their extreme gratitude to the Regimental Trustees and Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tom Bonas as without their support this trip would not be possible.

1. *The entire group.*
2. *Major Tom Spencer-Smith and Capt Joe Dinwiddie.*
3. *Maj Ben Kendal, Maj Tom Spencer-Smith, Lt Col Henry Llewelyn-Usher, Mrs Llewelyn-Usher and Capt Tom Evans.*
4. *Capt Scott Bowden aka the Milka cow, and Capt Elletson enjoying themselves.*
5. *The view from the accommodation.*



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Exercise Racing Ice

by Second Lieutenant SP Burfiend, Number 2 Platoon Commander

Exercise Racing Ice is a week-long exercise run by the Army Winter Sports Association which aims to introduce willing participants to ice sliding sports.

Each participant specializes in a particular discipline. With Welsh Guards covering all three sports; **Bobsleigh** - where you are inside the sled with a driver and brake man, **Luge** - feet first on a toboggan and **Skeleton** - headfirst on a tea-tray style sled.

Five members of The Battalion were fortunate enough to find themselves boarding an early morning flight from Gatwick to Innsbruck, Austria. With everyone settled into the accommodation, fitted for the alarmingly small amount of protective gear, and sized up for sleds. We were moved off into our respective disciplines and put our lives in the hands of the experienced instructors.

The progression with all three disciplines was fast and essentially involved moving

higher up the track the more confident one gets. Until eventually you reach the top of the track and begin working on sprint starts by the end of the week. The luge and skeleton had the morning sessions, with the bobsleigh taking the afternoon session as they are more aggressive causing the ice to churn up.

To start with we began from the Kinder start. With instructions to lay perfectly still and count the first six corners and maintain track awareness as we wouldn't be going fast enough to warrant any steering. Much easier said than done. With everything happening extremely quickly even from a quarter of the way up the track, it is easy to lose your bearings. However, everyone made it down unscathed. With everyone



quickly becoming accustomed to the pace of around 81kph and looking forward to progressing further up the track. In the evening we made the most of being in a Winter Olympic host city and were able to watch the Innsbruck Ice Hockey team play. It was great to experience the lively atmosphere and see the pace of the sport.

The luge and skeleton progressed further up the track to meet the bobsleigh racers on day three which meant plenty more speed for the morning and more corners to commit to memory as the track became ever more complicated. There was a good show from the three Guardsmen on the luge. Clocking very respectable top speeds and times, and most importantly no crashes.

With the lugers having cleared a vast majority of snow from the ice the skeleton racers took to the track. Starting from higher up the skeleton racers would now have to contend with the infamous Kriesel corner, which is like a swirling vortex that pins you to a vertical wall. One advantage for the Welsh Guards racers was that a key technique for tackling the corner is to give it an 'eyes left' on entry, thus preventing the G-force from planting your face firmly against the ice for the duration of the corner (which I can confirm does happen). 2Lt Burfiend posted some strong times, clocking speeds of 91Kph on the fastest part of the track.

Lt Wilkinson in the bobsleigh was on the evening session. With the temperature dropping significantly and the snow fall ceasing, conditions were set for some fast runs. Lt Wilkinson was partnered up with a Coldstream Guards officer which resulted in a



combined weight of racers and bobsleigh of 400Kg. They both performed very well over the four runs and were in-fact the only pair not to crash.

Great conditions prevailed for sliding on day four. Very cold weather with temperatures dropping to -4c and clear blue skies. All three disciplines moved further up the track with the bobsleigh and skeleton now setting off from the top which would add further complexity to runs. The luge seemed to have the most crashes which is played for all to see on big screens around the track. However the Welsh Guard racers managed to hold their nerve and made it down the track without too many hiccups.

For the bobsleigh and skeleton disciplines starting from the top changes every corner you thought had already been mastered. Although the corners at the top of the track are inevitably slower it is amazing the knock-on effect a poor corner up high can have further down on the fast part of the track. 2Lt Burfiend made it down in one piece (just), suffering from a few

(as the instructors like to say) 'taps' - hitting a wall at 105kph is more like a slam!

Lt Wilkinson with his partner in the Bobsled were once again the only team to make it down without a crash and were in good competition for the fastest runs of each session. Bodies across all disciplines were certainly beginning to feel slightly worse for wear in the evening. Fortunately there was an abundance of ice and a very busy physio on call to tape everyone back together again.

The final day was a culmination of all the lessons learned throughout the week. Pulling together all of the knowledge from our daily track walks, video review sessions and personal tweaks to technique.

The progression on the luge since day one is very evident to see. With the luge being the most technical of the disciplines any minor adjustment can have big consequences. Therefore going from the higher start point takes real skill, focus and courage which Guardsmen Roberts, Valentine and Tennant

showed in abundance. Watching them all hurtling down the track at great speeds was fantastic to see.

The skeleton had progressed onto sprint starts from the top which was a new element thrown into the already complex track. However it allowed racers to really push their limits of skill, technique and courage (aka stupidity). 2Lt Burfiend performed well finishing in the top two on every run.

Finally the Bobsleigh racers went down the track. Lt Wilkinson had a change of break man which didn't seem to slow down his rapid pace as driver. Reaching top speeds of over 110kph Lt Wilkinson glided his bobsleigh down the Olympic track with great skill and certainly finished the week on a high recording the fastest time of the week on the bobsled.

Being an introduction to sport exercise the aim was to spot potential racers for the Army Championships in January 2020. Four members of the Welsh Guards who took part were invited to come back and represent the Welsh Guards in the Army Championships. Which is testament to the effort and hard work put in by all Welsh Guards participants across the week. Fully embracing the opportunity to throw themselves into a new exciting sport that generally wouldn't be very accessible. Let us hope this has started a long tradition in sending Welsh Guardsmen hurtling down precarious tracks of ice.

1. Lt Wilkinson driving his Bobsled on the infamous Kriesel corner.
2. Spectacular views which surrounded the track.
3. 2Lt Burfiend on the skeleton
4. Gdsm Valentine on the luge

Welsh Guards' Ski Trip – January 2020

by Captain TS Minihan

Once again, this year the Welsh Guards deployed to Alpendorf, Austria for their annual ski trip. Sixty members of the battalion took part in Exercise COCKNEY FROSTED LEEK, which ran for two weeks between 18 Jan and 1 Feb.

Alpendorf has become a familiar destination for our battalion ski trips, this being the fourth time the Welsh Guards have visited. It was wonderful to see the excitement of many Guardsman who had previously participated on Battalion ski trips to return to Alpendorf, and their enthusiasm to impart some 'local knowledge' on their friends who had not. With their excitement in tow, a first group of thirty officers and men departed Combermere Barracks Windsor on a rainy Friday afternoon for the first week of the trip.

Their arrival in to Alpendorf the following morning coincided with heavy snowfall, setting the scene for a great first week of skiing. Even novice skiers could be heard commenting, 'yes, fresh powder', as they stepped off the coaches. With the necessary administration completed on day one, the group settled down to supper and drinks in the hotel on the first night. We were hosted superbly throughout the trip in a quaint and homely hotel that was quintessentially Austrian. We were served hearty and traditional Austrian food, washed down with local beer. Venturing towards the wine list proved less fortuitous however.

The snow continued to fall that evening and conditions could not have been better for our first day. With groups having been assigned, two novice, two intermediate and two advanced groups

hit the slopes. The novice groups, instructed by Lt Chris Beek (R SIGNALS) and Sgt Joe Richter (REME), came on in bounds throughout the week. It was brilliant to see their confidence grow as they tackled fun parks and slalom courses towards the end of the week. The intermediate and advanced groups undertook Ski Foundation 2 (SF2) and SF3 respectively. Both courses entailed day long ski tours, testing physical robustness and mental will. The reward for a day of back country touring were some superb untouched descents; well worth the physical effort of the climb up the mountain.

The second week of the trip coincided with a visit from the Commanding Officer who was delighted to see the



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pleasure on the faces of the Guardsmen taking part in the exercise. Week two also saw a trip to Schladming, an hour from Alpendorf, to watch some Olympic Slalom night racing. This was a great opportunity not only to see skiing at the highest level, but also to enjoy the atmosphere of a forty-thousand-person crowd gathered on the slopes to enjoy Austria's national sport.

The trip was a resounding success. For the novice skiers it was clear to see that a spark had been ignited in them to pursue skiing further through their Army careers. For those who had skied before, their ability was brought on massively in only a week and there was real interest to continue their journey to becoming qualified military ski instructors. It would be wonderful in the future to see Welsh Guardsmen teach one another to ski and we will continue to develop the obvious skiing talent we have within the battalion.



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1. Capt Minihan ski touring
2. Members of the Officer's Mess and the ski instructors
3. Sgt Richter (REME) stops with his group on a snowy day
4. World Cup Night Slalom competition at Schladming
5. Lt Haines Henderson sporting an icy moustache
6. A group follows their instructor to find some powder
7. A ski instructor talking up to his group with Alpendorf in the background
8. A group ski touring off piste
9. A group resting at the top after a tough climb on touring skis

TELEMARK – (The Free Heel Life Part 2) Ex TELEMARK TITAN, Ex TELEMARK TROJAN and the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships

by Captain AJN Smith, Adjutant Army Training
Regiment Grantham

January 2020 saw this year’s iteration of Ex TELEMARK TITAN (Ex TT) form up once again in Pralognan-la-Vanoise (PLV), France.

This is the Army, Navy and British National Telemark Championships rolled up into one. This year it attracted close to 150 competitors from across the Services and the civilian world.

Telemark skiing is the only winter sport to be named after the area from which it was started. Hailing from the Telemark region of Norway, this unique form of skiing has carved out a niche within the winter sports world and is enjoying something of a renaissance as skiers look to try something new and test themselves.

Combining elements from both the alpine and Nordic forms of skiing, telemarking is a unique, multi-purpose, multi-limbed vortex of chaos. It differs from its newer and more popular – and some might say more practical – alpine cousin by binding the skis at the front only, freeing the heel to be raised on turns. But to free the heel, you must first free the mind. Mastering the tele turn technique is a challenging process. New telemark skiers with weeks of alpine skiing experience are forced to betray the natural parallel turns they mastered years ago.

Ex TT is a two-week long race camp in PLV with many of the instructors coming from the World Cup Circuit and is open to all levels of skiers. It is recommended that those wanting to take up telemark

should have a basic grasp of alpine, allowing the individual to grasp with slightly greater ease the graceful style that is the tele turn. The Camp takes the shape of a week of training under the expert tutorage of some of the best telemarkers in the world before a week of racing commences. The racing is split into 3 different forms (please see TELEMARK – THE FREE HEEL LIFE article from last year for an introduction to the different races). This year it had been hoped to also add a fourth discipline, the parallel sprint. Sadly, due to poor snow conditions the additional race had to be abandoned.

Ex TT has a very relaxed feel about it thanks to the inject of civilians into the mix. It creates a very different atmosphere to most exercises run by the military and the feel around the small village of PLV is very friendly, with many of the villagers coming out to watch the races.

The racing is split into two groups; the Championship (which is also the British National Championships and was formed of 70 racers, including 10 Team GB racers) and the Development races. Luckily my success of last year meant there was no need for me to take part in the qualifying event as I had automatically qualified for the Championship. This allowed me to form part of the hill team for the race and experience being a gate judge.



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More importantly because of my success last year I was selected to form part of the Combined Services team (made up of Army and Navy skiers) to compete as the military team within the British Championships. I am sorry to say that we came second behind Team GB – although in reality, if we had beaten Team GB, they may have been selecting the wrong skiers over the years!

The first race of the week was the GS, competed over two runs I was placed 20th overall (4th in the Army and 11th when Team GB were removed from the mix). This result left me with high hopes of not only being reselected for the Army team to compete at the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships (ISSSC), but also that I might be able to knock off some of the people who were ahead

of me last year but who had seemed unreachable. After a rest day while the Development races got under way, it was then time for the sprint race. The sprint is again completed over 2 runs and by the end I was in 18th place (3rd in the Army and 8th overall from the military) and right on the heels of one of the stalwarts of Army telemark from the last 8 years, Cpl Henry Munns. The final downhill race of the week for the Championship race series was the Classic, the longest and toughest race in telemark. It is raced over just one run with the run time to be around 2 minutes total but approximately one third of that time is to be made up of a skating section. I, being better prepared this year (as I was racing with skating poles rather than regular length poles) finished in 14th place overall (3rd in the Army and 5th overall from the military).

After all the downhill racing is complete there is one further challenge conducted at Ex TT, the Mountain Race. This is compulsory for all military competitors of Ex TT but most of the civilian competitors also take part. The mountain race is a team (3 persons) relay race, requiring the racers to attach skins to the bottom of their skis and complete an uphill climb before then removing them, skiing back to the start and handing the baton (race bib) to the next team member. This year 28 teams competed and the team I joined finished 9th. The Mountain Race does not count to the overall rankings from the other races but is more a demonstration of the adaptability of telemark, its utility in the mountain environment and the lung capacity of the competitors.

After the three Championship races were completed, I was placed 4th overall in the Army on points, secured my place on the Army Telemark Race team and was awarded my Combined Service Sports Colours.

The Army Team Captain, Lt Col Daz Howells, had managed to secure funding for a training camp. This was a first for the Army Telemark Team and brought us in line with the Navy and RAF teams (although we are still a smaller team by 2 individuals due to funding).

The training camp, Ex TELEMAR TROJAN, saw the Army team remain in PLV under the mentorship of Phil Lau. Phil Lau comes from a skiing dynasty in Méribel and we were very lucky to be able to have him instructing us. This 8-day training package really pushed the Army team to new levels. Daily we were completing not just gate training, but also start training and skate training. With 2 out of the 3 telemark races including a skate section,

this is an area that can make or break a run and proficiency in skating is not something concentrated on when learning to alpine. As an alpine instructor with 6 seasons under my belt, I can safely say I had a lot to learn about skating technique.

As we conducted the short move to Méribel for the start of the ISSSC we were confident that we had closed the gap on the Navy team, mostly made up of Royal Marines. The ISSSC takes place in February each year in Méribel. It is an outstanding event and I commend anyone who aspires to competitive snow sport competition (alpine, telemark or snowboard) to fight to get there. The event takes over Méribel, with huge infrastructure put up, the racing and freestyle parks/slopes rented and massive social events to thank the sponsors – it really is a spectacle. With over 150 competitors from across the three Services, the ISSSC covers all telemark, alpine and snowboard (including slope style, parallel GS and boardercross) disciplines. This year 23 telemarkers took to the slopes (10 from the Navy, 7 from the Army and 6 from the RAF).

The race slope in Méribel is significantly bigger, longer, steeper and more challenging than the one in PLV but this year I was better prepared and hoping to build on the success of Ex TT. The snow and weather conditions this year were the complete opposite of last year. Unlike last year where there were huge amounts of powder hampering gate training on the hill, this year it was rain and a lack of snow (meaning a huge amount of rocks) that hampered the training and almost ruined the racing. Luckily the hill team at Méribel did an incredible job and racing was able to take place and everything planned was achieved.



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The telemark races included the same three as PLV but with the added extra race of the parallel sprint. The level of racing was much more intense in Méribel but living in the same chalet as the Navy team meant the same friendliness and relaxed atmosphere that was present in PLV endured in Méribel amongst the telemarkers. This was especially evident on the race slope when all telemarkers would urge on all racers (no matter what colour their uniform) especially during the long skate sections, running alongside them urging them to the finish line.

The first telemark race of the week was the GS. Due to the poor weather conditions this was also the first time that we had been allowed onto the race slope as all practice runs had been cancelled. After starting as the last racer, thanks to a terrible bib draw by myself, my GS

race was nevertheless a solid start. The Army team were packing the top of the leader board, split by only a couple of Navy racers. I finished the day in 9th place overall (5th in the Army). Although disappointed with my team placing, I was pleased with my overall placing for the day. The Classic race came next and with only one long run, it is always a challenging race. Sadly the Navy started to pick up their form and placed a few racers further up the leader board. In the Classic I placed 10th overall (4th in the Army) but overall it was very tight. The Sprint was up next and my 8th place overall (5th in the Army) had left the overall team event between the Army and Navy very close, leaving the parallel sprint the decider for the team event. The parallel sprint always provides a lot of entertainment for the crowd at the bottom. Raced over a short distance, but

including a jump, banked turn and skate it is mostly done in the face of the crowd and the atmosphere was electric. Sadly for the Army, the Navy pipped us on the day leaving us in second place overall for the team event.

The ISSSC was a great finish to the racing season and personally it has seen a good progression on my first season last year. Last year I was awarded my Army Colours, and this season, as I mentioned, I was also presented with Combined Service Colours. The prospect for the Army team next year is good, with increasing levels of competition for places within the Army team. Last year I was the lone infanteer competing at Ex TT, but this year saw me joined by a 4 man team from 2RGR in Belize. I remain hopeful that I will be able to lead a team of Welsh Guardsmen to PLV to compete on Ex TT.

My thanks go to both the Regimental Trustees and the Battalion for continuing to support me in this most challenging of sports. Also, my thanks to Army Telemark which has seen fit to invest in me and again invite me onto the team to compete at the ISSSC. Bring on 2021!

1. Capt Smith finishing the banked turn and moving into the skating section.
2. Capt Smith gate judging for the qualification race.
3. Capt Smith racing.
4. Early morning race course set up in Pralognan-la-Vanoise.
5. The race slope in Méribel.
6. Team brief (clockwise from top Lt Tom Atkins (RE), Lt Ben Atkinson (2 RGR), Lt Robbie Houstoun (Scots DG), Lt Col Daz Howells (RE), Sgt Danny Johnson (RE), Cpl Henry Munns (Int Corps), Capt Adam Smith (WG)).



Officers' Mess Shoot - Eynsham Park

by Major BM Kendall COLDM GDS

Officer Commanding Number Three Company

With Plus Fours donned, albeit rather more fitting after the Christmas Break, ten members of the Officers' Mess convened under overcast Cotswold skies at Eynsham Park, courtesy of an exceptionally kind invite from David and Robert Mason, both former members of The Welsh Guards.

It was noted that there was a light breeze blowing, which we all agreed would ensure the birds were largely supersonic, and therefore any brought down could only be indicative of unbelievable shooting prowess. Fuelled thus by pre-emptive excuses for dodgy marksmanship, a healthy dose of strong coffee and one or two purely restorative biscuits, we loaded into a veritable panoply of vehicles, David's proudly stickered with unmissable sentiment on our relationship with the EU!

The first drive offered an impressive vista, with the house silhouetted through the leafless tress to our rear, whilst the sloping ground to the front of the pegs provided a 300m lead for any pheasants willing to to chance their luck. Sure enough, within minutes, the first bouquet lifted off in the distance, quickly gathering speed and height, before losing both as they sailed gently overhead. A healthy dose of shot was discharged along the length of the line, with the backstops providing an additional final barrage. It was therefore with mild surprise that, as the whistle blew, there seemed to be remarkably few bodies in evidence, a fact made more painful by the numerous running shadows in the undergrowth to our rear!

Having satisfied our debt to the RSPB (Royal Society for

the Protection of Birds), and deciding that slightly more lead would be required, we departed the field of the unfallen for a further three drives, made up of both wooded and open country. Snap shooting through the trees proved to be our most successful, with one memorable high bird encouraged by two well placed shots into a satisfying swan dive into the lake behind. It felt rather apt that, for sporting reasons only, the success on this drive should be followed by morning refreshments, consisting of a huge platter of bratwurst proportioned sausages and some incredibly fortifying soup. The less said about the subsequent accuracy of the morning the better, although the Motorised Transport Officer should note that the enjoyment of removing bogged-in vehicles increases in direct proportion to the amount of alcohol consumed in the warmup!

By the time we returned to David's house for lunch, our zeroing efforts were far behind us, with the beater's truck liberally discharging feathers across the countryside. This was certainly fortunate as it would have been difficult, without having enjoyed a modicum of sporting success, to fully dive into such a healthy spread, not to mention the accompanying gallons of red wine. With the clouds threatening rain, David called time on our growing indulgence, and we headed off



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across the estate in a fashion that would have impressed any eager policeman.

The penultimate drive of the day offered some real shooting highlights, with high and fast birds scudding across an open valley, and others lifting vertically from the wooded high ground to our front. Our eyes were by now fully in, and it was almost every man who returned with laden arms to the vehicles, now wearing full coats of Cotswold mud. It seemed like time had evaporated as we moved into the woods for a final flourish, accompanied by the first spatters of heavy January rain. Turning out to be an amalgam of the entire day, pheasants were clearly spotted in segments of the line, with others pulling the Wild Bill fast draw as forms shot out of the trees. Mention must go to the unnamed optimist who tried hard to down a number of pigeons, none travelling lower than 500ft.

From a rather inauspicious start, a total tally of 146 seemed a fair recovery; I won't mention cartridges used! Returning again to David's house, there was time to catch up on stories from the Mess of yesteryear, whilst attacking a very welcome

cup of tea. With wellies finally stowed and only the occasional unfired cartridge pulled from underneath the clutch, we set off, fortunately on private estate roads, for Robert's farmhouse. Here we were treated like Kings, with all enjoying a hot bath, before squeezing into black tie for a delicious supper. Rather hazy recollection of our postprandial activity prevents me from regaling too many details, suffice to say there were a few rounds of Freda before bed eventually called.

For such a fantastic day and for having been such wonderful hosts, the Mess would like to thank both David and Robert Mason, and of course Monique and Karen respectively. Thanks must also go to David's daughter Katherine, who took photos during the day, with a few of the less compromising on display here!

1. *'Whose bird?'*
2. *'Finally the Christmas yoga is put to good use!'*
3. *'Essential practise for future exercises.'*
4. *'The Mess in the countryside.'*
5. *'Honestly, there is a clause in Driver Standing Orders.....!'*
6. *'Dusted!'*



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Battalion British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF)

by Lieutenant JDG Leonard

Despite this being a year of two very distinct halves, British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF) has been one of the few Army sports to have survived contact during the chaos of 2020.

The versatility and adaptability of the sport and its participants really shone through.

Mid-December saw Sgt Parry take a contingent of the BAWF team to Crossfit Slough to open a 24-hour workout in aid of the Make a Wish and Sport in Mind charities. In a homage to one of our own, the team opened the event with the "Birchell" WOD, named after Major Sean Birchell. The gruelling workout was a testament to a man whose physical fitness is legendary in the Battalion. The day was a real success and has cemented the bond between

1WG BAWF and Crossfit Slough. We hope to be attending the event again this year.

Following a short but well-deserved Christmas leave the team were back at it, 0600hrs workouts are slightly harder after the indulgence of Christmas! Late January saw the Jam Boys deploying to Belize and a number of other commitments for the Battalion. The team's ability to compete was thus limited, although training did not stop for those on camp. Whilst the normal team leads were in the Belizean jungle, LCpl Couling, headed

up training and was key in sending out workouts to those of us who tried to train "under the canopy". I can confirm that burpees are harder to do in 100% humidity than they are in the more civilised climes of Windsor!

As is typical, once the team was back in Combermere Barracks and raring to go, everything was locked down. Despite the closure of all gyms during lockdown BAWF team members still managed to train with most of us switching from Olympic lifting techniques to yoga poses. I am personally quite glad I was forced to practice yoga in private; I don't think anyone needs to see me trying to stretch!

With SSgt Dean Hammond, RAPTC, joining as the Battalion's Physical Training Instructor the team has gained

a key member. SSgt Hammond is a qualified weightlifting and functional fitness coach, that combined with his can-do attitude is sure to see the BAWF team hit new heights in the coming months.

The team would like to congratulate Cpl Messam-Greene on her baby, our newest BAWF team member!

1. *The author and the BAWF 2IC, Sgt Parry*

Enduro

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Hughes, Company Sergeant Major Headquarter Company

Like most sports, the Welsh Guards Enduro Team has felt the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, preventing us from entering events at both local and national level.

However, this has allowed us to re-allocate our race entry fee funds to enhance the workshop and create a safe environment where not only can we service and prepare race bikes, but also learn new skills and pass on knowledge to our members. We now have 2 members enrolled in a local college for an NVQ in Motorcycle Mechanics and they will soon begin gaining knowledge that can be cross decked to vehicle platforms such as Quad Bikes.

Our main achievement this year was entering the World Enduro Super Series at Hawkstone Park. This event is a series of 5 events run around the world. This event comes to the UK once a year, and it's the only opportunity that we at club level can ride with world famous riders such as Billy Bolt and Graham Jarvis.

The event this year was no exception, and we had a brilliant weekend. We arrived on the Friday and set up camp - our newly purchased team gazebo offering a great base station to operate from and making us the envy of many civilian teams. We conducted a track walk on Friday - a crucial study of the course which informs our tyre selection for the event. We decided on a Michelin star cross tyre that allows grip in sand and most terrains.

After some practice laps on Saturday morning, the afternoon's event was Sprint Enduro. This popular format allows time between short tests to rest and adjust on the move. We conducted 5 tests

on the motocross track and 5 enduro cross country tests, our recent training at Flackwell Heath Motocross Track in High Wycombe holding us in good stead for top 5 finishes in both expert and clubman levels.

Sunday was the main event and we eagerly anticipated the start of the race in the early afternoon. 1300hrs came, the flag went down and chaos arose. This format was a Hare and Hound for 2½ hours, the idea being most laps completed in 2½ hours wins the event. As both our riders were in the upper classes, we were lined up against some of the best the UK and world has to offer, but the high quality of racers didn't stop a multi bike pile up out of the blocks, as each rider tried to be the first to make the first corner.

After a long and hectic race both riders crossed the line and were happily placed in the middle of the pack - a formidable achievement against the world's best riders. It was a great experience to watch these professionals ride and watch how their support crews managed their pit stops and machines, this is something we have taken away and are hopeful on building our own crew in future races.

With rider development a priority we purchased our first training bike this year - a 2019 Honda CRF 125. This gives beginners a great platform to learn riding skills and generated a lot of interest in our sport - Wednesday sport's afternoon saw many Guardsman coming along to try their hand at riding



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a motorcycle, ably taught and assisted by our own qualified coaches. This is something we want to continue to provide for the younger members of the Battalion - if only we can get CSM Johnson off the team motorbike for 5 minutes!

As ever we are eternally grateful to all those that make riding possible, in particular our ever-generous Regimental Trustees. Because of them, we remain the premier Regimental Enduro team and are currently helping units including the Coldstream Guards, Grenadier Guards, Irish Guards, the Parachute Regiment and the PWRR to set up their own teams.

Stop Press. The weekend 16/18 October saw the Welsh Guards Enduro Team, represented by Lt Haines-Henderson, WO2 Hughes and Sgt Simons, enter the Army Enduro Championships, Ex HARD RIDE at The Defence School of Transport (DST) Leconfield. Sgt Simons did exceptionally well by winning the Infantry Expert Title followed closely by WO2 Hughes.

1. *Welsh Guards Team Bike CRF 125*
2. *Sgt Simons with his award for being the Best Infantry Rider 2020.*



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Welsh Guards Sea Fishing Team

by Drum Major Rees

Between State Ceremonial, Public Duties, COVID-19 lockdown and Battalion commitments to the manning of Testing Centres, fishing has unfortunately slipped through the net (excuse the pun) in what has been an extraordinary year.

Once restrictions eased however, 12 of us did manage to get away on a 2-day boat fishing trip in Hayling Island, Portsmouth. The boat, Kelly's Hero, set sail from Northney Marina on the morning of 15 Sept 20 and by 0830 we were on our first mark and soon after the anchor was set, we started catching fish. I was the first to bring a fish aboard, a 4lb Smooth hound.

After spending 2 hours on that mark we decided to try another area as the fish started to slow down. On the second mark, Dmr Jones was kept busy. He caught an impressive 8lb Smooth-hound and a surprise Tope weighing in at just over 3lb.

When the tide turned, we moved to the third and final mark of the day. LSgt Roberts was first to bring a fish aboard this time it was a Spotted-Ray weighing just over 3lb. All 12 anglers caught fish and although there were no 'Jaws' moments, we were all kept

busy. In total there were more than 40 fish caught between us during the 2 days at sea.

Next year we are planning a 2-day Blue Shark fishing trip aboard 'Anchorman Charters' that sets sail from Cardiff over to the Devonshire coast, which should give the team something to look forward to in these busy times.

We are all, as ever, very grateful to our generous Regimental Trustees for providing grants enabling us to experience these trips which we would not otherwise be able to attend.

1. *The boat and her owner and Captain.*
2. *The author with the first catch of the day.*
3. *Dmr Jones with his 8lb Smooth-hound.*
4. *LSgt Roberts with his 3lb Spotted-Ray.*
5. *Dmr Jones with his surprise 3lb Tope.*
6. *Dmr Roberts with another Smooth-hound – the catch of the day!*
7. *WO2 Wilks with a Spotted-Ray.*



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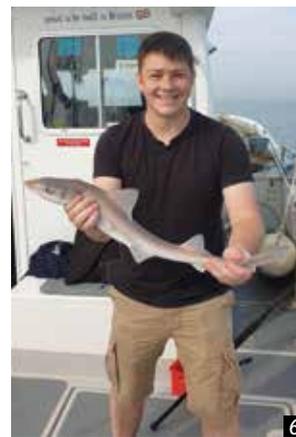
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1st Battalion Welsh Guards Football Club (1WG FC)

by Colour Sergeant Sgt A Cunningham, Communication Information Systems Platoon

The last 12 months has been a roller coaster ride for 1WG FC. The Battalion move to Windsor and several departures from the team’s old guard precipitated the perfect opportunity to rebuild the team from the bottom up and the top down.

New faces young and old bolstered the ranks of the squad and management the team, and a fresh new squad started to emerge as we embarked on the task of balancing football with the Battalion’s commitment to Public Duties and State Ceremonial and maintaining our key skills as Infantry.

We opened the season against our new neighbours,

the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, which saw 12 players make their debut for 1WG FC. Unfortunately, our noisy neighbours took the spoils that day, but we had laid a solid foundation on which we would be able to build on going forwards.

December 2019 saw 1WG FC compete in the Army Cup 1st round against 22 Royal Engineers at Windsor. This

game was highly competitive and showed how much the team had come along in such a short time. We played some impressive football and all the hard work paid off, we won the match and progressed to the second round where we were to face 7 RHA the following week. A much-changed team took to the field vs 7RHA (a team which boasted 6 Royal Artillery Corpsplayers). The fresh faced 1WG FC youngsters gave a great account of themselves but that day we came up a little short, losing and crashing out of the Army Cup. However, the future looked promising as we continued to build...

2020... What a year! We were off to an amazing start with an impressive 9-0-win against the Corps of Army Music. This game again saw fresh blood make

debut appearances; 2 of the players had been in Battalion only 3 days before both scoring on their debut matches. We then visited 29 Regiment RLC at South Cerney and again the team showed its class in a very open game and another 9 goal thriller in which 1WG FC walked away with 3 points in the league, winning 5 - 4.

Unbeknownst to us, this was unfortunately the last time 1WG FC would take to the field for 7 months as the nation went into lockdown. Football has only just resumed on the 1st September 2020.

Achievements and other business

1WG are fortunate in having some brilliantly talented players and coaches. The last 12 months have seen 3 individuals



earn a call up to the Infantry Team (Sgt Hughes 34, LCpl Davies 14, LCpl Williams 88). The highlight of the year however goes to LCpl Davies 14, who was called up to represent the British Army Team - a massive achievement for him and a great example to the rest of the team.

Away from 1WG FC, members of the Battalion continue to take their experience and knowledge and spread it throughout the community. WO2 Leighton Wilks (Master Tailor) continues to show his diversity and talent in his roles with the Infantry FC, the Reading Woman's Academy, and Woking District Girls.

WO2 Daniel Cope (RQMS (T)) took the leap into the coaching world by achieving his FA Level 1 and Welsh FA UEFA C Licence, which he uses to coach at St Mellons Rovers FC in Cardiff. He will continue in his role as the Football Officer for the 20/21 season.

CSgt Ashley Cunningham has continued in his role as a coach with Non-League side Eversley and California FC. He will continue in his current role as manager of 1WG FC, and this season will become a member of the Army Woman's Football Team staff.

Future of 1WG FC

This year 1WG FC will continue to build on the form and momentum we gained pre COVID-19. The team will kick off its season in October 20 in the Southern League and will also compete in the Army and Infantry cups.

It's also our aspiration to form a Futsal team and enter a 6-a-side league in Windsor, strengthening our links with the local community through sport. The highlight of the year should be a football tour abroad, which wouldn't be possible without our very generous Regimental Trustees, who we are extremely grateful to for their support. Their financial backing allows us to provide the best platform to allow players to thrive, and the kit and equipment we purchase allows us to invest in our players and coaches, letting them reach their full potential as football players.

1. 1WG FC Team vs CAMUS, Rear Row; L-R; Gdsm McBride, LCpl Goss, Lt Drury, LSgt Macaulay, CSgt Evans 88, LCpl Williams 88, LCpl Hall, Gdsm Green, Gdsm Hoyle. Front Row; L-R; WO2 Peter, Gdsm Jacobs, LCpl Dean, Sgt Powell, Sgt Bladen, LCpl Wonnocott
2. LCpl Davies 14 (middle row 3rd from right) Army Men's Squad photo for the 2020 Inter service's.



Welsh Guards Racket Sports

by Captain R Beckett Coldstream Guards,
Motorised Transport Officer

After a rewarding and memorable (busy) final quarter to 2019, the Welsh Guards Squash Team entered the Household Division Squash Competition (both a team and individual competition) - a 3-day event held at Aldershot Garrison sports centre and hosted by Lt Col Kit Philp COLDM GDS, at the end of February.

The standard was high and competition strong, and unfortunately the depth of the Battalion team was not good enough to make the finals, losing out to the eventual winners 1SG in the Semi-Finals. The author was successful in winning the open competition. A comprehensive 3-0 win in the final ensured that some silverware was coming back to Windsor.

Due to the pandemic taking hold in late March, squash ceased to happen, and squash courts were left dormant over the summer. Fortunately, the amount of money saved due to zero representation meant

that monies normally saved for entry fees could be used to purchase new equipment for the forthcoming season. Squash resumed on the 7th Sept and the Battalion are now training every Wednesday afternoon in anticipation of the new season commencing.

1. *The author being presented with the Household Division Trophy by Lt Col Kit Philp COLDM GDS*
2. *New Rackets and Equipment sourced with funds kindly authorised by the Regimental Trustees.*



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Welsh Guards Running Team

by Colour Sergeant S Marsh Assistant Regimental Careers Management Officer

The Battalion running team is made up of all different ages, ranks and levels of ability, but what we all have in common is the desire to push ourselves further outside our comfort zones to achieve personal goals.

Our typical event is the Wednesday afternoon 10km cross country race. It takes a particular breed of Welsh Guardsman to take part in a cross country run on a sports afternoon, which is a testament to those who take part. The season runs from October to October where eight races are held in total. These races

take place across the South East, with the team sometimes travelling up to 2 hours to a race location.

The Battalion running team doesn't confine itself to these races, however. The runners enter races and events from 5km all the way up to Ultra Marathon and exhibition trail races under the Welsh Guards' banner.

Never resting on our laurels WO2 Lewis and CSgt Marsh wanted a new challenge and signed up to the Gower 34mile ultra-trail marathon which runs along the rugged Welsh peninsular coastline in November. The course itself was tough, running along some of the most beautiful scenery the country has to offer, along single tracks, sand dunes, beaches and the constant hills of the countless bays. This was the longest distance the pair had run but due to their pre training and dedication they completed the course in a respectable time.

Most unfortunately, with the running season about to hit full swing in March 2020, COVID-19 put an abrupt stop to competitive running. However, we were not phased; the running team particularly saw this as an opportunity to conduct some dispersed and challenging running, all in the aid of charity. LCpl Watters, for example, ran 20 miles a day for 7 days during 'lockdown', demonstrating the sheer grit and determination of the Battalion running team.

1. CSgt Marsh and WO2 Lewis after the Gower 34-mile trail ultra-marathon



Welsh Guards Sailing

by Captain LMF Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

With the cancellation of all the events in this year’s sailing calendar, our hope to get out on the water lay in the hands of the organising bodies changing their mind before the end of the year.

Fortunately, as the summer drew to a close a Household Division led event, Ex TIGER WEST EXPRESS, still looked promising albeit having been postponed once. We were hopeful but remained ready for the inevitable bad news until finally we heard that we were good to go. The exercise premise was simple, a Household Division flotilla making its way around the

Solent in order to develop junior skippers and introduce novices to sailing. Each regiment would crew their own boat, six in total. It would be a show of force and demonstrate the unity and bond of being Blue Red Blue.

After sifting through a mountain of COVID-19 mitigation guides and armed with health declaration forms, the crew of six (conveniently





our way out of the Solent and up to Poole Harbour before returning to Yarmouth. We stopped for lunch in sheltered bays and were treated to amazing sunsets in picturesque marinas – I promise sailing is tough, as we were soon to find out. We heard reports of gale warnings in the South West as the wind started picking up in Yarmouth and soon the waves coming into the harbour were rocking the boat violently. This continued until dawn and it proved to be a night to remember. As the wind gusted up to 30 miles per hour, we were in for some serious sailing and the journey along to Cowes was thrilling to say the least. We spent the last night in Cowes before making the short journey across to Gosport for the final day. Luckily, the wind was still blowing strong and the now not-so-novice crew pushed JANTHINA to her limits.



in line with Government Guidelines) made their way to Gosport in mid-September. Once down in Gosport, the morning involved acquiring food provisions, safety briefs and most importantly, making sure the novices were familiar with their new home for the week, HMSTC JANTHINA (Her Majesty's Sail Training Craft Janthina). We set off after lunch with blue skies and gentle winds. The conditions were perfect to learn the basics of sailing and we were pleasantly cruising along. Unfortunately, our destination was Lymington, a far distance from Gosport and with the tide slowing our progress we had to demonstrate the usefulness of the motor. We arrived in time for nightfall and after a fresh start from Windsor settled in for an early night on board.

Blue skies and gentle winds remained the theme for the next couple of days. We cruised

The highlights of the trip include Gdsm Caulfield-Dollard catching two mackerel off the back of JANTHINA and subsequently serving them up for supper, a memorable trip to Buckler's Hard – birthplace of several of the warships at the Battle of Trafalgar and most importantly, beating the Scots Guards crew in a head-to-head race. The week was an amazing experience and, crucially, the Welsh Guards Sailing Team has grown in numbers and are eager to take on the regattas next year.

1. *Gdsm Perring helms JANTHINA*
2. *The sunset in Poole Harbour*
3. *The crew enjoy some downwind sailing*
4. *Gdsm Caulfield-Dollard showing his catch*



Number 2 Company National 3 Peak Challenge August 2020

by Guardsman Dowdeswell

After unprecedented times over the course of the summer months, members of Number 2 Company managed to organise a charity event in order to raise money for Combat Stress, a charity that provides help to veterans and service personnel suffering from mental health problems and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

As a junior Guardsman I put myself forward to undertake this event. The challenge was to cover the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales; Ben Nevis (1345m), Scafell Pike (978m) and Mt Snowdon (1085m). The aim was to cover the 23 miles of walking distance, 462-mile drive and 3064m ascent all in just 24 hours.

The first challenge was to get to Fort William in Scotland on Friday 28 Aug 20 - it took us 11 and a half hours in total from our home in Windsor! The journey wasn't the greatest, however the views when we got past Loch Lomond were worth the drive. That, and the beers we had on arrival!

Saturday 29 Aug 20 came. The sun was out, morale was high, and the team were good

to go. The plan was to start at 1020hrs, as this would see us avoid the traffic on the way south. The first peak (Ben Nevis) is the highest in the British Isles. Our aim was to get up and down in under 4 hours, which we did. As it was a bank holiday weekend the tourist path was packed, which led to some frustration on the way up. Once we got to the top, we got a quick team picture and headed straight back down. Before we knew it, we were on route to Scafell Pike in England. Ben Nevis was a success. The next worry was the traffic. As we crossed the border into England the weather was still lovely, however the legs were starting to seize up! We arrived at Scafell Pike at 2130hrs, in the dark. After a quick brief we were on our way up to the highest peak in England (headtorches and cyalumes





deployed). The aim was to get up and down in 3hrs. As we stepped off, it was good to get the blood back in the legs and morale was still high.

Half-way up Scafell Pike we could hear some climbers on the rock face shouting "help!". We then decided to phone mountain rescue and give them guidance as to where the climbers could be as it was hard to identify exactly. This was headed up by Sgt Parry and his good static nav skills. We left Lt Haines-Henderson at the point of hearing the climbers and we cracked on. The team made it to the top in good order and again, took a quick picture and headed back down the mountain. On the descent, we could see the rescue helicopter helping the stranded climbers and we felt good as we facilitated the rescue for the climbers. We completed Scafell Pike in 3 hours. As we approached Sunday 30 Aug, the end was in sight, with 10 hours left to meet the target.

Next stop, Snowdon! The highest peak in Wales. The plan from Scafell Pike to Snowdon was to try and get some sleep, however the constant cramping and the tight space in the vehicle made this very difficult. We arrived at Pen y Pas car park, and dismounted the vehicles like OAPs, with the level of fatigue high. With 5 hours left to complete the challenge the time was against us. For most of the team we were on our home turf and it was the final push of the challenge...

First light was encroaching, and we were on our way up the Pyg track (headtorches on). The chat was limited and a few huffs and puffs at the beginning. The sunrise came from the east over the top of the mountain which we had to stop and take a moment to enjoy the view. We summited Snowdon at 0730hrs, which left us ample amount of time to get down. Again, a quick picture at the top and we were on our way down the mountain at a canter.

We arrived at the Pen y Pas car park and the finish line at 0916hrs completing the challenge in a brilliant time of 22hrs 56mins. A sense of achievement was in the air and morale was as high as it could get. Being a Welsh Guardsmen and finishing in Wales made it even better.

We stayed in North Wales that evening and after some rest we made our way back to Windsor. A successful weekend in all aspects. We worked hard as a team and got through it together, remembering we were conducting the challenge for a mental health charity. In total, we raised £1,520 for Combat Stress.

Thank you to the Regimental Trustees who supported this event. Cymru am Byth.

Team Participants

Lt T Haines-Henderson
WO2 J McEvoy
Sgt S Ducie
Sgt R Nelson
Sgt S Parry 26
Sgt A Shapland
LSgt B Prothero
LCpl D Griffiths
LCpl M Wilkinson
LCpl C Wonnacott
Gdsm R Craig
Gdsm M Dowdswell
Gdsm C Owen 97
Gdsm L Roberts

1. *The team at the summit of Ben Nevis - Legs feeling good!*
2. *The team at the summit of Scafell Pike - Legs feeling less good!*
3. *The beautiful sunrise whilst climbing Snowdon.*
4. *The team at the summit of Snowdon - Legs shot!*



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Infantry Wakeboarding Championships (28th September – 1st October 2020)

by Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson, 4 Platoon Commander

This year the first Infantry Wakeboarding Championships (IWC) was held at Box End Park in Bedford. Although some of the Army’s top riders come from the Infantry, it is hugely underrepresented at the Army and Interservice Wakeboarding Championships.

The introduction of the annual IWC intends to redress this imbalance by identifying and developing talent within the Infantry.

Wakeboarding is a sport that sees riders towed behind a cable at 31kph navigating a variety of obstacles such as kickers, sliders and rails all with varying complexity. Riders will hit each obstacle along their course and perform aerial or surface stunts to score points. Points are awarded based on the flow, style and variation of the run.

Five members of 2 Company, Lt Haines-Henderson, Gdsm Marshall, Gdsm Dowdeswell, Gdsm Williamson and Gdsm Fury have established the foundations of the Welsh Guards Wakeboarding Team. With relatively little experience between them they set off for Box End Park with faces covered but smiles still

visibly beaming underneath. Although Wakeboarding is a technical sport and it can take years to develop the finesse required at the top end, the lower end of the technical scale is ruled heavily by the sports ethos of getting out there and ‘sending it!’, and this is exactly what they did. Despite never having ridden before the four Guardsmen spent the morning getting continually thrashed about on the water. Whether they were being ripped out of their bindings on the starting dock, catching a front edge and being introduced to the water rather abruptly, or unintentionally riding towards an obstacle and flying over the top of it, the Guardsmen persisted stoically. By the end of the first day all four had successfully made it around the course in one piece and the team captain had won ‘Trick of the Day’ for landing a ‘Heelside Tantrum’. Despite the name this is not some



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fit of rage prone to Junior Officers on the drill square but is instead a backflip landed off a certain aspect of the board.

With a successful day in the bag the team began day two aiming to create and test their runs for the competition on the final day. Coaching was offered by the experienced staff at Box End Park and the Chairman of Infantry Wakeboarding. Four hours later the team was happy and excited to show off what they had learnt. The final day of the championships started with a large bacon roll and a strong coffee before allowing the novice category a short warm up period. Each competitor was given two laps to demonstrate what they were capable of. Unfortunately, the Welsh Guards Wakeboarding team did not see a podium finish, the team captain came fourth in the open category, but all was not lost for the Household Division as Lt

Jefferies and Lt Goble of the Irish Guards secured first and second place in the Novice competition.

Even though they did not return triumphant, waves have been made within the Welsh Guards Watersports pool. The team are already preparing a winter training program before the next IWC in May 21 and will be spending as many sports afternoons as possible at Liquid Leisure in Windsor, the Holy Grail of cable riding in the UK.

1. Gdsm Dowdeswell on one of his first runs.
2. The author focusing (tongue out) on the approaching jump.
3. The author ‘sending it’ on his way to securing trick of the day.
4. The inaugural Welsh Guards Wakeboarding Team (L-R Gdsm Dowdeswell, Gdsm Fury, the author, Gdsm Marshall, and Gdsm Williamson).



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Battalion Golf Team

by Colour Sergeant Evans 488

The Battalion Golf Team has gone from strength to strength over the last year. DMaj Rees has gone from taking up the great game and buying his first set of clubs at the start of the year, to playing off a handicap of 10 - a clear natural talent!

This has inspired a number of the Corps of Drums to starting playing also and has really boosted the Golf Team's numbers.

In early March DMaj Rees, LSgt Price and Dmr Price attended an Infantry Golf Development Package at Upavon Golf Club. This was designed to enable individuals to have the opportunity of PGA professional coaching in the morning and to play an 18-hole stableford competition in the afternoon. 40 competitors from across the Infantry took part and the DMaj finished runner up with a very impressive 36 points - a fantastic achievement in his first military golf competition.

In April, single figure handicap, Gdsm Morgan 35 (2 Coy) joined the Battalion and became a great addition to the team. Gdsm Morgan has been awarded a scholarship

package from the Army Golf Association to help develop her game and represent the Battalion and the Infantry next year in the Army Female Golf Team.

With the COVID lockdown easing during the balmy summer, more members of the Battalion started playing, especially within the Officer's Mess and Number 2 Company. The Officer's Mess were taking full advantage of the Household Division Golf Society, and its membership and affiliation to Worplesdon Golf Club. This is open to all ranks past and present and offers a wonderful opportunity to play 9 holes in the summer evenings.

With competitions and events starting back up in August, the Battalion team sent players to the South East Army Regional Championships and the Welsh Guards Association Golf Day



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held in Tredgar. DMaj Rees, Gdsm Morgan 35 and the author joined members of the Association and RHQ to play and represent the Welsh Guards in the Colonel in Chief's Cup.

The final outing of the season for the Golf Team was the Household Division Golf Championships held at Worplesdon Golf Club at the end of September, with Gdsm Morgan 35 finishing runner up in the singles competition and the author winning the longest drive for the day with a 330+ yard tee shot.

Even though the season didn't go fully to plan this year with events getting postponed

or cancelled, the sport is certainly growing within the Battalion. Development days are planned for the winter months to continue the strong growth and progress the 1WG Golf Team has made in 2020. The support of the Regimental Trustees is so very much appreciated by us all within the Battalion Golf set up and it enables us to provide opportunities otherwise out of our reach.

1. Drum Major Rees, Support Company
2. Guardsman Morgan 35, Number 2 Company
3. Colour Sergeant Evans 488
4. The Welsh Guards Golf Team regulars - Gdsm Morgan 35, DMaj Rees, CSgt Evans

Regimental Golf

by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Bartle-Jones

Despite the pandemic decimation of sporting events this year the Guards Golfing Society was able to hold its main events, namely: The Colonel in Chief's Cup and the Household Division Championships, albeit delayed and in reverse order.

Unlike most sports, golf is probably one of the safest around in terms of maintaining social distancing. Some of the measures introduced by golf's governing bodies reinforce this: no raking of bunkers, pins remain in the hole, and holes raised so golf balls can be easily picked up; all reduce the chances of spreading Covid-19, and the fact that you are enjoying wide open spaces and a healthy walk as well. However, this has not been well recognised across the regions, but at least in England and at Worplesdon Golf Club we have been able to host these key events.

Colonel in Chiefs Cup

On Wednesday, 23 September 20 the Colonel-in-Chief's (CinCs) Cup was finally played with each of the Household Division's Regiments providing a team of 6 (3 x pairs). In order to achieve a result in a day the 6 Regiments were divided in to 2 Leagues of 3 teams. As the losing finalist last year both ourselves and the Irish Guards were seeded to avoid each other in the opening Round. Instead we drew the Coldstream Guards and the Household Cavalry. For the first time in the history of the competition both ourselves, and the Household Cavalry, had female soldiers playing in our teams.

The Welsh Guards were represented by:

Gdsm Rhian Morgan (10) / Steve Gelly (11)

Drum Major Chris Rees (10) / Martin Topps (9)

Robbie O'Rourke (9) / Robin Malcolm (5)

Reserve: CSgt Gareth Evans 88

The format in the morning was sixsomes with a Welsh Guards pair competing with both a Coldstream and Household Cavalry pair. A relatively straightforward scoring system was employed allowing for no more than 6 points to be awarded per hole: 4 points for an outright win, 2 points for second or 1 point each if second was shared, and none if you came third; if all halved the hole then 2 points each. The total points were then added up for each pair and combined for an overall team total. Despite scoring 108 points and beating the Coldstream on 88 points, we ultimately lost out to the Household Cavalry on 128 points who qualified for the final against the Irish Guards as winners of their group. Despite being the strongest team off handicap the foursome's format of alternate shots can be difficult to master but we were just grateful that the whole event could go ahead. However, we were able to field two serving soldiers



in the team, a first for some years and I hope to continue to include representation from the Battalion in the future. The Cup was eventually won by the Irish Guards in a tight encounter with the Household Cavalry as they were 2 holes up after the first 2 pairs completed, and the last Mick pair were 3 down with 4 to play, and they managed to claw

back to half that match and win outright overall.

Household Division Championship (Notes provided by Peter Richardson)

The delayed Household Division Championship was finally played on Wed 30 Sep 20, restricted to 38 players across



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the Division but admirably administered by Trevor Gregg (former Irish Guardsman). The format of the day was different from previous years as the foursomes was held in the morning and the singles in the afternoon. The weather was kind in the morning with cloud and occasional sun, the wind was a feature and with the white tees being moved to their fullest length it gave golfers a tough test. Regrettably the afternoon weather wasn't as fortunate with persistent rain.

The Welsh Guards were represented with eight players, a 50/50 mix of serving and former members, and for the first time in Regimental Golf history we had a lady Guardsman play, Rhian Morgan, a very accomplished golfer who picked up the Runners Up prize in the singles scratch competition. CSgt Gareth Evans, Drum Major Chris Rees and Sgt Richard Jones made up the other serving members with CSgt Evans winning the longest drive on the 18th hole at over 300 yards! The retired element consisted of Peter Richardson, Robbie O'Rourke, Steve Gelly and John Hughes (31).

Martin Topps and Martyn Griffiths were down to play but unfortunately were held back in Wales due to lockdown restrictions.

Guards Golfing Society Committee versus Serving Officers

In recent years the Guards Golfing Society has hosted a day at Worplesdon for Serving Officers with the purpose of showcasing the society and the benefits of signing up for an annual fee of £20. On a sharp autumn day, Wednesday 14 Oct 20, and after the traditional Worplesdon roast lunch, Captain Tom Minihan and Captain Luca Vincenzini took on myself and Peter Richardson in

a 4-ball match. With Peter and I giving away 8 shots to Tom and Luca it looked distinctly like they had been taking handicap advice from Jack Badham and Martyn Griffiths, as they certainly did not play like 23 handicappers! Though after 10 holes we remained all square, and after an entertaining 10th short par 3, in which Luca nearly had an expensive afternoon by almost holing out in one but then subsequently missing the birdie putt to allow us to halve the hole. However, the wheels finally came off from Hole 11 to 14 where we left 4 down. At the same time Peter continued to drop the fact it was the first time in 40 years that he had been dropped from the Regimental Team for CinC's and was clearly a factor in us not reaching the final! That said by the end of 15th hole we were 5 down and comprehensibly beaten with 3 holes to play, thereby justifying the decision not to play Peter in the Regimental Team!

Dates for your diary in 2021:

21 April 2021 Household Division Championships (Spring Meeting)

29 April 2021 Colonel-in-Chief's Cup (1st/2nd Rounds)

10/12 September 2021 Autumn Meeting at Royal St Georges

23 September 2021 Colonel-in-Chief's Cup (Finals)

1. Captains Tom Minihan, Luca Vincenzini, Peter Richardson at Guards Golfing Society (GGS) v Serving Officers on Wed 14 Oct 20.
2. Peter Richardson driving.
3. Luca Vincenzini driving
4. Martin Topps with Col Sean O'Dwyer.
5. Regimental Team for Colonel in Chiefs
6. Steve Gelly and Gdsm Rhian Morgan 35
7. Steve Gelly



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Welsh Guards Association Golf Season 2020

By Steve Gelly

My first year after taking over from Martyn Griffiths as secretary of the Association started well.

Paul Conlon, who is assisting, had booked some great courses with good deals and then COVID-19 hit us and one by one we had to cancel the meetings as the lockdown restrictions were brought in and everybody had to stay within a few miles of their homes. So, no meetings this year, or so I thought. But then, a glimmer of hope, when a few of the restrictions lifted and we were at last able to have at least one meeting this year held at Tredegar Park Golf Club on the 26th of August.

The meeting was well attended with 29 players, 24 of them being past or serving members of the Battalion. With regards the serving members, regrettably, due to, COVID-19 only two members of the Battalion were able to join us because of leave, duties, etc being changed at short notice, but it was great to see CSgt Gareth Evans (Battalion Golf Rep) and LSgt Stuart May able to attend. Also, it was great to see some new faces attending the meeting and good to see the

word is getting out about the Association and the fun to be had.

The course was in great condition despite the previous day's poor weather and we were made to feel very welcome by the golf club. There were some good scores on the day and the results were:

- Winner:**
Martyn Griffiths 36 points
- Runner up:**
James Adamson 35 points on count back
- 3rd Place:**
John Badham 35 points
- Nearest the Pin:**
Martin Topps
- Longest Drive:**
Mike Mowbray
- 2's:**
Derek Mangan

Martyn Griffiths also won the John Powell Trophy, which is one of the trophies played for throughout the year - must have been the lack of pressure from not having to organise the event!



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I was hoping to arrange another meeting at Holyhead in October but due to lockdowns having been put in place over large areas of Wales and the restrictions on travel, we decided, regrettably once again to cancel. However, organised by Keith Lewis, a group of the North Wales members plus a few others not on restrictions got together and had a smaller meeting by themselves - which given the circumstances, was very well attended and, by all accounts, they had an enjoyable day's golf.

possibly one near Windsor and get as many of the Battalion along depending on peoples' interest.

If you wish to contact me about the Golf Society please do so my email address is steve@boardman-gelly.co.uk, send me your details and I will add you to my email contact list and you will then receive details when I send them out to everybody.



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If you are interested in joining us, you will be made most welcome. The Society welcomes players of all standards, our ethos is, through golf, maintain social contact with ex members of the Regiment and also create ties with serving members. The dates for the meetings throughout the year are [normally] the last Wednesdays in May, June, July, and August details of which I email out before hand to all players.

As this year was such a disappointing one, we will be looking into perhaps an extra one or two meetings next year,



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1. *The Group at Tredegar Park Golf Club 2020*
2. *Mark Adamson (G), Martin Topps, Martyn Griffiths and Keith Lewis*
3. *Gavin Pritchard (G), Richard Tudball, James Adamson and Carl Woodward*
4. *Guy Bartle-Jones, CSgt Gareth Evans, John Badham and Danny Williams (G)*
5. *LSgt Stuart May, Shane Pullen, Mike Mowbray and Les Peake*
6. *Derek Mangan, Matthew Glanrit-Jones and Mike George*
7. *North Wales Golfers Holyhead*
8. *Paul Conlon, Mark Horwood, Steve Young (G) and Steve Gelly*
9. *Keith Lewis*



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Welsh Guards Rugby

by Captain EJ Scott-Bowden

As is the case with almost all team sports, Rugby has been drastically affected by the government restrictions and COVID-19 as a whole.

With the scrum creating the perfect hot-pot for viral transmission, Welsh Guards Rugby has seen a period of stand down - a real shame given the growing momentum and a number of key players returning from external postings. The hype was building once again about our prospects in the fiercely competitive Army Cup. However, despite COVID-19 messing up the season, there have been several success stories.

Training has been well attended across all ranks with many having not played much Rugby before. This added a new dimension to training and kept the older members of the squad on their toes. Coaching has been bolstered with the appointment of Major Andy Campbell to head coach, bringing a wealth of experience from his time with the Army U23s Squad, and the appointments of Sgt Hiscock as backs coach and the author taking over the forwards.

Before the announcement of lockdown, the Welsh Guard's Rugby team were well represented across the wider Army. Even with Battalion Rugby on hold we have seen four Welsh Guardsmen receiving the call for the Army Rugby team. All four members played against Melrose RFC just outside Edinburgh. The author and Lieutenant Joe Wilkinson in the forwards with Sgt Hiscock and LSgt Putty pulling the strings as the half back pairing. It was a hard-fought game in rather miserable Scottish conditions.

Outside of representative Rugby the Battalion has maintained old traditions and continued to play Rugby during Christmas-in-a-week. This years' Officers' vs Sergeants' Mess was a nail-biter of a game with the Sergeants Mess claiming victory 7-0. In addition to this, the Mark Evison Rugby sevens tournament was highly competitive with The Prince of Wales's Company finishing as the clear winners with a rather impressive side that would do well in many Army Rugby competitions.

We remain hopeful that we will return to playing matches again in due course, however, current RFU guidelines state we can currently only play touch Rugby. The Coldstream Guards, our local Windsor rivals, are on standby for a friendly as soon as we are allowed to play full contact again. So, with all of the uncertainty that we are facing across the United Kingdom the Rugby team is remaining positive that once we can play again we will compete at the highest level the Army has to offer.

1. *The author and Sgt Hiscock representing the Army v Melrose RFC (2020)*
2. *The author and Sgt Dwyer representing the Army v Coventry RFC (2019)*





1st Battalion Welsh Guards Polo

by Lieutenant OMF Powell, Number Two Company

The 2020 Welsh Guards Polo season was shaping up to be one of the busiest in recent history, with growing interest from all ranks.

The tournament highlights of the season were to include The Captain and Subalterns (Tidworth Polo Club), The Major Generals, The Inter-Regimental (both played at Guards Polo Club) and The Thorneloe Cup (played at

Kirtlington Polo Club). The Welsh Guards team were set to compete fiercely in all. It promised to be a summer full of training and playing. Alas, Welsh Guards Polo has been in suspended animation due to COVID-19. We have been

poised and ready for the chance to get out on the pitch to practice and play, we are just waiting for the chance to begin.

Unfortunately, the summer slipped by in a flash and the team was not even afforded the chance to stick and ball. The Army Sports Board understandably deemed it unwise for the risk to be taken and expose our soldiers to the pandemic any more than was absolutely necessary.

However, this is not the end of the 2020 season as restrictions have now been lifted, to a certain degree, and for now at least practices can be held. There is also scope for Welsh Guards Polo to get involved in the arena polo sphere as the winter season opens up.

As the Battalion prepares to step off ceremonial duties and into 11 Brigade, an intense and field-based training programme has been created. However, time will still be

found to take those who are both new to the sport and those who are already comfortable in the saddle onto the field to begin developing the team for next year.

Welsh Guards Polo provides the opportunity to members of battalion who have never heard of let alone played the sport to experience the rush of a highly competitive sport and surreal feeling working with horses.

1. 2019 Season - OCdt George Cadogan, Maj Alex Major, Maj Chris Davies and the Comd Offr at Tidworth for the Captains' and Subalterns' Tournament
2. Photo of the 2019 Guards team winning the Inter Regimental at Guards Polo Club.

Battalion Boxing

by Major MI Butler Irish Guards, Officer Commanding Headquarter Company

As is the case with almost all team sports, Rugby has been drastically affected by the government restrictions and COVID-19 as a whole.

Following the Unit move from Pirbright to Windsor, State Ceremonial and deployment to the Falkland Islands on Op FIRIC, it was finally time for members of the Battalion to participate in the sporting arena. The date was set for another great evening of boxing. Training soon got underway with LCpls Moriarty, Woosnam and Williams getting to work on the boxers. Not to be left out, Number 2 Company were being put through their paces down in the Falkland Islands under the watchful eye of LCpl Dennis.

We now had plenty of support and momentum building behind the event. Dmr Evans had volunteered to fight for the London Regiment and was matched against Gdsm Wood. Previously Number 2 Company, Gdsm Wood was a former member of the Battalion boxing team who has subsequently joined the Reserves after leaving the Army in 2017. The match

offered an extremely close fight in which Gdsm Wood won by a split decision, presenting an excellent opportunity for a rematch in the future.

Soon a fresh batch of boxers with real potential were identified - Gdsm Jones, Gdsm Hamer and Gdsm Valentine stepping up to the challenge all within 6 months of joining the battalion.

Sgt Lucas (team manager) was busy recruiting new members - WO2 Parry (RQMS) and Gdsm Ward as team administration and LCpl Butler doing great work as our team media NCO.

The foundations were set, and all involved were determined to build upon the triumph of the previous boxing event in Pirbright. Making this a spectacular night for the boxers, members of the Battalion and guests, marking a great end to a very successful and busy year.



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The boxers were soon getting light on their feet and looking sharp. A huge amount of work put in by both coaches and boxers working around Windsor Castle, Royal Guard Duties and routine business; a real example of commitment demonstrated by all. As expected, there was no shortage of volunteers to get in the ring and soon we had 24 boxers medically fit and registered to fight, a great achievement by the team coaches, management and administration.



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It is in the blood - there was a special significance to this event. The Welsh Guards have a fine tradition of boxing and we had an opportunity to pay homage to all Welsh Guardsman who have stepped into the ring through the years and fought with honour and distinction. Six belts presented to the Welsh Guards boxing team by Colonel Murray-Thriepland in 1940; the first Commanding



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Officer of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards after its formation in 1915, were on display at this prestigious evening. The belts were lent to the Battalion by fellow Welsh Guardsman Stan Evans; the curator of the Welsh Guards Collection in Oswestry, who saw active service in Aden in 1965 and was promoted to Lance Sergeant.

The belts; engraved with the names of the winners of each weight category throughout the years are now on display in a glass case at the Welsh Guards Collection.

Other artefacts such as the score card between The Welsh Guards and The Parachute Regiment captures the success of the team competing in the Army Inter-Unit Boxing Championships Semi-Final, 1954. The card shows a victory for 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on every bout fought, beating The Parachute Regiment ten bouts to nil.

We were joined by a plethora of distinguished guests, Brigadier Wright; Deputy Commander London District, Mr Antony Cotton; Celebrity Ambassador for SSAFA, Mr Sean Molino; Team Sponsor and Major General Pearson; Master of Nights Windsor Castle, who kindly addressed the Battalion and boxers from the ring. The Battalion were extremely grateful for Mr Stan Evans' attendance and the stories of his service were inspirational to the younger generation and appreciated by all.

One last blessing of the boxers by the Padre and with the Regimental Sergeant Major in the ring as Master of Ceremonies, it was time for the show to begin. The night got off to a great start with the first bout between Gdsm Graham; Number 2 Company

and LCpl Jones 73; Number 3 Company. A real gutsy performance with both boxers setting the bar high for those to follow. The first half of the evening was a demonstration of skill, bravery and daring. After a short interval the Battalion Choir showed their support to the evening, singing Men of Harlech and Land of our Fathers. Filling the room with pride it was a great way to kick off the final half. The remaining bouts did not disappoint, full of exhilaration and courage. The last fight finished in style winning the night for the Red Corner, coached by LCpl Moriarty. Gdsm Keegan; London Regiment received the trophy for most courageous boxer and Gdsm Winney from The Prince of Wales's Company was awarded best boxer of the night.

The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all. A huge thanks to Sgt Lucas and the team management, coaches and supporting staff for making this such an entertaining and memorable occasion, a real team effort by all. A special thanks to our team sponsor Mr Sean Molino owner of Forces Fitness who continues to support Welsh Guards boxing.

Welsh Guards boxing, bolstered by new talent, with experience from Welsh Boxing Clubs is growing each year in popularity and ability. A substantial delay in making our return to the ring due to COVID-19; however, once restrictions are lifted and the team are clear to start training again, there will be real purpose and focus towards defending their titles in the Household Division Championships with a view to entering the Army Championships 2021.

1. *Members of the Battalion and the Curator of the Welsh Guards Collection, Mr Stan Evans, enjoying the fights ringside.*
2. *Red Corner the winners - LCpl Moriarty receiving the belts for the team.*
3. *The Welsh Guards Choir ready to perform "Men of Harlech" to kick off the 2nd half.*
4. *The end of a successful evening.*
5. *Gdsm Gronow receiving his runner up trophy.*
6. *Dmr Evans 73 and Gdsm Gronow landing blows.*
7. *2Lt Richardson lands a clean punch to Dmr Roberts 69*
8. *LCpl Jones 73 receives his winner's trophy from the Commanding Officer.*
9. *A display of what's up for grabs for the boxers.*
10. *Members of the Sergeants' Mess enjoying the evening before the start of the bouts*



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BATTLEFIELD TOURS AND REMEMBRANCE



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Falklands Memorial Wrexham 27th June 2020

By Captain Chris Hopkins, President North Wales Branch of the Welsh Guards Association

Unfortunately owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's Falklands Service of Remembrance and Reunion planned for Saturday 27 Jun 20 had to be cancelled.

However, to ensure our fallen were honoured a small group of local Welsh Guardsmen assembled to pay our respects on behalf of the Regiment.

A short dedication and wreath laying took place followed by the last post.

On parade were the standards of the Royal Navy Association, the Type 42 Destroyer Association, the Royal Marines Association and the North Wales Branch of the Welsh Guards Association. The latter was carried by John Burns, the North Wales Branch Secretary.

After the parade, with the War Memorial Club in lockdown and there being no other hostilities open, I produced a bottle of Scotland's finest from the boot of my car in order to make a number of toasts. For some reason there were no customers at the "Boot Bar." Then I noticed a queue at the Royal Navy car-boot where a rum ration was being handed out! In the finest spirit of friendship toasts were made with both varieties of firewater.

We look forward to next year and the 39th Anniversary

All photographs (less photo's 9 & 10) courtesy of Gabrielle Davies of <https://www.gabrielledaviesphotography.com/> Wrexham. Granddaughter of Alan Loose.

service when hopefully things will be back to some kind of normal.

Further, on 4th August 2020 the Falklands Memorial was visited by the Airborne Forces Motorcycle Club (see photo's 9 & 10). They were touring the country over eight days mapping all of the memorials dedicated to the Falklands war. Henry Vaughan Jones and I met them at the memorial. They looked like a real brotherhood in their club colours, flags, airborne berets and magnificent motorcycles and we sincerely hope some of them will join us in June next year.



1. The socially distanced, Covid-19 compliant Memorial Parade.
2. The Standards on Parade.
3. L-R: Maldwyn Jones, John Burns, Graham Binnie, Kevin Hackett.
4. L-R: Alan Loose, Captain Chris Hopkins, Glyn Rogers, Mike Edwards.
5. L-R: Henry Vaughan Jones, Maldwyn Jones, John Burns
6. Mike Edwards, Glyn Rogers.
7. Alan Loose at the Bar!
8. Mine hosts at the boot bar!
- 9-10. The Airborne Forces Motorcycle Club at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial, Wrexham, 4 August 2020





WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020



Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020

by Colonel TCS Bonas

Despite all the restrictions caused by COVID, the Regiment was able to proceed with a small parade at the Guards Memorial in order to mark Remembrance Sunday and to lay our Regimental Wreath.

HRH The Prince of Wales very kindly agreed to take part, as he always does if he can. The parade consisted of various moving parts but was based on a rank of six facing the Guards Memorial consisting of the Colonel, the Regimental Adjutant, the Commanding Officer, the Assistant Equerry, the Battalion Padre and the Regimental Sergeant Major. Padre Colin Jones said a few prayers which included the Regimental Collect, the Sergeant Major delivered the Exhortation and read the Kohima epitaph and Sergeant Laing played Last Post and Reveille. RQMS Parry was on hand to present the wreath to His Royal Highness and Guardsmen Jallow was on bowler hat and umbrella duties.

The photographs will give one a good feel of the parade and were taken by Neil Rice the Association Assistant Secretary General and Sergeant Morgan from the Battalion. Following the parade His Royal Highness took time to speak to all and as he departed the Regimental Adjutant presented him with the Officers hawthorn stick to complement the longer walking one presented to him on Remembrance Sunday in 2018. A most memorable parade made more special by the presence of the Colonel. My thanks to the Major General and Headquarters Household Division for allowing us to proceed.









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80th Anniversary of the Defence of Arras
 by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

Readers will know well that 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, as part of the British Expeditionary Force, defended the City of Arras between 17 – 24 May 1940 and then conducted a fighting withdrawal to the beaches.

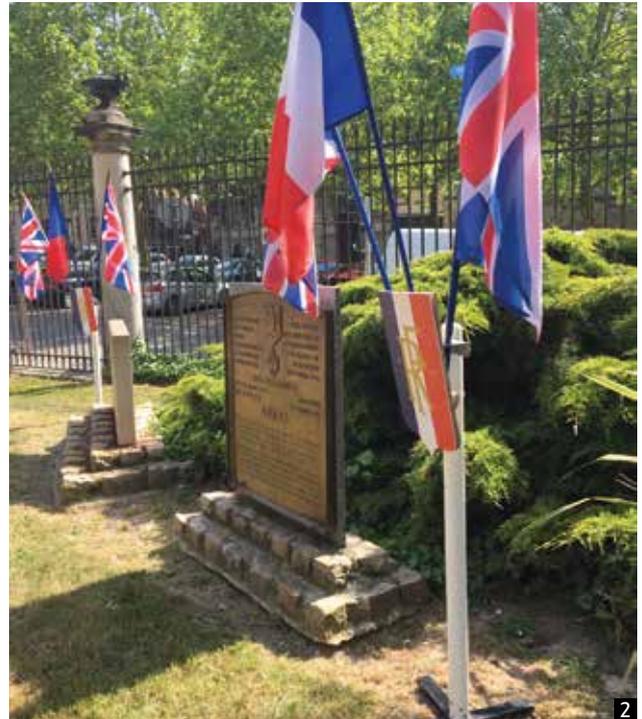
Given our now very close connection with the City, a small group from Regimental Headquarters which included myself, RQMS Davies and Lance Sergeant Laing (to play Last Post) were invited by the Mayor to join in the 80th Anniversary over the weekend of 21 – 24 May. Sadly, due to COVID-19 and lockdown we were unable to attend. However, the Mayor and Laurent Wiart, the Director of Heritage, Archeology and Tourism, very kindly laid some flowers on behalf of the Regiment at our Memorial Plaque in Arras on Friday 21 May.

The Regiment have been sending a small group to Arras each May for a number of years. These are based on an officer and four to five other ranks from the Battalion, all in Home Service Clothing. Arras is also regularly visited by both the Regimental and

Association Battlefield Tours not least because we were the last out in 1940 and first back in 1944. Of course, we also helped to defend the City in 1918. Aside from the historical link to the City, Arras is of course a delightful place with two squares, many fine restaurants and a lot of watering holes many of which are frequented when we visit!

The Regiment have been offered the Freedom of the City and subject to Battalion and Band commitments, we hope to hold an appropriate parade in 2021. It will be a very special day/weekend and I will keep all informed-on developments.

1,2,3. *The Welsh Guards Memorial in Arras which is the focal point of Anniversary Commemorations*



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Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour and Hechtel Commemorations

by Major Lyndon Davies QARANC Battlefield Tour Project Officer

When we waved goodbye to the people of Hechtel in September 2019 after a hugely successful 75th anniversary commemoration of the town's liberation by the Welsh Guards in 1944, little did we expect that the 50 of us who had planned to attend in 2020 would not be returning because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Association's Battlefield Tour and visit to Hechtel to commemorate the anniversary of their liberation has become an established annual event. Over the years, a strong bond of friendship has developed between the Regiment, the Association and the people of Hechtel who are eternally grateful for the bravery and sacrifice of the Welsh Guards in September 1944. The 1st and 2nd Battalions fought there and liberated the people of Hechtel from a cruel Nazi occupation. 35 members of the community lost their lives at the hands of the German occupiers and many of us have met individuals over the years who have provided powerful first-hand accounts of what took place there.

One of these was a gentleman by the name of Gilbert Van Goethemd who was an Honorary Member of the Ogmere Branch, Welsh Guards Association. As a young boy of 16 years old, he looked on as his father and uncle were executed by the Germans on 10 September 1944. Every year, he would attend the liberation ceremony proudly wearing a Blazer with Welsh Guards insignia and a Household Division tie. In September 2019 he was aged 91 and was looking quite frail in his wheelchair but he made sure that he was there at his father's graveside in the cemetery as

we all paid our respects to the 35 members of the community who died. Whilst visibly in tears at the end of the ceremony he could be heard saying "thank you Welsh Guards, thank you Welsh Guards, the Welsh Guards saved us". A couple of months after our visit he sadly passed away. We remember him with great fondness, and we thank him and others like him who never forgot the sacrifices that took place in 1944 to secure their freedom. Until a couple of years ago, we were blessed every year on the tour by the presence of Ray Cumbley and Arthur Bland who were both Welsh Guards veterans from the battle of Hechtel. It really made the tour so special having the likes of Ray and Arthur making that journey every year until they were sadly no longer with us. Those of us who are left behind are committed to ensure that their legacy lives on and that we will forever more maintain the strongly formed friendships with Hechtel.

We are also hugely indebted to the Mayor of Hechtel, Jan Dalemans who has truly become a great friend to us all. He ensures that members of the tour are hosted exceptionally well and always puts on a huge spread for lunch where wine and beer flows in plentiful supply. Last year, we all enjoyed an impressive liberation Tattoo where we were entertained in beautiful



weather by different military bands. In 2018, Jan hosted us in the VIP enclosure at the massive Sanicole International Airshow where members of the Association were introduced to the British Ambassador in Brussels and where the endless bottles of champagne were enjoyed by all. This year, once again, Jan had organised for us all to be hosted in the VIP enclosure at the Airshow but sadly coronavirus put a stop to the airshow. As time went on, we realised that it would be very difficult to safely run a tour and it would be a challenge to maintain social distancing for a long bus journey. With cases being high in Belgium and the UK Government restrictions on travel and quarantine measures, we had no option other than to cancel this year's tour to the huge disappointment of us all.

The annual commemoration event in Hechtel went ahead albeit on a much smaller scale with Covid-19 precautions and social distancing measures in place. Whilst the Association were unable to be there, we were very fortunate that the Regiment's continuity at the commemoration remained unbroken by the attendance of Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCV0 CBE who kindly attended with his ADC, Capt Nikki Fullwood to lay wreaths at the memorials and address the local community. Lt Gen Sir Ben Bathurst is currently the UK's Military Representative to NATO, Brussels and I know that the people of Hechtel felt hugely honoured and were appreciative of his attendance.

In his address, Lt Gen Sir Ben Bathurst reinforced the strong bond between the Regiment and Hechtel and he conveyed the gratitude of the entire Welsh Guards Regimental family for continuing to honour those from its ranks who lost their lives during the liberation of

Belgium. He also remembered the terrible loss amongst the Belgium population and referred to the bravery of the Belgium people who risked their lives to help the British. On behalf of all the members of the battlefield tour, we are extremely grateful to Lt Gen Sir Ben Bathurst for maintaining this bond of friendship and continuity with Hechtel and for conveying to the local community our warmest of best wishes. He explained that were it not for the coronavirus restrictions, Association members would have been there in good number again this year along with Col Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant who's support and commitment to the tour is always hugely appreciated. We all hope that things will be back to normal again next year and that we will be back in Hechtel once again to remember and pay respects to the fallen and to see our Belgian friends.

After the ceremonial events at Hechtel, the battlefield tour moves on every year to another area of military or regimental historical interest. For the last few years we have hugely benefited from the expert knowledge of our battlefield guide Allan Wood, who is an accredited member of the guild of battlefield guides. In recent years, we have been blessed by his research and attention to detail, where he has been able to bring Regimental history to life. His delivery and knowledge is always impressive and we were all very much looking forward to his input once again this year where we had planned to base ourselves in Arras, a town where the Welsh Guards have very close links from the First and Second World Wars. The theme of our tour this year was to be the Battle of the Somme, focusing on the involvement of the Welsh Guards as well as other important historical aspects.



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Highlights of recent years have focused on the Battle of Cambrai, the liberation of Arras in 1944, participating in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres and visiting the battlefield of Waterloo.

The Association Battlefield Tour offers excellent value for money and we are grateful to the Trustees for offering a generous subsidy. We are always grateful to Colonel Tom Bonas, Major Martin Browne and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant for their support as well as Maldwyn Jones and Neil Rice (Secretary General and Asst Secretary General) who play such an important part in supporting the tour with Neil covering the tour as our official photographer. I would also like to thank Andy Morgan 31 who works very hard to make sure everyone is well looked after on the bus and is a huge support to me in planning and organising the tour.

The tour has grown in number over recent years

and it is pleasing to see a new generation of Welsh Guards veterans coming along and joining other Association members who have been coming on the tour for years. It was unfortunate that we had to cancel this year's tour as we had more Welsh Guards Association members signed up to attend, many of which were coming along for the first time. Llanelli Branch in particular has supported the tour in numbers over the last couple of years as well as others from various branches. The tour strikes the right balance between the respectful wreath laying acts of remembrance (with standard bearers and last post) and lots of fun and comradeship, both of which are hugely important.

It is really pleasing that everyone who committed to attend this year has transferred their deposit to secure their place for 2021 so we can be assured that we remain on course to fulfil the aims of the tour for the future:



1-2. *Arthur Bland (2657354) - in Panama hat and Ray Cumley (2736858) at previous Battlefield Tours*

3. *Arthur Bland standing on the left of the man wearing a white top, with Ray Cumley over his right shoulder. Photo taken around the time of the liberation of Hechtel.*

4. *L-R: Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE, Jan Dalemans Burgemeester Hechtel-Eksel, Adjt Maj Jacobs Armed Forces HQ Brigade, Adjt Vliegen (retired) at the Liberation of*

Hechtel Commemorations 13th September 2020.

5. *Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE placing a Regimental wreath at the Memorial Cross in Hechtel Cemetery*

6. *Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE placing a Regimental wreath at the M4A2 Sherman Tank memorial in the town after which he addressed the assembled locals on behalf of the Regiment.*

7-8. *Previous Battlefield Tours*

AIMS OF THE TOUR

- To remember the people of Hechtel and Welsh Guardsmen who gave their lives for the liberation of Hechtel and ensure that the spirit and legacy of those veterans who made this journey an annual pilgrimage continues into the future
- To support the Regimental Adjutant and the Secretary General in maintaining the strong bonds between the Welsh Guards Association and the Mayor and community of Hechtel
- To facilitate a learning experience through incorporating an educational aspect to the tour, learning about events in Hechtel and the Regiment's wider activities, as well as other areas of military history
- To complement the Association's wider activities through an annual opportunity for members from various branches to spend time together on an organized tour
- To ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience through great fun and great comradeship and to secure the sustainability of the tour for the future.

DETAILS FOR NEXT YEAR

The Battlefield Tour dates for 2021 will be 11-15 September. The tour will include the 77th annual liberation commemoration in Hechtel and will then focus on the Battle of the Somme staying 2 nights in Arras. Term of Reference for the tour can be found on the Welsh Guards Charity Website.

Any expressions of interest should be directed to the Battlefield Tour Project Officer Maj Lyndon Davies on DLDavies123@gmail.com or alternatively via your Branch Secretaries. Please note that spaces are limited and if necessary, a reserve list may be formed. Please do not let this deter anyone from expressing an interest.



Rhosgadfan Hero Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

by 23523061 David (Spider) Webb

This has been a really horrid year with Covid-19 causing lockdowns and travel restrictions globally which has meant that the Welsh Guards Pilgrims had to cancel the annual battlefield tour of Holland, France and Belgium.

It was planned during the tour to visit the places where 2361 John O Pritchard DCM had fought, including his final resting place in Cambrai. This is his journey after joining the Regiment on 10th November 1915 in Liverpool until his death at the battle of Bourlon Wood, Cambrai when he was killed in

action having recovered from being wounded 19 times in 15 months.

John was one of eight children. He had one brother and six sisters. He was born on 19th September 1896 and was the son of Mary Anne Pritchard and Lewis Pritchard of

Gwyddfán, Rhosgadfan near Caernarfon. Mary died on 25th November 1924 and Lewis on 10th February 1935. His Father was a deacon at Rhosgadfan Chapel for 25 years.

The military hospital records show that John was wounded the first time just prior to his 20th birthday on 10th September 1916 during the Battle of Ginchy (the Somme) with gunshot wounds to his left arm and buttocks. After recovering, John rejoined his unit to fight in Flanders at the Battle of Passchendaele (also known as the Third Battle of Ypres). John was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his actions on the 19th July 1917 during this battle. In the History of the Welsh Guards by CH Dudley Ward there is a paragraph summarizing his actions that day in Flanders:

“The battalion took over the front line by Boesinghe Chateau, the line they would attack from. The Prince of Wales and General Gaythorne Hardy visited the battalion on the line, the shelling was heavy and deafening during their visit which boosted morale. Pte J O Pritchard had a nasty experience during the relief on the 19th. The enemy shelling had been continuous and severe, with frequent short, crashing barrages on all approaches to the line. Pritchard was to act as guide to one of the relieving platoons and had to meet it at a point some two miles away. On his way to the rendezvous he was wounded in fifteen places, but he completed his task and fainted as he led the platoon into the front line. He had walked three miles from the time he was hit and had to lead the platoon through one of the

enemy crashing barrages while passing Boesinghe Chateau. A fine example of endurance.”

The citation for his DCM posted in the London Gazette on 17th September 1917 said:

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in guiding a platoon of a relieving battalion to the front line, through a very heavy barrage, although wounded in 15 different places early during the operation. He covered in all a distance of over three miles, and it was entirely due to his pluck and determination that a large section of the front line was relieved. He refused to have his wounds attended until he had carried out his duty, after which he was carried back to the dressing station on a stretcher.”

Less than two months later John was back in action at Bourlon Wood in the Battle of Cambrai. This was a very costly battle. There were nearly 100,000 men on both sides who shed blood on this patch of Northern France between 20th November and 9th December 1917. On the day John was killed, 28th November 1917, his unit was expecting an enemy counterattack near the village of Fontaine-Notre-Dame along the Hindenberg Line.

The previous day, 27th November, it snowed and on the 28th the enemy rained down 16,000 rounds of high explosive shells and gas on British positions. “Welsh Guards suffered enormous losses as they advanced against heavy firing from La Folie wood and became embroiled in house to house fighting,” said one witness account. “The situation was intolerable and by 1300

hours it was over. Despite great courage and tenacity, the Guardsmen had been overwhelmed by the entrenched enemy in superior numbers."

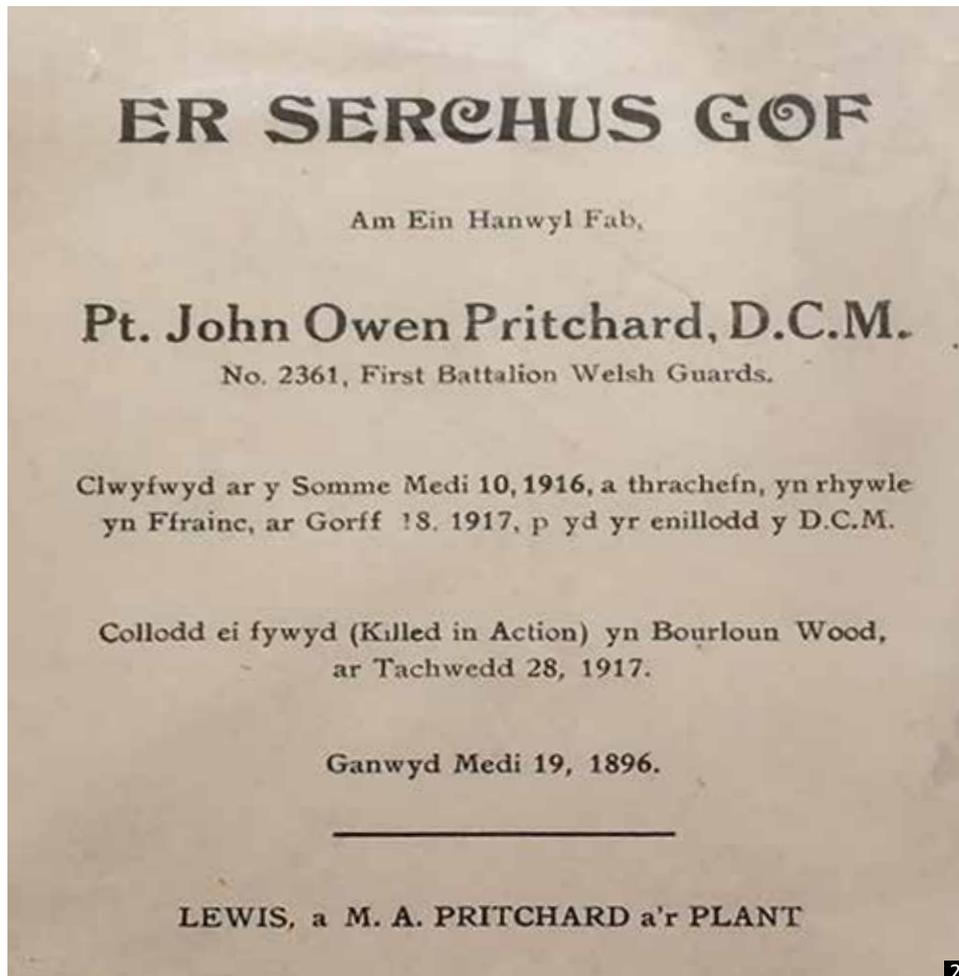
Almost 4,000 Welsh Guards saw action in France and Flanders during the Great War and more than 850 died. Twenty-two including John, were awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This award was established in 1854 by Queen Victoria as a decoration for gallantry in the field by other ranks of the British Army. It is the oldest British award for gallantry and was a second level military decoration after the Victoria Cross, until it was discontinued in 1993.

John Owen Pritchard's sacrifice is commemorated, along with 7,000 others at the Cambrai Memorial, panel 3. He was just 21. "Gorffwys Mewn Heddwch Brawd"

CYMRU AM BYTH

I would like to thank Ian and David Roberts and Jill Thomas for sharing their Great Uncle John's story.

1. 2361 Pte John O. Pritchard D.C.M
2. English translation: "In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Son"
3. The Rhosgadfan memorial stone situated in the Mountain Rangers Social club where it was moved to when the Old Village Hall was burnt down in 2004.





1. Photograph taken against the backdrop of "San Carlos Water" site of the British Task Force landings on the Falkland Islands which started on the night of 21 May 1982. L-R: Phil Moore, Ian Davies, David Ricketts, Richard Bates, John Criddle, Nigel Miles, Andrew Broad, Paul Fennell, David Lewis 01, Charlie Carty MBE



Veterans Visit the Falkland Islands 38 Years On

by Major CGH Carty MBE TD

In late February 2020 a group of ten 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 Andy Broad, Dave Lewis 01, Richard Bates, Dave Ricketts, Ian Davies 60, John Criddle, Nigel Miles, Paul Fennell and Philip Moore.

The following is our daily diary.

**Day 1 - RV at RAF Brize Norton
Wednesday 26th February**

After twelve months in the planning and prior to this epic journey, everyone initially met up at the Gateway House Hotel at Royal Air Force Brize Norton, for some, a fair journey in itself from all parts of the United Kingdom where our veterans had settled since retiring from the Regiment many years ago. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that some had more than a little difficulty recognising comrades from over 38 years ago, however, after ten

minutes or so it felt as if we were all just coming back off a fortnight's leave with the usual banter kicking off.

After a settling in period we got around the table for an initial briefing as to the way the trip would unfold and this was an ideal opportunity to have a face to face, having corresponded by email and text for the previous twelve months! All of a sudden, the trip had become a reality dependent of course on our friends in blue and zero cross winds at Royal Air Force Mount Pleasant (the latter which could have initiated a 24-hour delay) - fortunately lady luck was to be on our side.



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Having found the main dining room and devoured a most welcome evening meal we returned to the Gateway House Hotel to chill out before being collected by coach for the move to the main terminal building for a four hour wait for departure. All the usual booking in and security formalities completed we were in the departure lounge awaiting embarkation "with fingers crossed" for no delays.

At 0035hrs we began to board the extremely large Voyager Airbus Military 330-200 and by midnight we were ready for departure with the crossed fingers loosening slightly!

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 aback 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 foresight and inspiration when planning its inception (although it has to be said that many of the islanders do miss the opportunity to house veterans as they did in the early days of veterans returning to the islands).

**Day 2 - Journey South
Thursday 27th February**

At 0110hrs we departed on the first six-hour leg of our journey to Cape Verde West Africa, which is being used, I am told, for the foreseeable future while the runway on Ascension Island is being repaired. After a two-hour refuelling stop, we were on the second 12-hour leg to RAF Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands.

On arrival at RAF Mount Pleasant and not having encountered any delays or problems passing through Customs and Immigration, our transport collected us 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 eight years, there was a mix of banter, kip and 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 a profound effect on us in one way or another for the rest of our lives.

We finally arrived at the fantastic Liberty Lodge in Stanley and were met with an excellent welcome from the

**Day 3 - Fitzroy
Friday 28th 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 (Royal Fleet Auxiliaries) Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram. A final visit to the sheep pens where many of us found ourselves after getting off the Sir Galahad and we found them virtually a 'step back in time' as little had changed over the years.

On our return to Stanley we stopped to visit and pay our respects at the memorial at Minefield 60 to LCpl Chris "Bowser" Thomas 03.

On 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



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Miller with the young children of their cub scouts' group.

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.

After a short rest in the lodge we were again on the move back to Fitzroy as guests of local inhabitants Phil and Carol Ovenden for a presentation by CPO (Chief Petty Officer) Alan "Sharkey" Ward RN.

Sharkey was one of the last, "still-serving", Falklands War Veterans. He was serving on board HMS Herald during the conflict and was part of the first aid team who treated the wounds of the casualties of the Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram, although he was not, by trade, a medic. Since then, he has maintained strong ties with the Welsh Guards and was instrumental in giving his support to No 2 Company when they were posted to the Falklands as the Roulemont Infantry Company (RIC). The companies superb and extremely moving service of Remembrance at the Welsh Guards Memorial continues to be remembered and talked about to the present day.

CPO Ward made a joint presentation to the Fitzroy community and us of a superb custom-made presentation case of little remembrance crosses which the company placed during their Remembrance Service at Fitzroy.

**Day 4 - Stanley
Saturday 29th February**

Today was a gentle start with a late breakfast and a wander

around Stanley and the close surrounding areas.

After a light lunch in Shorties Diner the group tabbed to the Scots Guards Memorial on Mount Tumbledown and took a drink in memory of fellow Guardsmen, many who we knew personally who had also made the supreme sacrifice in this conflict.

**Day 5 - Memorial Service
Sunday 1st March**

A very special day for us of course and we held our Service at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Fitzroy overlooking the offshore site of the bombing of the RFA's Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram. 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 Reverend Kathy Biles kindly officiated with the Welsh Guards wreath being laid by Paul Fennell, the Exhortation read by Dave Ricketts, the Kohima Epitaph by Andrew Broad and the Names of the Lost by Charlie Carty. On completion of our main service we prepared to scatter the ashes of Idwal Bellis (24025082) which was his last wish - after a further short service his and his families wishes were carried out. On completion 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.

After lunch we returned to Stanley to visit the War Memorial and Stanley Museum and in the evening finished the day with a superb group dinner at the Waterfront restaurant.





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Day 6 - Mount Pleasant Base Monday 2nd March

After an early "Full Welsh" breakfast we moved self-contained in our two 4x4s ably driven by the author and Nigel Miles, both volunteers of course! We pulled out of Stanley past Sapper Hill and headed for the Mount Pleasant Complex where the Royal Air Force were hosting us during our morning visit.

On arrival and after the complexities of signing in at the main guardroom we were met by our host, the Base Sergeant Major who briefed us as to our visit. We then moved to the Royal Air Force and No 1435 fast jet flight where we were confronted by one of the awesome operational Typhoons and its crew who then gave us various briefings as to their role followed by a detailed introduction to the aircraft after which everyone had the rare opportunity of experiencing the pilots seat for themselves. Timings couldn't have been better as we were then taken airside at the runway edge to witness two Typhoon's taking off, this was a massive once only experience where the two aircraft lifted off the runway in front of us, climbed vertically and with a roar of their engines became two dots in the sky. What a finish to the visit.

We were then looked after royally with lunch in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess.

The day complete we returned to Liberty Lodge and prepared for our dinner invitation with Ian and Sheila Stewart whose hospitality is 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 superb support to veterans visiting the islands to the present day.

Day 7 - Circumnavigation Tuesday 3rd 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 two 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 most British casualties were buried at sea). We spent some time here reflecting and paying our respects.

Eating our lunch overlooking the now rotting Jetty on which the battalion came ashore in 1982, 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.



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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
Wednesday 4th March**

Today was planned as a 2 Coy/Bn HQ day. We followed their 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 Killmartin who is the owner of Bluff Cove Farm, he made us very welcome and added greatly with his input on the events involving the arrival in 1982 of Bn HQ, 2 Coy and the MG (Machine Gun) Pl. We visited all the relevant approaches and landing areas in the cove and ended up sampling Hattie Killmartin's delicious cake and coffee.

We moved onward in the direction of Stanley to Elephant Canyon where Bn HQ were located and thereafter the positions of 2 Coy where many of the old trench locations have been found. We further pinpointed the Bn 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 from where a superb view of Stanley was seen. With all our planned route covered we returned to Liberty Lodge and prepared for an organised boat tour of the inner and outer harbours.

Another day nearly comes to an end its now back to the lodge to prepare for our

second 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 massive and there are no words I can put here which will do them justice.

**Day 9 - Government House
Thursday 5th March**

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 which was, as always, quite excellent.

At 1330hrs we are invited to tea at Government House and on this occasion the Deputy Governor hosted 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.

A farewell evening dinner at the Malvina Restaurant gave us the opportunity to invite and thank all those who support our visits each year, an excellent evening was had by all.

**Day 10 - Homeward Bound
Friday 6th March**

Well, after an early start we are now on route for the United Kingdom via Cape Verde with much to reflect on during the 18-hour flight.



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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. *Memorial to 24454603 LCpl CC Thomas (aka Bowser)*
3. *Dave Ricketts (24498704) at the Gdsm Gareth Nicholson (24498671) memorial tree in Memorial Wood*
4. *Paul Fennell (24185199) and Dave Lewis (24260301) laying a cross at the Mal Wigley (24090540) memorial tree*
5. *CPO Sharkey Ward makes his presentation to Charlie Carty with Carol and Phil Ovenden also present.*
6. *Andy Broad (24537783) leading from the rear, Richard Bates (24520161), John Criddle (24468837) and Charlie Carty on route to the SG Memorial on Tumbledown*
7. *Paying our respects to fellow Guardsmen at the Scots Guards Memorial on Tumbledown*
8. *John Criddle (24468837) taking a drink on Tumbledown in memory of fellow Guardsmen*
9. *Our Service of Remembrance at the Welsh Guards Memorial*
10. *Revd Cathy Biles and Charlie Carty - Service and Scattering of the ashes of Idwal Bellis (24025082) RIP*
11. *Game up for Ian Davies (24513060) - Fitzroy resident Phil Ovenden says four portions!!!*
12. *Our confrontation with the awesome Typhoon*
13. *Phil Moore (24394924) on his weekend course to become a Typhoon pilot!*
14. *Typhoon Scramble at close range!*
15. *Dinner at home with Sheila and Ian Stewart*

16. *Richard Bates (24520161) on the rotting landing Jetty at San Carlos- It must have been wider than this?*
17. *At the entrance to Yellow Beach Bluff Cove with farm owner Kevin Killmartin*
18. *Andy Broad (24537783) and Dave Ricketts (24498704) being interviewed by Falklands Radio at Government House*
19. *"Hearts and Minds" in the Victory Bar*



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Welsh Guard Recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in the First World War

by Mr Nick Farr Welsh Guards Association London Branch Associate Member and Welsh Guards Reunited Site Historian

The Distinguished Conduct Medal was instituted by Royal Warrant on 4th December 1854, during the Crimean War, as an award to Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the British Army for distinguished, gallant and good conduct in the field. It was the second highest award for gallantry in action after the Victoria Cross.

A gratuity was provided that varied in amount depending on rank and given on the recipient's discharge from the Army.

A bar to the medal, introduced in 1881, could be awarded in recognition of each subsequent act of distinguished conduct for which the medal would have been awarded.

During the First World War, concern arose that the high number of medals being awarded would devalue the medal's prestige. The Military Medal was therefore instituted

on 25th March 1916 as an alternative and lower award, with the Distinguished Conduct Medal reserved for more exceptional acts of bravery. Around 25,000 Distinguished Conduct Medals were awarded during the First World War, with approximately 1,900 during the Second World War.

An excellent publication 'Recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1914-1920' by R.W. Walker, first published some 40 years ago, lists those awarded during this period to members of the British Armed Services and British Dominion forces.

It details the Regiment (Force), name, rank and date of publication in the London Gazette.

For the Foot Guards, there are records of 183 Grenadier Guards who were awarded the DCM and 1 Bar, 159 Coldstream Guards and 5 Bars, 92 for the

Scots Guards and 2 Bars, 78 for the Irish Guards and 6 Bars, 22 for the Welsh Guards and 2 Bars and 22 for the Guards Machine Gun Regiment.

Space does not allow for detailing all of the actions of the WG's DCM recipients, and I have therefore focused on details of each individual's record of service from the information that I have researched.

The Welsh Guards Charity website have a link to an electronic version of the History of the Welsh Guards (HWG) by C.H. Dudley Ward DSO MC published in 1920, which details the actions of the Regiment in WW1. Included are the relevant page numbers where recipients are mentioned, should anyone wish to view further. To find the link on the site, navigate to the 'About' button, then Regimental History and you will see the link just above the pictures on this page.

The recipients are in order of the award being published in the London Gazette.

The first award of the DCM was to **48 Serjt George Charles GRANT** DCM who enlisted into the Grenadier Guards on 4th April 1911 (15214), aged 18 years and 3 months, in Cardiff. He was born in the Forest of Dean, married and had two children. He gave his occupation as a labourer.

Whilst still a Private, (the rank of Guardsmen replaced that of a Private in all the Guards Regiments in 1919, an honour awarded by the King George V in recognition of their great effort during WW1) George was awarded the DCM for his actions at the battle of Loos on 28th September 1915. The citation for his award gives a detailed account of his gallant actions on that day, including carrying in a wounded Officer back to the line. During this action he received gunshot wounds (gsw) to the shoulder and back.

George was evacuated back to the UK and had recovered sufficiently to be awarded his medal by Maj Gen Sir Francis Lloyd, General Officer Commanding London District,

London Gazette 16th November 1915 48 Private G. C. Grant, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards.

For conspicuous gallantry on 27th/28th September, 1915, at Hill 70 and also at Loos. In addition to carrying messages under heavy artillery fire Private Grant made two attempts to bring ammunition forward to the firing line under heavy and continuous fire. In the first attempt he failed, but, volunteering again, he succeeded in the second attempt, thus enabling the men in the firing line to keep off the Germans, who were entrenched close in front of them. Later he attempted to carry in a wounded Officer, but a stretcher-bearer having been shot he was forced to fall back. He went forward again with assistance, and this time was successful. In carrying a wounded man on his back towards the Dressing Station, on 28th September, he was himself seriously wounded.



on 10th January 1916 at the Tower of London.

He returned to France and was a member of the party who returned to England on 23rd December 1918 to bring out the Colours alongside CSM Pearce, also a DCM recipient.

George was issued a new 'Army Number' on 18th February 1919 (2730803) following the introduction of Army Order 338 which where issued from one continuous series allocated to an individual Regiment. The WG's allocation: from 2730000. Following his transfer to Army Reserves on 6th June 1921 he re-enlisted into the 5th Queens Royal Regt on 24th April 1939. (HWG Pages 38,293,297)

The second Gazetted award of the DCM to a Welsh Guardsman was to **114 Sergt Robert MATHIAS** DCM & Bar. Robert was attested in Manchester on 7th April 1912

and enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (15853). He was aged 20 years and 4 months, was married with two children and gave his occupation as a 'Fitters Assistant'.

Robert embarked for France on 4th October 1914 with the 1st Bn Grenadier Guards and was wounded in action on 25th October 1914, with a slight gsw to the right forearm. Following his evacuation back to the UK on 29th October 1914 he transferred to WG on 27th February 1915 and was promoted to Corporal. He was posted to No 4 Company for the embarkation to France with 1WG. He was promoted Sergt on 30th July 1915.

He was awarded the medal for his actions at Ypres in June 1916 rescuing two men under heavy enemy machine gun fire. On 9th July 1916 Maj Gen Sir Francis Fielding, Commander of the Brigade of Guards presented Robert a DCM ribbon in default of a medal.

The 1st Bar to the DCM was awarded for Roberts' action during the raid at Mortaljde, on 30th June/1st July 1916. On 10th September 1916 during the battle of Ginchy he fractured his forearm and was evacuated to the UK on 21st September 1916. He

London Gazette 27th July 1916
114 Sjt. R. Mathias, 1st Bn., W. Gds.

For conspicuous gallantry. On two occasions he went out under heavy fire with an utter contempt of danger, and rescued men lying in the open.

114 Sjt. R. Mathias, 1st Bn., Welsh Gds.

For conspicuous gallantry during an attack on an enemy post. He rushed on ahead of everyone, fell into a shell hole full of water, where he lost his rifle, jumped out without his rifle, and was the first into the enemy trench. Throughout the night, especially during the consolidation, his services and fine example were invaluable.

London Gazette 26th April 1917
2541 Pte. S. T. Thomas, Welsh Gds.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage and determination in maintaining communication in spite of the fact that his telephone was twice buried by hostile shell fire.

returned to France on 11th October 1918 and after acting as a CSM from 9th February 1918 until 11th October 1918 was medically discharged on 15th April 1919. (HWG Pages 15,76,84,90,93,99,268)

24 Sergt Oswald ASHFORD

DCM enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (14171), aged 18 years and 11 months, on 14th January 1909 at Bury St. Edmunds, giving his occupation as a gardener. On transferring to WG he was posted to Prince of Wales Company.

London Gazette 14th November 1916
 24 Sjt. O. Ashford, W. Gds.
 For conspicuous gallantry and skill in reorganising his company after all the officers had been killed or wounded. He also carried in a wounded officer under heavy fire.

Oswald actions and gallantry was recognized during the Battle of Ginchy on 9th September 1916. He reorganised POW Coy after all the Officers had been killed or wounded, and also carried in a wounded Officer under heavy fire. The war came to an end for Oswald at St Pierre Vaast on 5th March 1917, during a 4

day artillery counter barrage which had blown the line in. Both sides were sniping at each other and he received a severe gsw to his left forearm. He was discharged on 5th December 1917, no longer fit for war service. (HWG Pages 14,99,107,114,115,116,119,144)

2541 Gdsn Sidney Trevor

THOMAS DCM was a butcher from Llangyfelach when he enlisted. He was 22 years and 5 months old.

His gallantry was rewarded for maintaining communications during hostile fire. I have been unable to ascertain when this was, and there is no mention in the HWG of his gallantry. Sidney was transferred to Army reserves in September 1919 and was discharged on demobilization on 7th March 1920.

2361 Gdsn John Owen

PRITCHARD DCM - see the stand-alone article in this publication entitled "Rhosgadfan Hero Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)" for the full story on John Pritchard.

London Gazette 17th January 1917
 2361 Pte. J. O. Pritchard (Carnarvon), W. Gds.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in guiding a platoon of a relieving battalion to the front line, through a very heavy barrage, although wounded in fifteen different places early during the operation. He covered in all a distance of over three miles, and it was entirely due to his pluck and determination that a large section of the front line was relieved. He refused to have his wounds attended to until he had carried out his duty, after which he was carried back to the dressing station on a stretcher.

1209 Gdsn William HUGHES

DCM was a farmer from Bangor when he enlisted at Aberystwyth on 20th April 1915, aged 26 years and 6

London Gazette 17th September 1917

1209 Pte. W. Hughes (Glasinfoyn, nr. Bangor), W. Gds.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when one of a liaison party with other troops. At a critical moment, when fire had been opened from a strong concrete emplacement upon the attacking troops, he charged the position himself, and was followed by the remainder, who were so inspired by his fearlessness and determination that they captured the post. His heroic action was heartily cheered by the troops with whom his party was co-operating.

months. He was slightly wounded on 29th November 1916 and was wounded again with a gsw to his scalp on 5th March 1917.

During the 3rd Battle of Ypres, also known as Passendale, attacks by British and French troops faltered because of concealed blockhouses which were being defended by enemy machine gun posts. On 31st July 1917 Sergt Bye was awarded the VC for attacking these blockhouses. William was awarded his gallantry medal for his actions on the same day charging at and capturing an enemy post.

On 13th March 1918 William received a gsw to the left leg which resulted in him being discharged in London on 13th November 1919 as being no longer fit for war service. (HWG Pages 155,199,200)

2259 L/Cpl Obadiah Frederick WADDINGTON DCM

& Bar, MM was 36 years and 7 months old on enlistment at Pontypridd. He was married with one child and was a Quarryman. Obadiah had served in the Boer War with the East Lancashire Regt.

He was awarded the DCM for his actions on 12th October 1917, whilst a Private, when he was one of a party of four sent out to examine the ground leading up to Houthulst Forest north of Ypres. The citation for his award gives a detailed account of his gallant actions on that day.

On 31st March 1918 he was awarded the MM for his conduct at Boyelles, France whilst leading a patrol of twelve men. He was also responsible for bringing in two wounded Germans and a machine gun and returned without casualties

A Bar to his DCM was awarded for his determined leadership

as an NCO in the line on 17th September 1918 during an enemy attack, after a heavy bombardment. Although, wounded with a gsw to his right leg, and his platoons' position being in an extreme location, they were able to repulse the attack.

He was discharged on 14th December 1918 as being surplus to military requirements. (HWG Pages 163,210,243)

1663 Sergt Arthur George HAM DCM, MM.

enlisted on 11th June 1915 aged 20 years and 8 months at Barry. He gave his occupation as a Fireman and was not married. He was born in Rooksbridge Somerset.

London Gazette 28th March 1918
1663 Cpl. A. G. Ham, W. Gds. (High-bridge)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. He rushed his Lewis gun forward under heavy fire and engaged some enemy machine guns which were giving trouble. On reaching the enemy's trench he got a captured machine gun into action against the enemy and was of the greatest assistance in organising machine-gun teams and getting the guns into action. His cheerfulness and courage were a splendid example to all.

I have been unable to find much information regarding Arthur's service but believe he was awarded the MM for his actions to bring in wounded men following a trench raid on 10th March 1918. I have not been able to ascertain the date for his actions, for his DCM award. He received the award for his gallantry in engaging enemy machine guns during an attack.

He was issued a new 'Army Number' on 18th February 1919 (2730083) following the introduction of Army Order 338. Arthur was discharged on 3rd March 1921 on termination of period of engagement. (HWG Pages 199)

1229 Sergt Albert Henry EVANS DCM

was one of the many Police Constables who enlisted into WG. Twelve enlisted on 20th April 1915 at Newport including Albert and 1228 Sergt Christopher Londen GLOVER DCM. Albert gave his age as 24 years and 3 months and was from Marshfield in Monmouthshire. He was promoted to LCpl on 16th August 1915, Corporal on 19th January 1916, promoted in the field to LSgt on 17th September 1916 and to Sgt on 24th December 1916.

London Gazette 17th April 1918

1229 Sjt. A. H. Evans, Welsh Gds. (Marshfield, nr. Cardiff).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a period of eighteen months, he performed his work in a most exemplary and praiseworthy manner, showing an absolute disregard for danger and the greatest devotion to duty.

Albert was a Medical Orderly Sgt and his award was for exemplary conduct during an eighteen months period performing these duties. On 16th September 1918 he was mortally wounded with gsw to abdomen, chest, right shoulder and left leg. He died of these wounds at 5pm on 17th September 1918 and is

WELSH GUARDSMAN'S EXPLOIT.

Mrs Waddington, of Pengawri, Llantrisant, has received a letter from her husband, Private Fred Waddington, Welsh Guards, stating that he has been awarded the D.C.M. Private Waddington, who served in the Boer war with the East Lancashire Regiment, was the leader in a daring daylight raid on October 11. With three other Welsh Guardsmen, armed with rifles and bombs, he captured a strong German post. He was the only member of the party to come through the operation unhurt.



F. Waddington.

London Gazette 16th January 1919
2259 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) O. F. Waddington, D.C.M., M.M., 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Llantrisant, Glam.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 17th September, 1918, at Moeuvres. When the enemy attack opened after a heavy bombardment, during which he visited all the posts of his platoon and got up an extra supply of bombs and ammunition, he was wounded almost at once. He remained, however, with his men and beat off the enemy, throwing many bombs himself. The successful and immediate repulse of the attack at an important point was largely due to the gallant and determined leadership of this N.C.O., who in spite of his injuries left the line only on the order of his Company Commander. His splendid example of devotion to duty and endurance greatly encouraged the men under his command.

(D.C.M. gazetted 26th November, 1917.)

London Gazette 6th February 1918

2259 Pte. O. F. Waddington, W. Gds. (Llantrisant).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He went out in daylight with a party in an attempt to destroy an enemy strong point. On reaching the enemy's lines he stood on the parapet and tried to take them prisoners, but his party were outnumbered, and fired on by the enemy, and were forced to withdraw. Two of his party were wounded, and he went out in daylight to search for them, and succeeded in bringing one of them in, though under fire from enemy snipers the whole time. At night he went out with a party to find the other wounded man, and went right up to and along the enemy's trench. He set a splendid example of courage and determination.

buried at The Sunken Road Cemetery near Boisleux-St. Marc, grave ref. II.C.12. *HWG Pages (64,183,243)*

1228 Sergt Christopher Londen GLOVER DCM a Police Constable, was another of the twelve Police Officers who enlisted at Newport on 20th April 1915. Two were killed in action and as mentioned 1229 Sergt Evans died of wounds. Christopher was aged 27 years and 5 months, was born in Cardiff and married with two children.

London Gazette 1st May 1918

1228 L./Sjt. C. L. Glover, W. Gds. (Newport).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of a raiding party, and, though he had been wounded during the raid, he assisted on the return of the party to frustrate attempts by the enemy to collect our wounded. Having succeeded in this, he went out with a patrol under heavy machine-gun fire to search for and bring in the wounded. His courage and disregard of danger were a splendid example to all ranks.

He was appointed LCpl on 23rd April 1916, promoted to Cpl on 18th September 1916, LSgt on 30th December 1916 and then Sgt on 2nd October 1917.

During a trench raid on 10th March 1918 he received a gsw to his right thigh but set out again to retrieve other wounded and was commended for his actions. After being transferred to Army Reserves on 13th January 1919 he was discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1920. *HWG Pages (79,119,199)*

1529 L/Cpl George THOMAS DCM enlisted on 29th May 1915, aged 22 years and 2 months in Cardiff, where he was born. A butcher by trade he was married with 3 children. George was wounded 4 times during his service in the Bn and received two of these wounds during the Bn's action at St



Leger, in August 1918, when delivering a message from Bn HQ to the leading troops. He transferred to Army reserves in London on 11th February

October 1915, LSgt 11th on September 1916 and Sgt on 17th September 1916.

He had been slightly wounded by a gsw during the raid at Mortaldje on 1st July 1916.

Edmond was part of a fighting patrol in August 1918 near St Leger and received his gallantry award for carrying in one of the wounded under intense machine gun fire.

After being discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1920 he re-enlisted on 15th April 1921 into the Sherwood Foresters. *HWG Pages (237, 239)*

823 Sergt Edward JONES

DCM was 23 years of age when he enlisted in Pentre on 20th March 1915. He was a miner from Rhondala. Edward received a severe gsw at the Battle of Loos on 27th September 1915 and was evacuated back to the UK on 3rd September 1915. Following his return to active service on 19th February 1916 he was promoted to LCpl and then promoted to Cpl on 5th August

1917. The following month he was appointed LSgt, prior to being promoted to Sgt, in the field on 29th July 1918. He was badly affected by gas on 19th May 1918 and promoted to full Sgt on 14th June 1918. Edward rejoined the Bn. in the field on 29th July 1918 and was commended for his bravery at St Leger in August 1918.

Whilst leading his platoon during a WG attack a shell landed into the centre of the platoon, killing several and wounding others, including Edward who died of his wounds on 24th August 1918. Edward is buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery near Bailleulval. Grave ref III.E.24 along side five other WG who died during WW1. *HWG Pages (236,239)*

London Gazette December 1918
823 Sjt. E. Jones, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Treorchy).

By his fearless example of courage and determination he enabled his platoon to gain their objective, and was at the head of his men when he was very severely wounded.

668 Gdsn John DUFFY

DCM. John was attested on 22nd February 1915 at Neath with his brother James (669) and both enlisted into the WG. Both were married with 3 children. They gave their occupations as Labourers. John was the younger brother giving his age as 24 years and 2 months, whilst James was 27 years and 11 months.

James received severe gsw to both legs, during a night patrol on 24th May 1918, which resulted in them

London Gazette 5th December 1918

408 Sjt. E. S. Davies, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Stockport).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Under intense machine-gun fire he carried in a man who was wounded on patrol, and, though suffering from the effects of gas poisoning, remained on duty through two days' fighting, and only gave in and went to hospital when his company were taken out of the line. He set a fine example of courage and endurance.



London Gazette 8th August 1919

AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

668 Pte. J. Duffy, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Swan sea.)

being amputated. He was discharged on 1st April 1919.

John was awarded the DCM for his conduct on 10th March 1918 when the Bn was in the line at Fampoux near Arras. During a trench raid the enemy proceeded to bomb the party causing some casualties, including Lieut Paul Llewellyn who had broken his pelvis. Llewellyn ordered the party to return to the lines but John stayed behind to carry Llewellyn back to safety and then immediately volunteered to search in no man's land for missing comrades helping to bring in four men.

John was discharged on 31st March 1920 following demobilization and was killed

by a rock fall in a mine in Swansea in 1947; he was 57 years of age. *HWG Pages (199)*

1185 L/Sergt Frank HALL DCM. Frank was another Police Constable, married, who enlisted into the WG on 10th April 1915 aged 22 years and 4 months, in Cardiff. He lived in Weybridge, Surrey. He was promoted to LCpl on 5th October 1917 and to LSgt on 7th December 1918 after the war ended. His award was given for great courage and devotion to duty whilst being in charge of the Bn's observers. After being transferred to Army Reserves he was discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1918. Following the armistice Frank suffered a serious bout of pneumonia and, after recovering, took up his duties as a Police Constable at Penarth. *HWG Pages (-)*

6 CSM Alfred PEARCE DCM. Alfred enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (14084) on 20th November 1908 aged 18 years and 11 months in Bristol. He was born in Bedminster, Bristol and gave his occupation as a labourer. He was posted to 2 Coy as CSM on his transfer

London Gazette 3rd September 1919
6 C./S./M. A. Pearce, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Bristol).

He has served as company serjeant-major since August, 1915, in the field, and has always shown the greatest keenness and devotion to duty. On the 25th February, 1918, at Roeux he displayed the greatest gallantry and initiative in taking forward under cover of darkness a Lewis gun into No Man's Land, and at dawn opening fire on an enemy machine gun which had been causing great annoyance to our working parties. His fire was so heavy and accurate that the enemy were forced to relinquish their post and retire over the open, five of them being shot whilst doing so.

to the WG on 27th February 1915.

Alfred was MID whilst the Bn was in the front line at St Pierre Vaast. Amidst heavy shell fire he had great success in sniping at the enemy, alongside Sergt Ashford DCM, who was badly wounded in this action.

In February 1918 the Bn were holding some two thousand yards of front line with 3 Companies at Roeux, near Arras and were experiencing many enemy trench raids.

On the night of 25th February 1918 Alfred had the presence of mind to take forward a Lewis gun into No Man's Land. At dawn he opened fire causing such havoc to an enemy machine gun post that they were forced to retire, with many shot whilst doing so. Alfred was a member of the party who returned to England on 23rd December 1918 to bring out the Colours alongside Sgt Grant, also a DCM recipient.

He was issued a new 'Army Number' on 18th February 1919 (2730005) following the introduction of Army Order 338. He was discharged at Caterham on 24th August 1921. *HWG Pages (10,15,80,144,225,293)*

395 L/Sergt William ROBERTS DCM enlisted into Grenadier Guards (20312) on 9th November 1914 aged 26

and 5 months at Chesterfield. He gave his occupation as a Miner, and that he was born in Stratford. He was married with no children on enlistment.

London Gazette 11th March 1920
395 Cpl. (L./Sjt.) W. Roberts, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Brownhills).

For conspicuous devotion to duty and gallant conduct during the recent advance, and particularly at the Canal du Nord on the 18th September, 1918, when in charge of a platoon. The platoon came under heavy shell fire and suffered severe casualties. Though wounded, he personally supervised the collection of the wounded, and it was owing to his coolness and skilful handling of his men that the relief was properly completed.

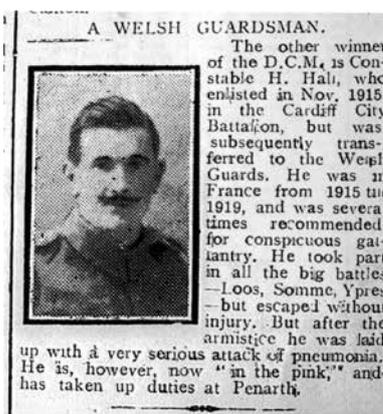
William was promoted to LCpl on 18th January 1916, promoted to Cpl on 3rd May 1918 and appointed to LSgt on 23rd August 1918. He received an accidental bayonet wound to his right foot on 23rd September 1916.

William received his gallantry award during action at the Hindenburg line when his platoon came under heavy fire, and he supervised the collection of the wounded. He was discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1920. *HWG Pages (-)*

858 Gdsn Treasure THOMAS DCM enlisted 29th March 1915 aged 28 years and 9 months at Pontypridd. He was a Police Constable born in Dudley. Treasure was awarded his gallantry medal in recognition of his devotion to duty, particularly on 20th October 1918 at the crossing of the River Selle. He transferred to Army Reserve on 1st March 1919 and was discharged on 31st March 1920 on demobilization. *HWG Pages (-)*

London Gazette 11th March 1920
858 Pte. T. Thomas, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Pontypridd).

For continuous gallantry and devotion to duty, particularly on 20th October, 1918, at the crossing of the River Selle. On this occasion, when his section commander had been killed, he at once assumed command of the section, and by his dash and coolness led them successfully to the final objective.



London Gazette 3rd September 1919
1185 L./C. F. Hall, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Weybridge).

He had been in charge of the battalion observers for the last eighteen months, and has continually displayed the greatest courage and devotion to duty. His services have been of the greatest use on many occasions, notably while the battalion was in the Boyelles sector in April and May, 1913, when he was able to give warning of the enemy massing, which he observed under shell fire.



London Gazette 25th February 1920

23 C./Q./M./S. L. Hunter, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Camberwell).

For conspicuous gallantry at Amfroipret on the night of 5th/6th November, 1918. The billets occupied by his company were heavily shelled, and one shell burst in a barn, killing six men and wounding twenty-six. He attended to the wounded, and later went to Battalion Headquarters, being heavily shelled all the way, to bring up the medical officer.

Guards (13927) on 5th September 1908 aged 20 years and 7 months, in Bristol. He was born in Gravesend, married with 2 children and gave his occupation as a Tram Conductor. Leo received gsw to his back on 7th November 1914, whilst serving with Grenadiers in the first Battle of Ypres.

On transferring to the WG Leo was posted to POW Coy as acting CSM. His award was for gallantry on the night of 5th/6th November, when the enemy were shelling near the village of Buvignies and the billets, occupied by his company, were hit by shell fire.

Leo was one of 13 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men who went out with the Bn and returned with it, having served the entire period with the Bn. He was issued a new 'Army Number' on 18th February 1919 (2730010) following the introduction of Army Order 338 and was discharged on 5th April 1921. *HWG Pages (14,79,225,295)*

3093 Gdsn Arthur THOMAS

DCM enlisted on 19th September 1916 aged 26 years and 1 month, at Bangor. He was a teacher from Rhostryfan. On the 6th November 1918 the Bn was in engagement with the enemy near Baviil with 3 Coy leading the advance to Preherth Farm. Arthur was engaging the enemy with a Lewis Gun and suffered gsw to his face. He was

recommended for gallantry for his actions and awarded the DCM. He was transferred to Army Reserves in London on 13th March 1919 and discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1920. *HWG Pages (282)*

**London Gazette 25th February 1920
3093 Pte. A. Thomas, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Portdinorwic, N. Wales).**

For conspicuous gallantry near Bavani on 6th November, 1918. He was advancing with his Lewis gun when machine-gun fire was opened from the left flank, and he was badly wounded. He crawled to where his gun was lying and poured a steady fire until the men got over the crest. Later, he helped a badly wounded comrade to battalion headquarters.

872 L/Cpl Ernest William

GORDON DCM, MM & Bar was a shop assistant from Bridgend aged 24 years and 7 months when he enlisted on 27th March 1915 at Swansea.

Ernest had been gassed on 2nd May 1918 and was awarded the MM for his actions during the advance to St Vaast in October 1918.

The DCM was awarded for his actions on 6th Nov 1918 after following OC 3 Coy, along with LSgt W Jones, over 50 yards of

open ground before jumping into a cutting near the Bavai railway, which held 30 or so of the enemy. They started firing at the enemy and accounted for 10 or more before they reached the protection of an adjacent hedge. Ernest received a gsw to his left thigh in this action. This was to be the last action for the Bn as they advanced and entered the town of Bavai the following day.

Ernest was transferred to Army Reserves on 5th December 1919 and discharged on demobilization on 31st March 1920. *HWG Pages (266,281,282)*

1 RSM William STEVENSON

DCM, MM enlisted into the Scots Guards on 9th July 1901, aged 18 years, in London. He gave his occupation as a Clerk. He married in January 1901 and his son, William was born in January 1911. He was wounded at Gheluvelt during the Battle of Ypres in 1914 and although transferring to the WG on 27th February 1915 had not sufficiently recovered for active service until 13th May 1918. He re-joined the Bn at Boyellers, in July 1918 and resumed his duties as Regimental Sergeant Major from RCM Walter Bland who had held the position in his absence, from October 1915. Stevenson remained in that position until June 1928 when he was commissioned. He retired from the Army in the rank of Major in 1937 and died

on 14th January 1961, aged seventy-eight. *HWG Pages (5,10,15,222,248,296)*



**London Gazette 11th March 1920
1 R./S./M. W. Stevenson, M.M., 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Barnes).**

For invaluable services during the period from the 27th September, 1918, till the 11th November, 1918. Throughout that time of successive heavy engagements he did extremely well, both in the work of organisation and training for attack and in the promoting and maintaining in all ranks of a keen fighting spirit.

Note: The author has interpreted information taken from the History of the Welsh Guards by C.H. Dudley Ward DSO MC, History of the Guards Division 1915-1918 by Cuthbert Headlam, DSO and other publications and sources which may not mirror the details of the above individuals action's and dates etc, for their bravery awards, that may be held by the Regiment or other sources.

London Gazette 25th February 1920

872 Pte. E. W. Gordon, 1st Bn., W. Gds. (Bridgend).

For conspicuous gallantry and determination at Bavai on 6th November, 1918. He broke down the resistance of two machine guns, first by wounding two, and then by charging the post, and disposing of seven of the crew himself. Later, he shot five men, when he himself was hit, and, though unable to stand, kept up a rapid fire while his company got forward.

In Memoriam

John 'Jack' Perks Guardsman 2735449 and Prisoner of War number 8027

by Captain Marcus Scriven

John Perks, always known as Jack, died on 6th October aged 101. He is believed to have been the last surviving Welsh Guardsman taken prisoner at Boulogne.



The penury of his early life prepared him well for wartime privations. Blessed with intimidating physical strength, plus instinctive resourcefulness and an adamant character, Jack Perks was also richly equipped for challenges which would prove fatal to others.

Born on 5th July 1919, he grew up in Penrhiwfer, the second of five sons of William Perks, a miner, and his Irish wife, Florence, who took in washing to help make ends meet.

Aged 14, Jack joined his father in the pit. In 1934, his first full year underground, 122 men lost their lives in Welsh mines. Jack saw one man have an arm ripped off – and then carry it out of the mine in the hand which remained unscathed.

He worked there until shortly before the outbreak of war, when he secured a place at Bridgend arsenal. Called up in January 1940, he joined the 2nd Battalion.

That May, he was a member of 'Harpoon Force' which

evacuated the Dutch Royal Family and British Embassy staff in a 48 hour operation.

Less than a fortnight later, he was sitting on 'an iron bench, with water up to your knees', bound for Boulogne – 'a bloody cock-up'.

'You could see a tank at each end [of the street]. The tanks closed in – '30 yards, 20 yards' – as the Germans 'searched every house'. Disarmed and taken prisoner, Jack and the others were 'knocked around a bit' and taken to a field, fearing 'the worst'.

Their misgivings weren't absurd. Four days later, 80 prisoners – many from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment – were massacred after surrendering at Wormhout.

Over the next 48 hours – initially on the march, then consigned to cattle trucks – Jack and fellow prisoners went without food and water: an appropriate prelude to Stalag XX-A, 125 miles north-west of Warsaw. On arrival, they were asked if there were any farmers amongst them. 'I said I was,' he recalled. 'I wasn't going to say "coal miner". Winters were 'very bad': rain in October, turning to snow 'feet of it'. But he could scavenge for food.

In January 1945, the prisoners were 'kicked out onto the roads', alongside thousands of civilians, 'women and kids... no clothes, bugger all'.



At night, they lay down 'on the snow', too cold to sleep.

After five or six days, he and a fellow Welshman broke away, expecting to be shot – preferable, it seemed, to freezing to death.

No shots were fired. After half a mile, they came to a house occupied by men from 'different mobs – even Germans who'd run away'. Jack slept in a kennel. The Russians arrived next morning, 'put a tank barrel through a window, glass flying everywhere. Then one of the boys shouted: "American! I'm American!" That changed it'.

Faltering progress through Poland followed, on foot, once on a lorry and, at Warsaw, cattle trucks – 60 men to a truck – destined for Odessa. 'Three days, three nights. No food, no water.' Four 'or five' were dead on arrival.

Weeks later, Jack walked the final two miles home. His father, he recalled, had 'changed completely. I said: "Where's Mam?"'

His mother, who had saved every penny of his Prisoner of War pay, had died weeks earlier.

Successively a driver for the Control Commission in Germany, a bookie's runner – knocking out a rival who

attempted to muscle in on his patch – and then a bookie himself, Jack flourished. He periodically 'hauled out' troublemakers at Bindles nightclub in Barry as a favour to management.

He outlived both his wives, Moreen and Moira, both his sons, Lance and John, a grandson and his son-in-law, played golf till 90 – irked to be charged for 18 holes when playing only 3 or 6 – and reluctantly abandoned driving at 98.

In the last decade of his life, Jack returned to Stalag XX-A. Gratitude for survival competed with frustration that he'd been denied the chance to fight – perhaps explaining why he eschewed Welsh Guards reunions. Yet, nearing his centenary, he asked his daughter Joy to contact Regimental Headquarters and was delighted by the party held in his honour and his telegram from the Prince of Wales.

Joy survives him, with a tribe of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

1. 2735449 Guardsman John (Jack) Perks
2. Gdsm Jamie Smith (2 Coy) and Bob Chambers help Jack celebrate his 100th Birthday in 2019



**In Memoriam
Sid Elsbury
Guardsman 2734413**

by Captain Marcus Scriven

Sid Elsbury, who died on 5th April aged 101, is likely to have been the last Welsh Guardsman to have enlisted before the war: he took the King’s Shilling on 10th February 1936, adding a year to his age to do so.

Born on 15th September 1918, he lived initially in Blaengarw, north of Bridgend, with his elder brother and mother; his father, a miner, had died before Sid’s birth, a victim of Spanish Flu. There was no widow’s pension; his mother earned a meagre living as a seamstress..

During the General Strike Sid scavenged slag tips for coal. A year later, he went door-to-door with a suitcase, selling surplus cottons. When the family moved to Porthcawl, he was successively a paper-boy, lather-boy, errand-boy and kitchen porter. On his 16th birthday, he and his mother moved to Oxford

where his brother had found work.

His mother urged Sid to join the police; a neighbour, a constable, recommended four years in the Guards first.

Joining the Battalion at Wellington Barracks, he proved himself a useful boxer (‘the Blonde Bombshell’) and sent 4/- of his weekly 10/- home to his mother. Soon, lured by extra pay, he became a carpenter in the pioneer platoon.

In April 1939, the Battalion was posted to Gibraltar, where the pioneers adapted tunnels as air raid shelters. Two months later they were transferred to the recently formed 2nd Battalion and were soon sandbagging St James’s and Buckingham Palaces, ‘just like brickwork’.

The following May, the 2nd Battalion – as part of 20th Guards Brigade – headed to Boulogne, ordered to defend it ‘to the last man, the last round’.

It was, Sid recalled, ‘a fiasco’. Assigned to Battalion headquarters, he and ten other pioneers dug slit trenches, primed grenades – one of which was his personal weapon – and built barricades from farm carts. ‘We didn’t have any anti-tank mines,’ remembered Sid, who was ordered, with two others, to



man a Bren gun and 'cover a field beyond a railway line'.

Hours later, they heard firing at the docks; only then did they realise that they were on their own. Quite quickly they found LSgt Benjamin Alexander, critically wounded. Sid Elsbury made his way to three ambulances on high ground. 'There was nobody there,' he recalled. He found a taxi, took it 'up the field and on the railway line' to Alexander and gave him water.

Deciding that Alexander was too severely wounded to be moved, Sid made it back to the Battalion on a BSA motorbike – retrieved from a mass of abandoned vehicles – and reported Alexander's condition to Battalion headquarters. He was dismayed to hear the orders: 'Every man for himself!'

He recalled a sergeant kneeling by the bridge to the docks, warning the men that it was under sniper fire and ordering them to sprint across at 5 second intervals. Safely over, Sid watched as a destroyer 'came in backwards, firing his gun at tanks on the opposite side of the harbour'. He was among those evacuated.

By July 1944, having twice refused promotion, he was the gunner of a Honey tank. The frustrations of the four intervening years had caused 'half the Battalion [to volunteer] to be rear-gunners in aircraft' – provoking an edict those in the Brigade of Guards could not apply.

Days after arriving in Normandy, Sid Elsbury and six other Welsh Guardsmen – 'miles behind the front line' – were listening as a Canadian talked about the Hitler Youth. The sound of enemy shells



was also miles away, but something caused Sid to dive under his tank and yell: 'Take cover!'

Five of the Welsh Guardsmen were killed by the incoming shell; another, 72 Williams, had a broken arm. Sid Elsbury's legs were shattered legs. Initially in a wheelchair, then on crutches, he recovered to become a Special Constable in peacetime, build his own bungalow and have a long career in the Civil Service.

He married Kathleen, who died 16 years ago, and had three sons – Richard, John and Dave – seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. In the mid-80s, he and Kathleen retired to Pembrokeshire

where Sid regularly attended Association events.

An intelligent man of great integrity, loyalty and humour, Sid Elsbury embodied the resilience of his generation. Near the end of his long life, he was almost completely blind and deaf. But he correctly pointed out: 'I've still got my marbles'.

1. 2734113 Gdsm S Elsbury
2. Lance Sergeant Stuart Laing and Guardsman Amadou Jallow from Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards travelled to Haverfordwest in 2018 to help Sid celebrate his 100th Birthday.
3. The Légion d'Honneur medal was presented to Sid Elsbury by the French Consul of France in Wales Mme Marie Brousseau-Navarro at his home on Saturday 21st September 2019 with RQMS James Davies representing the Regiment.



RECRUITING, CADETS, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Combined Cadet Force, marked 128 years by re-cap badging to The Welsh Guards in 2019

by Captain (Retired) CJR Fraser-Sampson Welsh Guards

I want to start by telling the story of two amazing Welsh Guardsmen who have, between them, delivered a remarkable number of years of exceptional service to Berkhamsted's CCF and deserve some overdue recognition.

The first is W02 (Retd) Des Keoghane, MBE who gave over 40 years' service, on and off, to the Corps, arriving in 1973 and retiring in 2002 but still a fixture for the Corps whenever required, including the preparations for HM The Queen's visit to the school in 2016 where an honour guard was inspected.

As a not very academic, fourteen year old, already wedded to the idea of joining the Army, he was my first experience of a senior non-commissioned officer and I had no idea at that time 22 years ago, that the standards, passion, warmth and humility he showed during my time in the school's cadet force would leave a lasting impression which in later years cemented my desire to join only one Regiment. I cannot explain how incredible this man was; he sadly died in late 2016. I can only picture the smile and pride that would be on his face had he been stood, where I stood, along with my former platoon sergeant, WO2 RQMS Davies 03, on that glorious clear, sunny day as the cadets paraded on the grass quadrangle, in their brand new Welsh Guards service dress. This was to mark the day that they switched their affiliation, after god-knows how many years, from The Royal Anglian Regiment.

'Des' as he is affectionately known started the Welsh Guards association with the school in the early 1970s. Sadly for Des he and his family were to suffer a tragic loss when his son, Kevin, a Lance Sergeant in the Mortar Platoon, Support Company, was killed instantly aboard the Sir Galahad during the Falklands war of 1982. One cannot imagine the whirlwind of emotions that must be endured watching with great pride as your son follows in your footsteps joining your Regiment, only for that to later be shattered knowing that this would ultimately lead to their death. Worse still Kevin died leaving behind a pregnant wife and son he'd never know but Des, by all accounts, quickly put his emotions to one side and immediately stepped up to become that inspirational male role model for his new grandson. I will always remember his stoic and proud recital of "For the Fallen" at each year's school remembrance service, in the school chapel, medals striking, razor sharp creases in his uniform, his eyes slightly misty but never allowing a tear to develop, clutching a forage cap with a photo of Kevin in the inside.

His sense of humour was classic of a man of his generation, with obscure expletives and micky taking not heard or experienced

before by teenagers of the late 90s. When Des handed over in the early 2000s and it was brilliant that he was to be followed by another great Welsh Guardsman; thus carrying on the tradition. WO2 Steve Carter, was a younger and more up to date version of Des and that is in no way, a slight on Des, only that Steve was the perfect replacement for Des because he embodied everything that was Des but just in a newer brand. A Falkland's veteran himself, with an even more impressive row of medals, it's fair to say that Steve brings with him experience from nearly every operational theatre from the past 40 years, with the exception of the first Gulf War, and that's only because The Welsh Guards never deployed as a formed body.

Just like his predecessor, Steve is starting to set the tone for long service with Berkhamsted School and in particular the Cadet Force; 17 years now under his belt and no sign of stepping back. He has continued the traditions that Des put in place but also helped modernise the Corps in-line with the school's outlook, such as students now attending junior leadership courses as part of their development and promotion. He plans, organises and runs a number of exercises to various training areas and camps across the country throughout the academic year, culminating in a summer annual camp, as part of a pretty demanding training programme that goes some way beyond what most cadet forces put on. It's on these exercises over the years that Steve and the cadet force have often relied on Welsh Guards support with kit, logistics and importantly manpower. For a long time people were saying that if The Welsh Guards are lending support in an ad-hoc manner and there's history of



two long standing Sergeant Majors with the school, then why is the Corps affiliated to the Royal Anglian Regiment and can they re-cap badge Welsh Guards?

Luckily the right questions were raised and the right people asked, notably, The Regimental Adjutant, who has experience in this field with other school cadet forces wishing to "Come in from the Cold" and so on Monday 1st July, 2019, the culmination of a great deal of administration and coordination, saw it become official. It must be mentioned that the Commanding Officer, importantly took an entire day away from Battalion to attend, to demonstrate the value the Regiment places on this sort of affiliation and along with

the Regimental Adjutant were extremely gracious with their time and their words when addressing the students, parents and teachers at Berkhamsted Collegiate School. Thanks must also go to The Corps of Drums who gave the parade an added spectacle and Welsh Guards understated excellence.

It's in little doubt that the Cadet Force was ever going to struggle to continue doing what it's done so well for generations at the school with Steve Carter at the wheel. What can't be denied however is that with the Welsh Guards affiliation, it should hopefully cement the future of the Corps for many more generations but importantly strengthen the

relationship between School and Regiment. I sincerely hope that when Steve does eventually decide to move on, another highly capable and much liked Welsh Guards senior non-commissioned officer will take up the reins. As far as I'm aware, I'm the only Berkhamstedian to have commissioned into The Regiment which is pretty incredible given the number of decent people I've known over the years who subsequently joined The Army. It would therefore be brilliant if this new relationship meant that we see one or two more, young men and of course I should say nowadays, young women, through the doors of Regimental Headquarters as potential officers in the coming years.



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Welsh Combat Regiments' Parliamentary Reception 2020

by Warrant Officer Class 1 M E Parry 19

Regimental Sergeant Major 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

Soldiers representing all three regular Welsh Combat Regiments met their Members of Parliament in the Attlee Suite of the Palace of Westminster as part of the annual Welsh Regiments' Parliamentary Reception.

All three Regiments (1st Battalion Welsh Guards, Royal Welsh, The Queen's Dragoon Guards) have been extremely busy in 2019 and had much to report back to the Members of Parliament in 2020.

The MPs were paired with soldiers from their constituencies, allowing soldiers the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns about their home town. Major General JFP Swift OBE, Colonel R WELSH said: *"While our Regular units here today are not based in Wales, all of the soldiers pretty much come from Wales, their families are in Wales and their hearts are in Wales"*.

Our own Commanding Officer, Lt Col HS Llewelyn-Usher, told MPs that 90 per cent of our Battalion are from Wales and said: *"We're currently on public duties and based in Windsor and some people may think our role is ceremonial and that's it, but it's not the case. Those you see mounting Guard are serving soldiers and they play a very active and key role in our war-fighting capability as a nation. We're currently building up for the Trooping the Colour on June 13 and then we start our progression back into operations. Wales is a key link for us and not just something we pay lip service to. We have brothers, uncles, sons and fathers serving together in the battalion, with that strong familial Welsh thread running right through our lineage"*.

At the conclusion of the reception, the MPs took the soldiers on an interesting tour of the Houses of Parliament, which was much appreciated by all. This annual event is deemed critical in linking Welsh MPs to the lives, experiences and homes of Welsh soldiers; it has established personal relationships that conjoin the rarely proximate political and tactical levels. 1st Battalion Welsh Guards are grateful for the continuing invitation and look forward to participating in next year's reception.



1. Gdsm Osman with Tonia Antoniazzi (Lab) MP for Gower
2. LSgt Bond with Carolyn Harris (Lab) MP for Swansea
3. Commanding Officer briefing the audience



1

Visit of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex

by Captain J Byrne Grenadier Guards, Unit Welfare Officer

In late October 2019, the welfare team was informed that a very, very important person (VVIP) would be attending our weekly coffee morning for the wives and families.

This turned out to be a fantastic surprise to all members of the Windsor Garrison community comprising of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and remnants of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

On the morning of 6th November 2019, the wives were at a heightened state of anticipation wondering who the VVIP would be. The coffee morning assembled as usual in the community centre; just as the usual hubbub of families catching up was spreading through the air, in walked the VVIPs: Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Sussex. To the amazement,

shock and pleasant surprise of everyone, they were met by Mrs Helen Llewelyn-Usher (wife of the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards) and the Welfare Officer for an initial brief on the current tempo of Battalion life, and of the stresses and strains experienced by the families during a very busy year. Their Royal Highnesses were then led into the community centre on the Broom Farm Estate where they were met by over one hundred family members. Having planned to stay for an hour, the Royal couple enjoyed their visit and the opportunity to speak with the families to such an extent that they stayed for nearly two! They quite



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obviously felt comfortable and were able to relate to the stories shared by the families, as their son Prince Archie had only recently been born. Both the Duke and Duchess were very gracious and keen to listen.

The whole morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and was a fantastic experience for the welfare team particularly. The families still talk about the morning they met the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and will now treasure this lasting memory for years to come.

1. *The Duchess of Sussex was spoilt for choice by the families.*
2. *The Duke of Sussex was on great form for the children!*
3. *The Royal Pair receive flowers.*
4. *They made a real impression on our families.*
5. *The Duchess of Sussex listens carefully.*

Defeat Don't Repeat

by Sergeant R Rutledge, 3 Platoon Sergeant,
The Prince of Wales's Company

I came up with the concept of Defeat Don't Repeat (DDR) sitting on my cot-bed, which reminded me of my old prison bed, whilst on tour in Afghanistan.

Here I decided I really wanted to give something back and help young people who were unfortunate, as I was, to find themselves in a challenging and poisonous situation.

I was already selling drugs by 15, before finding myself in jail 4 years later for possession of Class A substances with intent to supply. Having served half of my 16-month sentence, I was released back into society where I found my life quickly spiralled out of control. I immediately went back to dealing just hours after walking out as a free-man and also began taking the drugs.

Having been released I felt I was not needed in society and thought I was then completely unemployable. During this period my drug debt reached over £15,000 and at my very lowest moment I contemplated suicide. If I had not joined the Army, I would either be back behind bars or worse six feet under.

The Army and Welsh Guards took a chance on me after I visited an Army Careers Centre in desperation in 2009. This has turned my life around. The training broke me down before putting all the pieces back together in the right order. The Welsh Guards have offered me structure and a routine. This has saved me.

Since joining the Welsh Guards, I have been fortunate enough to be deployed to Afghanistan, the Falklands, Kenya, Romania, Germany and Belize.

DDR is intended to be a vehicle for me to tell my story to others that might be struggling and give something back. The course I have designed is intended to give youngsters, who may find themselves drifting astray into a criminal life, a second chance. I try to pass on my own experiences to help illustrate what can be done and how lives can be turned around. My story is deliberately designed to be raw to veer youngsters away from falling into the same traps I did.

I piloted this scheme for 13 teenagers selected from London schools on Longmoor Training Area earlier this year. It entailed low-level military training and challenges that promote teamwork and discipline. This includes activities such as assault courses, casualty evacuation exercises and marching drills. The syllabus also includes emergency first aid skills, from tourniquets to field dressings, which could come in useful in the aftermath of gangland battles on the streets of the UK. In addition to learning new skills, the teenagers are offered a forum in which to discuss racism, religion and gang culture.

DDR is not meant to be a Welsh Guards recruitment exercise. However, it does show that both the Army and Welsh Guards are prepared to work very closely with youngsters and help point them in the right direction. However, three participants in the pilot have since sought my advice about enlisting.



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My ambition is to join forces with other reformed soldiers with former convictions and offer the course for up to 40 teenagers at a time who hail from deprived and vulnerable areas across the country. COVID has delayed these plans, but I have been fortunate to still have been able to visit prisons across the UK and The Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC), in Colchester to tell my story to some of the staff and inmates. Due to their crimes (enough for them to end up behind bars), they realise that they have messed up and acknowledge the mistakes they have made. Speaking to them after the presentations, I would say 80 per cent of the audiences

I brief, in the various different prisons, would give their right arm to be where I am now.

I hope my story can inspire teenagers and prisoners not to give up; Life can be turned around. I am a Platoon Sergeant, in charge of 20-plus Welsh Guardsmen: running the platoon, orchestrating it and looking after every individual. Hopefully I am an inspiration and a role model to those that might need one in their lives.

1. The author.
2. The first course, run in Longmoor.
3. Briefing the participants on the course.
4. The participants on the course enjoying themselves.



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Welsh Guards Recruiting

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Lewis, Recruiting Warrant Officer

Having only recently taken over the role of Recruiting Warrant Officer, I was immediately impressed by the work ethic and resolve of the Regimental Support Teams (RSTs) in both North and South Wales.

Throughout the pandemic they have worked tirelessly to continue recruiting for the Battalion, despite the restrictions put in place across the country.

As a result, both the North and South Wales RSTs are going

from strength to strength, armed with an impressive can-do attitude that has not let the pandemic and its restrictions hold them back or effect the number of potential Welsh Guardsmen wishing to join us. The Regimental Support Teams currently consist of:



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WO2 Lewis 29
LSgt Devine
LCpl Worthington

Sgt Duffy
LCpl Hughes 41
Gdsm Hathway

Sgt Shapland
LCpl Morgan
Gdsm Peacock

LSgt Crowley
LCpl Morris
Gdsm Williams 45

LSgt Davies 35
LCpl Oxtoby

Imaginative and innovative ideas have kept the interest of

those wishing to join the Welsh Guards alive; by keeping in touch through social media, regular phone calls, sending photos, video lessons and Zoom meetings, they have continued to nurture potential Guardsman.

As restrictions relax, we will start to see the RSTs return to the Military Preparation and Training Colleges (MPTCs) and recruiting events that allow them to interact with the public and potential Guardsmen, something they are all eager for and miss greatly.

This year we have seen the arrival of the first female Welsh Guardsmen in Battalion. They

are a testament not only to their own drive and determination, but also a credit to the members of the RSTs that ensured they had the confidence and ability to succeed in the demanding challenges that faced them.

The recruiting future is looking good for the Welsh Guards, with successful and continued support given to the MPTCs, we are hoping that the next area that we look to exploit, which is persistent engagement with lower level and grass roots sports teams, targeting 17 to 24 year olds in Wales, will be as successful also.

Whatever the future may hold,

the RSTs will continue to nurture those that show an interest in becoming a Welsh Guardsman and experiencing a life less ordinary.

Number of Welsh Guardsman currently loaded to training at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick (ITC (C)) in 2020 = 63

- 1-2. *Members of the RSTs teach cadets infantry skills and drills*
3. *The RSTs try and integrate as much as possible with the MPCTs*
4. *Cadets are taught the principles of All-Round Defence*
5. *LSgt Davies teaching a lesson*



Worshipful Livery Company of Wales Grant
by Captain S A Ward, Battalion Media Officer

Founded in 1993 as the Welsh Livery Guild to promote education, the arts, science and technology in Wales, in 2013 the Guild was presented with a Royal Charter and renamed the **Worshipful Livery Company of Wales (WLCOW)**.

WLCOW is dedicated to helping young people throughout Wales to develop their talents and skills by means of an annual awards programme of scholarships and bursaries to students in schools, universities and technical colleges, as well as to apprentices and young people in the armed forces.

The Welsh Guards have been affiliated with the WLCOW for many years and each year is fortunate enough to receive an annual grant. This year, the generous annual £1000 grant was kindly awarded to the Welsh Guards Alpine Ski Team. Following a successful year at the Infantry Championships (Ex FROSTED BLADE, written about

elsewhere in this publication) and the Divisional and Army Championships, the Alpine team were well placed to carry on building a team for the future in the 20/21 season. At the time of writing, it is extremely unlikely that Army ski racing will happen this winter. However, the grant is still well received, and will be spent on new equipment for the team – ski goggles and gloves are the highest priority.

Unfortunately, plans for a presentation and lunch in the Officers Mess for the Livery Company representatives were, as most things this year, ruined by the ever-present COVID-19 restrictions, and so

our gratitude could not be fully expressed in person. However, the Alpine team are honoured to be chosen to be awarded this grant, and grateful to the ongoing support the Worshipful Livery Company give to the Battalion.

- *The photographs show the author, a member of the Battalion Alpine Ski Team, the worthy recipients of this year's generous WLCOW grant, participating on Ex FROSTED BLADE.*

**THE WORSHIPFUL
LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES**

The Honourable Society for
Arts, Science and Technology

Nurturing Welsh Talent

**CWMNI ANRHYDEDDUS
LIFRAI CYMRU**

Y Gymdeithas Anrhydeddus
tros Gelf, Gwyddor a Thechnoleg

Meithrin Dawn Cymru



INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES



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HMS Prince of Wales

by Lieutenant RS Statham-Quilty, Combat Systems Officer HMS Prince of Wales

This has been an exciting year in the generation of HMS Prince of Wales, with significant change and progress being made onboard since last year's update.

The ship sailed from Rosyth in September 2019 for her initial sea trials off the coast of Scotland. The Aircraft Carrier Alliance and Royal Navy crew tested all systems including the Gas Turbines, Combat Management System, Long and Medium Range Radars, Pyrolysis System (waste management system) and General Purpose Machine Guns.

In November 2019 HMS Prince of Wales made her inaugural journey into her home port of Portsmouth and was welcomed by thousands of people on the sea front and friends and family on the jetty.

The ship was formally handed over to the Royal Navy in December 2019 with a Commissioning Ceremony attended by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, who is the Ship's Sponsor. It was a hugely momentous day for all those that

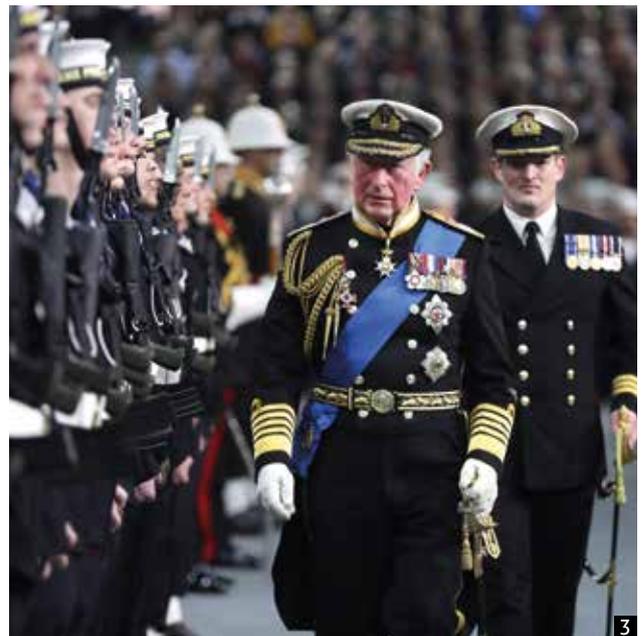
had worked tirelessly over the past few years to bring the Ship out of build and into Service.

After a short engineering period the ship went to sea for the first time flying the White Ensign in February 2020 for more tests and trials along with aviation training, prior to a week-long port visit to Liverpool, one of the Ship's affiliated cities. During the visit around 20,000 local residents, industry personnel, school and youth groups, and affiliates were invited onboard for various tours, reception evenings and industry events. It was the first time that one of the Queen Elizabeth Class Carriers was open to the general public and a great opportunity for the Ship's Company to enjoy a run ashore!

The ship returned to Portsmouth just as the UK was entering lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period some of the Ship's



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1. GPMG shoot at sea
2. during initial sea trials
3. HMS Prince of Wales first entry into Portsmouth
4. HRH The Prince of Wales inspects the Royal Guard
5. The White Ensign was lifted for the first time on 10th December 2020
6. HMS Prince of Wales alongside its affiliated city of Liverpool
7. HMS Prince of Wales Ship's Company Remembrance Day Service

Company assisted with COVID testing in the local area, whilst the engineers delivered the planned Capability Insertion Period. With around 40 significant new pieces of equipment being fitted to the Ship it was one of the largest engineering and maintenance period ever undertaken by the Royal Navy in recent years.

Amongst the new equipment fitted were the three Phalanx Close in Weapons System that will provide protection against incoming missiles and fast incoming attack craft.

The time alongside has also allowed for routine engineering maintenance to be conducted and for Ship's Company to spend

valuable time with family and friends. Refreshed from leave, all are now looking forward to the next period at sea testing new equipment, training our personnel and increasing the operational capability of HMS Prince of Wales.





5TH Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment – The Tiger Battalion

by Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Dirago, Commanding Officer

5RAR started the year somewhat earlier than expected assuming Army’s Ready Battle Group (RBG) commitment while our sister battalion, 7 RAR, responded to the bushfires that ravaged across Australia.

BHQ was recalled from leave, while Bravo, Support, and Logistics Companies were placed on reduced notice to move throughout Australia. This was a great opportunity to demonstrate what the Tiger Battalion can do, particularly when combined with the disruption of our annual posting cycle and efforts to deploy our second Force Protection Element (FPE-13) to Afghanistan, maintain our commitment to the Task Group Taji (TGT) in Iraq, and regenerate our motorised infantry capability at home.

Tiger Battalion personnel returned from TGT-X and FPE 12 in the midst of the COVID-19 lockdown which quickly become the main effort. Domestically, the Battalion was tasked to support the Northern Territory Government’s response to the pandemic. This mission saw

members of the Battalion, working alongside state and federal law enforcement, NT Government Officials, Royal Australian Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force partners. The Battalion operated a forward element in Alice Springs, and had teams from Kulgera to Tennant Creek, and from Tanami to the Queensland border. These teams were primarily from Delta Coy who had only recently returned from Afghanistan and completed their mandatory quarantine.

Concurrently, members of Bravo Company stood firm in Malaysia completing the 129th Rotation of Rifle Company (RCB) Butterworth. Throughout this time Charlie Coy has maintained their role in Afghanistan as Force Protection Element -13. This has been a unique operational experience for which they have





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continually risen to the challenge and strongly represented the Tiger reputation. Despite such a busy period and uncertainty, the Battalion did manage to continue to send members on promotional courses and continue with our field exercises such as Ex Tigers Run, Ex Buffalos Run and some jungle training for Delta Company. Also, the Battalion participated in Ex Koolendong; a bilateral combined arms training activity, joint live-fire, high-end warfighting training exercise with the US Marine Rotational Force - Darwin (MRF-D).

Away from field exercise, the Battalion were busy with other commitments such as the Battalion's commemoration of the Battle of Binh Ba via a series of regimental, social, and professional development activities (the Battle of Binh Ba, also known as Op Hammer, was a victorious battle during the Vietnam War; 5 RAR were critical participants). The commemoration proved to be a successful and enjoyable series of activities. Also, we conducted the inaugural Kennedy Cup, a Battalion inter-company Section Skills Competition where soldiers impressively showed outstanding military skills underpinned with camaraderie and esprit de corps. We were proud to welcome CPL J.J. Kennedy's eldest daughter Karen to the Battalion to announce the winning section in a close, yet competitive event enjoyed by all.

Continuing with the competitive approach, the Battalion competed with MRF-D US Marines in an inaugural sporting competition. Hosted and organised by 5 RAR this consisted of a number of competitive events ranging from Cricket, Soccer, American Football to an agility strength race. MRF-D were natural winners for the American Football and Basketball but 5 RAR swept the board in all

remaining events. Whilst The Battalion were overall winners on the day it was a fantastic platform for both nations to work collaboratively in a relaxed environment; oh –and enjoy a couple of beers thrown in at the end.

The efforts of our battalion members, both on operations and at home, have been recognised through a number of commendations and soldier's medallions. Additionally, the support the officers and soldiers have provided in support of COVID-19 continues to receive high accolades from across Australia. The recognition that soldiers received is reflective of their commitment to standards and values espoused by the Tiger Battalion and indeed the RAR. We are looking forward to a busy run to the end of 2020 followed up with a well-earned Christmas leave. So on behalf of 5 RAR, I wish all the officers and soldiers of our sister battalion the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, a successful and prosperous 2021. A year that will bring you triumph in resuming your State Ceremonial and Public Duties Guards of the Royal Palaces.

CYMRU AM BYTH & Duty First

1. *Wearing the 5RAR Badge with pride*
2. *B Coy Digger enjoying some K-9 interaction*
3. *Section showing their MEDIVAC Skills during Kennedy Cup*
4. *Covering Fire!*
5. *Section performing their first aid skills*
6. *CO & RSM – Binh Ba Parade 2020*
7. *Minute Silence Binh Ba Parade 2020*

Mens Agitat Molem – Advanced Command and Staff Training with the Bundeswehr

by Major J M Young, Welsh Guards

The Clausewitz Barracks, located in the leafy and affluent Blankenese suburb in the west of Hamburg, Germany, is the home to the German Armed Forces Staff College (*Die Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr* or FüAk).

The college runs a number of courses, but it's headlining course and the one for which it is best known is the *Lehrgang Generalstabs-/ Admiralstabsdienst National* (LGAN). This two-year course is the highest-level command and staff training conducted in the German Armed Forces (*Bundeswehr*).

I was immensely fortunate to be selected as the only British Army Officer to attend the two-year course running from Summer 2018 until October 2020. The LGAN was taken in lieu of both the British Army's own key command and staff training courses, namely the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) (ICSC(L)) and Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC).

Selection

Following selection for promotion to Major in 2017 the jobs list published to cover students after completion of ICSC(L) contains an additional tab for another separate non-initial grade two Majors posts. The relevant jobs board sits at the same time as selection for the Battlefield Technology Course (BTC) and other foreign staff college posts, not all of which qualify students for ICSC(L) and certainly not ACSC. This makes the German course equal in standing to only the US staff college. Though the post is published on the No 5 Boards (via MS Web), such opportunities are not always well-known. However,

perhaps this is different within the Welsh Guards as Major Andrew Dunlop (currently company commanding with the Coldstream Guards) attended the course 2017-2019.

Officers from the whole Army may apply. During my two-year tenure (the courses overlap being just over two years in length so I met LGAN 17 and LGAN 20 students) officers (students and LOs) came from all three arms (WG x 2, PARA x 2, RSigs x 1, RA x 1, RAMC x 1). Language proficiency is not required, but skills in any foreign language will demonstrate some competency to the board in this area.

The Course

The LGAN is the highest and most prestigious command and staff training available to the Bundeswehr (all services, not just Land Forces) until promotion to Brigadier (though this latter course is not attended by all generals). All single-service chiefs of staff as well as the General Inspector of the Armed Forces (CDS equivalent) will have attended this course, as will the vast (and ever-increasing) majority of German Generals and Admirals. Selection for German students is extremely competitive and is made following continuous assessment during a series of other courses which sit roughly in-line in terms of content with ICSC(L) and some parts of ICSC(L) or other single service equivalents. The decision for a student to attend



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is made whilst they are senior captains, roughly in line with when the British Army boards it's captains for promotion to major. Only around 8% of German officers are offered a place on the LGAN, effectively singling them out for future 'General Staff' level jobs. At this juncture it is worth explaining that 'where talent endures' (WTE) posts in the German Armed Forces are annotated im Generalstabdienst and are reserved for those who have attended the LGAN.

The course takes up to 120 students a year with around 20 of those coming from other NATO or 'Partnership for Peace' militaries (non-NATO countries). LGAN 18 (2018-2020, the author's course) had international officers from 15 countries: Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the USA. Around a third of the internationals had already completed the equivalent staff training in their own countries and were rank ranged Captain to Colonel, with most being Majors. Overall experience levels are generally significantly higher than German students and, on average, they are older. German language ability however, was extremely varied at the start of the course, with some



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international students being quasi-native speakers, others with 12+ months of formal training and some with very little training at all. The vast majority have some previous link with Germany – parentage, work in/with the Bundeswehr or formal education. For some, though by no means all international students, English is the fall-back language, meaning native speakers are certainly well placed here!

Prior to the course starting there are a variety of pre-courses run by single services. These are only attended by the German students. International students attend a five week introduction course. A week of the course

was allocated to various administration such as assistance with banking, mobile phones, housing etc as well as some sightseeing with families, issue of military IT, feeding accounts for in camp etc. The remainder covered vital topics ranging from low to top level; badges of rank, terminology, German military structures and organisation to history, doctrine and German foreign and defence policy. The Second World War still plays, both subconsciously and consciously, a critical role in the way that the German students see themselves and the outside world. Topics such as tradition, military engagement or the role of the military in society are both more sensitive

and far more intensively discussed than in the UK.

This preparatory course would serve as good indication of what the course proper would be like in terms of breadth of subjects.

LGAN Content

The start of the actual course is always 1st October, or the week where that falls. In German parlance this is 'calendar week 40'. The use of calendar weeks was an early example of cultural differences and practices which one becomes accustomed to over time. Over the two years, all students will attend a single-service phase which is similar to ICSC(L). The phase starts with learning to use

the German combat estimate which is not supposed to be used above the tactical level and it has remained largely unchanged since the second world war. Suitable for simpler conventional actions it lacks a systematic approach and it's weaknesses are exposed when attempting to plan for more complex modern scenarios. Contrary to expectations, the process is quite loose, depends a great deal on a small number of people (one to three within an exercise staff of 20) and at no point are 'effects' discussed. The key command appointments during this early phase tend to go to German students, though internationals are in key supporting roles throughout. Although internationals will not use this estimate process in the future once they leave the academy, it highlighted the German mindset and assisted in understanding where our differences lie, ensuring that we can be more productive in latter phases. The other estimate used on the course (and the only one used by air and land forces throughout) is Comprehensive Operational Planning Directive (NATO's COPD), which has similarities to our own estimate process in that it is effects based. Anyone who has experience in a battle group headquarters or above will find COPD easy to apply and the current iteration of JCS(L) will prepare students well for this too.

Communication and Media training features regularly, including during staff exercises where those in appointments will be pulled out and interviewed in German and English (depending on the exercise. During NATO or Joint exercise scenarios, all briefings (to staff branches, the commander or the media) are only allowed to be conducted in English.

Early in in the course time is set aside for learning about

German staff process and project management, ethics and spiritual development.

Generally weekly throughout the course, 'general-lectures' alternating between German Law, History of the Bundeswehr (generally avoiding mention of anything prior to 1955!) and foreign languages permeate the timetable.

A comprehensive deep dive into international relations theory underpins subsequent large blocks of lectures and teaching dedicated to wider strategic studies, alliance security (UN, EU, PfP etc) and political level security policy.

Additionally, virtual and practical teaching about all major German military commands and TLBs is taken in detail. This included a week with German Navy, the highlight being two days at sea being 'bombed' by Tornados, conducting anti-submarine warfare and firing naval guns. Some lucky students conducted this exercise from aboard a submarine whilst the remainder were on two frigates. Air Force week saw visits to German and NATO air command centres from where air policing across Europe is monitored, flights in various airframes whilst being 'intercepted' by duty air policing units and an impressive live demonstration showing the Joint Personal Recovery process. Not to be left out Land Forces week included plenty of time on damp training areas with all vehicles and weapons systems being paraded in a synchronised field demonstration, watching NATO's only amphibious bridging unit conduct a wide wet-gap crossing (which happens to be a joint German-British Unit) among the highlights. The Informations-Lehr- Übung (similar to the now defunct (Firepower and Capability Demonstration) showed the combined arms assets of a battle-group plus in



the attack and delay, with main battle tanks, armoured and mechanised infantry, overhead support, close air support, aviation support and more. A week in Berlin visiting the MOD, German Parliament and other ministries demonstrated the unrivalled access afforded to the course.

The specialist commands are also visited with equally in-depth demonstrations from the Medical Command, Cyber Command, Strategic Command and others.

Overseas visits are a particular highlight on the course. Though for LGANs 18 and 19 COVID has impacted on these, some of the visits undertaken and planned were: Staff-rides in the Czech Republic considering the battle of Königgrätz; two weeks in New York, Washington DC and Norfolk (UN Headquarters, German Embassy, site of the World Trade Centers, Pentagon, think-tanks, NATO Allied Command Transformation, Arlington Cemetery to name a few); Brussels (NATO); Mons (SHAPE); a NATO JFC (Brunsum or Naples); and a trip to another countries capital city, ranging from London to Bucharest, Oslo to Rome.

Besides internally conducted exercises many are undertaken with other academies, including the Combined Joint Exercise staff. For LGAN 18 the USA, UK, Italy, Spain took part and each academy exchanged students meaning a further opportunity to travel, experience other countries, their culture and militaries and to establish new working relationships

Advantages for British Officers

Beyond the course content itself, there exist a multitude of benefits to the assignment. Though a long course with an additional 12 month language training requirement prior to the start of the course, there are a number of clear short and long term advantages to be gained. Firstly, the course qualifies British attendees to psc(j) which is the same qualification as gained on ACSC. Attendance on the course negates (but does not preclude) future attendance on ACSC. It also nullifies the requirement to attend ICSC(L) and is effectively an initial grade 2 post. This offers more flexibility to career managers and also opens the door earlier to assignments not otherwise on offer.



The opportunity to mix professionally and socially with the future senior officers of the German Armed Forces and the internationals on the course enables a massive and useful network to grow over the two years and surely some friends for life. Syndicate DS are all past students and their post there is a stepping stone to future higher posts.

Concurrently with the course one of the two German Armed Forces universities offers a Masters in Military Leadership and International Security. Much of the content of the degree is covered on the course, meaning a large proportion of the credits are gained without additional study. There are some problems with UK student attendance due to differing degree systems, but these can be overcome. The Masters is free to study and is a good opportunity to demonstrate continuous professional development.

Having the opportunity to think about your own career, leadership skills, experience and knowledge is hugely refreshing and is effectively a 'condor' moment before getting into the details at subunit command. It is also a great opportunity to spend time with family or plan travel in advance as the course dates (including leave)

are published up to three years in advance. The course itself only requires around four weekends in two years on duty – significantly less than most of us experience in six months in a British institution or posting.

Disadvantages for British Officers

Mess life within the German Army is almost non-existent, indeed meals are taken in cross-rank facilities and 75% of German students weekly commute. The British officers showcased our traditions through the running of formal mess functions, an invite to which was highly treasured by our hosts.

British Army life in Germany is not like it was in previous decades. British students are isolated from the Army to a large extent with a small footprint of British officers working in Germany outside of those in Paderborn. Spending significant time away from the UK without being part of a formed British military unit can instil a feeling of dislocation.

This means however, you have a more genuine German experience, living in an international renowned port city with all the cultural and social opportunities for which

Hamburg is well known.

British students live in 'little England' where five family quarters are located. This was hugely beneficial for those with families and offered opportunity for child-care to allow couples to go out independently. To be able to spend so much time during my first year with the Dunlop family (two doors down) was very enjoyable and we bought some of the Regiment's traditions to life during the 'Abend der Nationen' or 'international evening' where we showcased British food (pork pies, scones and ale), culture (football final against Germany 1966), and indeed the Regiment (everyone wanted a picture with a Guardsmen in home service dress)

Summary

I felt a huge responsibility to represent the Regiment, the Army and my country. Inevitably, this meant frequent attendance at social events (!) and sometimes exaggerating the way we do things. Being the 'foreigner' wasn't entirely new to me as I had previously spent a year attached to the German Fallschirmjäger (parachute regiment) in 2006. The opportunity to do again though, was highly prized and by partaking fully in everything,

I have built a not inconsiderable network with Germany's future senior officers and of course those from 15 other countries, with whom I was on the course

Those fortunate enough to be selected must however acknowledge their responsibility, which is far more encompassing than their own achievement on the course. For many students at the academy, the first professional and social interaction with the British Army may be during this course and the need to understand the finer points of appropriate conduct should not be underestimated. The Germans are direct and challenging and as an officer one is expected to be able to explain the UK's policy and reasoning on everything from the best planning process, the acquisition of new vehicle platforms (including ships and airframes – not just land vehicles) to the UK's position on key European issues such as migration and international development aid. The relatively recent commitment to manufacture and buy BOXER (a German design and one they have fielded) combined with Germany's high priority as an international defence partner, partnered units (amphibious bridging), divisions (1st Panzer Division and 3(UK) Division) means that in the two years abroad will have a long term impact for all parties and thus it is an opportunity to be valued.

1. *The author*
2. *Half the course on the Frigate Mecklenburg-Vorpomern in the Kieler Bight*
3. *One of the stands at the ILÜ (Firepower and Capability Demo equivalent)*
4. *A further stand at the ILÜ (Firepower and Capability Demo equivalent)*
5. *TEWT / lesson underway*
6. *The whole course in Washington DC*

Christmas In A Day (Thursday 12th December 2019)

by Padre Matthew Dietz, Chaplain
1st Battalion Welsh Guards

A long-held tradition (and deeply loved by all) is the madness and mayhem which is 'Christmas in a Day' held in the Battalion in the week before Christmas stand-down.

The format is tweaked year-on-year, but essentially the day comprises the Battalion Carol Service, the Soldiers' Christmas Lunch, some form of sporting activity in the afternoon, and then the Sergeants to Officers' Mess visit (complete with an alternative Corps of Drums) and, finally, Officers to Sergeants' Mess - where the Commanding Officer 'hangs the brick' - more of which below...

Naturally, the morning started off in relatively formal style. Under the Regimental Sergeant Major, the Battalion paraded in Barrack Dress and the parade was handed over to the Adjutant and, in turn, the Commanding Officer. Then, because it was also Election Day (you couldn't have planned it!), the customary march to Church was forgone in favour of a shuttle-run with coaches and minibuses.

Meanwhile, down at the Garrison Church (Holy Trinity, Windsor), the Padre, the Band of the Welsh Guards and the newly formed Battalion Choir were limbering up for the Carol Service - with the theme of 'Silent Night' - a re-take on the football match played at Christmas time in the First World War. Readers read, Bandsmen played, the Padre preached, and the Guardsmen sang the congregational carols. So far so good. Then, the long-awaited moment came - the new draft (less than 6 months) sprang to their feet, from whichever Company seats they were placed, and gathered at the front to sing 'Silent Night' - in Welsh, German and in English

- and it was awesome (well, I'm biased, I'm the Choirmaster!) Royal Albert Hall, watch out... Christmas In A Day had got off to a good start...

Without undue delay, all repaired to the newly-refurbished Cookhouse for the Soldiers' Christmas Lunch. Tradition was the order of the day; from the menu to the decorations, all was just as it should be. The Officers and the Sergeants acted as waiters and clearer-uppers, and all passed off wonderfully smoothly. Mention must go to the chefs - not only did they prepare an outstanding meal, but they also walked off with most of the Raffle prizes! Hats off to them - they worked hard (and bought many of the tickets!)

After lunch, perhaps as a highlight of the day, the Sergeants v Officers Rugby Match (aka scrum-fest) was played on a wet and cold sports pitch by Windsor Great Park. The Officers fortified themselves with Port beforehand (as is only right) and Champagne at half-time (style), whilst the Sergeants employed ringers like Company Sergeant Major Dai Scarf to bulldoze their way to a well-deserved victory - score 7:0. Roll on the return match next year...

Following some very muddy showers back in Barracks, there was a bit of a lull (and not a few afternoon naps) before the Sergeants made their noisy, nay cacophonous way round to the Officers' Mess to partake in the Officers' hospitality. Drums



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notwithstanding, the Sergeants certainly made their presence felt in the Mess, refreshing themselves with gusto. Quite right too!

At exactly 19.15, the Officers made their return journey to the Sergeants' Mess (always a privilege, never a right) and the Commanding Officer was invited to hang the silver Hougoumont Farm brick – at the appropriate angle – to signify that the Sergeants' Mess Bar would remain open for 14 days! The citation was delivered with great dramatic affect by the Signals Warrant Officer (WO2 (RSWO) Gareth Green) and great cheers erupted before many pints were pulled.

For some, the remainder of the evening became a bit of a blur, but for the Padre, just an increasing sense of joy and satisfaction that 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has to be the best place in the British Army to serve as Chaplain – there is no family like it!

1. *Enjoying a Christmas lunch in the cookhouse.*
2. *The Regimental Band provide rousing Christmas music at the service.*
3. *The Battalion fills Holy Trinity, the Windsor Garrison Church.*
4. *The Regimental Band keeping spirits high at lunch.*



A Borderlands Guardsman

by Warrant Officer Class 1 (Command Sergeant Major) D Morgan (10)

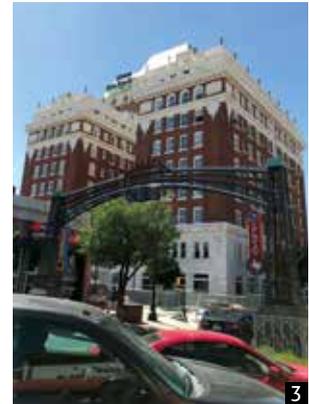
On return from Op TORAL 6 in December 2018, I was fortunate enough to be selected to attend the United States Army Sergeant’s Major Academy (USASMA) at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

The ensuing months were occupied by multiple lines of administrative effort to ready my family and I for our exciting trip across the Atlantic. At the end of April 2019 we left Heathrow for Washington DC to attend the “in brief” at the British Embassy which allowed us time to take in the sights of this great city and to catch up with Lieutenant Colonel Bevan MVO (who had arrived some months before to take up his post), before moving on to El Paso to start our yearlong adventure living in the heart of the Chihuahua Desert.

El Paso. El Paso is nicknamed the sunshine city and lies directly on the border with Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. It is surrounded by the stunning Franklin Mountains which provide an incredible scene at sundown as the sun melts behind them. The mountains have many trails that can be explored which provide incredible views over New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico.

The food on offer here is out of this world, everything from authentic Mexican cuisine, to “texmex”, and the biggest steaks I have ever seen in my life! The city is an incredible place, which has a strong sense of community and is home to some of the friendliest people I have met. Class 70 had 65 international students attending from countries spread from Mali to Poland.

International Community. Command Sergeant Major Keith Mills (RWELSH) and his family were already in place at Fort Bliss coming to the end of their time and they helped us immensely to settle in when we arrived, introducing us to the international community that included our soon to be friends for the coming year. My family and I made some exceptional friendships early on resulting in a full and fantastic social calendar, with most events inevitably revolving around BBQ food and alcohol! The international community is



an important aspect of life at the USASMA as it provides the wives with a “ladies who lunch” lifestyle whilst the spouses are in class. The Sergeants Major Course (SMC) is a huge career milestone for the US Soldiers who attend.

SMC. Prior to the SMC all international students undertake the writing for excellence course which is run by civilian English teachers. The main aim of this period of instruction is to develop

academic writing and attune the students to writing in American psychological association (APA) format. This course was invaluable, especially for someone who had only written academically at comprehensive school level. This was also where we met our US Army sponsors who would stay with us for the rest of the year as we navigated our way through the next five semesters of academia. The SMC is spilt into semesters covering the entire curriculum.

Academia. The sponsors are fellow course students who volunteered to assist international students integrating into the curriculum and the American way of life. Each semester is seven weeks long and is hosted by a different department of expertise. The five departments are:

The Department of Professional Studies (DPS)

The department produces thoughtful and a well-informed Sergeant Major. It cultivates individual freedom through reflection and self-awareness. It leads individuals to think critically and make good decisions in the future. It creates and understanding of the broader context of military issues and the role of the Sergeant Major in the Armed Forces. It leads to more creative, innovative and forward thinking as a result, of fresh perspectives that the topics present.

The Department of Joint Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (DJIIM)

The DJIIM is an integral part of the SMC foundation for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME). This theme of instruction addresses significant portions and objectives of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, IAW CJCSI 1805.01B, 15 May 2015. The DJIIM emphasizes using critical thinking, analysis, and problem solving to explore the application of Joint doctrine. By applying these principles to a complex problem set, students will develop a perspective of leadership at the operational and strategic level. They will continue to explore these concepts and applications in the Department of Army Operations (DAO).

Department of Army Operations (DAO)

The DAO is an integral part of the Sergeants Major Course. The DAO uses critical thinking, analysis, and problem solving to explore the application of Army operations. By applying these principles to a complex problem set you will continue to develop your perspective of leadership. You will explore Army operations primarily at the tactical and operational levels.

The Department of Force Management (DFM)

The objective of DFM is to introduce the students on the "how to" and "why" in determining force requirements and alternative means of resourcing Soldier training requirements, in order to accomplish Army functions and missions as related to their unit and Army Command (ACOM)-level management positions within Army organizations. DFM provides a systemic overview of How the Army Runs, to include the established force management processes, the determination of force requirements through to the resourcing of those requirements and the assessment of their utilization in order to accomplish Army functions and missions. Additionally, the DFM student will gain an understanding of the processes and systems to sustain and generate the force. Lastly, the DFM student will receive an overview in contract support operations. At the completion of the DFM semester, a successful student will be able to define what role the Sergeant Major may have in the force management process.

The Department of Command Leadership (DCL)

Instruction in the DCL focuses on the attributes and competencies required of an operational and strategic level leader in today's Armed Forces. When students become a Sergeant Major their span of control will decrease, however their sphere of influence will increase significantly. The DCL designed the curriculum to enhance their critical and creative thinking skills so they can effectively maximize that influence and extend it beyond their chain of command to support the mission and goals of their organization.



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The first semester classroom becomes your core room, which you return to on the completion of each department to reflect on the learning outcomes on the subject matter that has been taught. For each department you have new classmates that helps build a mass network of friends from all corners of the US Department of Defense. I now have friends and colleagues that have expertise in all domains of the modern battle space: cyber, space, land, sea, and air. Each department has a range of assessment methods from oral presentations to written essays commonly known as "papers". I did find the written elements difficult to begin with, but with constructive feedback on each evolution, I was able to improve throughout the course. The classroom academia was not the only learning environment, field study trips were also part of the learning experience.

Field Study Trips. The field study trips are designed to expose the international students to the American way of life and culture. The first trip was a tour through Texas including San Antonio, Luchenbach, Austin and the Lyndon B Johnson ranch. San Antonio is an incredible city, which is home to the famous historical sight of the Alamo. The old Spanish

mission station was the scene of intense fighting where Davy Crockett and his band of men tried in vain to ward off the attacking 'Bandidos'. The Alamo still has splash marks on the wall from that day and interesting artefacts that were salvaged are on display.

The town of Luckenbach is world famous to country music fans around the world. This small town lies an hour outside San Antonio and consists of a large dance hall, a bar and a few houses. Austin is the state capitol of Texas and the fourth largest city in the state. We were lucky enough to visit the state capital building and have a tour of the various conference rooms, which are rich in history. The Lyndon B Johnson (LBJ) ranch is nicknamed the "Little White House" due to the amount of time President Johnson spent there during his tenure. The ranch has its own airfield, where world leaders used to fly into to discuss business around the famous pool and garden area of the main house.

The planned field trip to the eastern seaboard became a victim of Covid-19 so unfortunately, we did not get to visit Gettysburg, Arlington and the Pentagon. The field study trip was not the only

time we were permitted to travel, there were regular long weekends where we really used the USA as our back yard. The road trips to San Francisco, Monterey Bay, Pismo Beach, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Diego, Denver, Colorado Springs and more were incredible, and my family and I have fantastic memories and stories for life.

The whole experience of this year has been a chance of lifetime not only for me, but also for my family. There is considerable focus on the future fight and deep study on the countries around the world that make up the four plus one threats. Academia has never been my strong point and throughout my 23 years in the Battalion, I only did enough educational courses to be "green" for promotion. There are opportunities at the academy to enroll on degree programs from BA to MA provided by some good colleges around the US, I took advantage of this program and with some extra college class was awarded a BA in leadership and workforce development. I have developed a new passion for learning and plan to carry on my educational journey once back in the UK. The whole year has been incredible, and

I will return a more educated, rounded and aware soldier, who can use the exported skills to add real value to the force and do more for our people.

Editor's Note: The USASMA is acknowledged by military and civilian organizations as the premiere non-commissioned officer education institution in the world and Warrant Officer Class 1 Morgan has downplayed his selection to attend. With just one UK vacancy allocated, Warrant Officer Class 1 Morgan was deemed to be the number one Warrant Officer in the British Army, was selected for a Commission and will now take up his appointment as Command Sergeant Major Home Command.

1. *The author at the amous "chevrons"*
2. *Sundown in El Paso*
3. *Downtown El Paso*
4. *A view of Texas, New Mexico and Mexico including "the wall"*
5. *International students of class 69 and 70 with the British Army Sergeant Major Gavin Paton, and US Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey*
6. *The academy has a unique shape which Star Trek fans may recognize!*
7. *Core classroom 301*
8. *International students at the Texas state capital building in Austin, Texas*



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Battalion Chaplaincy

by Reverend Matthew Dietz CF
Chaplain to the Welsh Guards (2019-2020)

What a privilege it is to be the Regimental Padre of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards!

This organisation is unique – I don't believe there is another Regiment in the British Army which has such character (and characters), such a positive attitude to soldiering and such a sense of family, so I can genuinely say I have thoroughly enjoyed these last

18 months serving alongside you as your Padre.

My sadness is that, by the time you read this year's Regimental Magazine I shall have been posted away from Combermere Barracks and will be freezing my jelly beans



in the wilds of Estonia on Op CABRIT 7, but that’s the way it rolls in the RACHD – you get to know (and love) a unit and then an Assignment Order pops into your Inbox and it’s all change. So, what have been the highlights of my time with the Welsh Guards?

The first thing that springs to mind is the healthy banter I have experienced as Padre. Across the rank range, I have received both warm smiles and Welsh humour wherever I have been, whether it has been in Barracks or in the field. The ribbing I got (from the Commanding Officer down) when I almost got into the foetal position on Mount Tumbledown in the Falklands (to shield myself from the hail storm, naturally) – was brutal! I was merely having a moment with my Maker, but I can see, on reflection, the photo didn’t look great! Welsh Guards know how to ‘keep the Padre humble’ – for sure – but I am the better man for it.

Secondly, I will take away some profoundly moving moments when Guardsmen have stepped up to the plate in support of Acts of Worship I have led. I think of St David’s Day 2019 in Brecon Cathedral with No 2 Company (and my attempts at a sentence in Welsh!), and again in 2020 in the Garrison Church in Windsor, when we re-dedicated the Falkland Islands Cross. I think also of the Act of Remembrance at Fitzroy in November 2019, with a fierce prevailing wind, but even more fierce determination to honour those who perished in 1982. I think of the delegation from the Corps of Drums who observed with me a minute’s silence at the graveside of Gdsm Paul Fryer aged 18, killed by the IRA in Crossmaglen 40 years to the day. I think of the Reflections with the Regimental Association at the Battlefield Tours I joined too. The spiritual heartbeat of the 1st Battalion remains strong,

and for that I thank God. I doubt whether I shall ever sing ‘Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer’ without thinking fondly of you all.

Thirdly, I will recall the profound conversations I have had – some in my study in Elizabeth, then Combermere Barracks, but many more out and about when the good Lord has directed my steps to just the right person at just the right time. The best bit of advice I was given on re-joining the Army, as a Padre, was from a wise old soldier – “Matthew, God has given you two ears and one mouth – use them in the proportions he intended...” – wise words indeed. I have heard back-stories and love stories, relationship joys and relationship heartaches. I have heard of the horrors of the Sir Galahad from the men who were there to the pride of the Windsor Castle Guard, parading the Colours

for the Queen’s Official Birthday – at social distance. All such conversations speak of the humanity of the Welsh Guardsman, and I shall treasure the words shared, and the sentiments expressed.

As I say, it has been a great privilege to serve with the Welsh Guards – all I can say is thank you for your kindness in taking me along for the journey these past 2 years, and may God bless you all as we go our separate ways... Duw bendithio - Cymru Am Byth!

1. *Remembering Guardsman Paul Fryer RIP at his graveside in Danygraig Cemetery, Risca on 13th November 2019, 40 years to the day that he was killed by the IRA in Crossmaglen.*
2. *St David’s Day Service at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor, 1st March 2020.*
3. *With members of Llanelli Branch of the Welsh Guards Association (WGA) during the annual Battlefield Tour 2019.*



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St David's Day

by Lieutenant W Richardson, Number 4 Platoon Commander

The Battalion celebrated St David's Day this year at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, with Major General CJ Ghika CBE, General Officer Commanding London District and Commander Household Division presenting the leeks and taking the Salute in the presence of Field Marshal The Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL.

On the 1st March 2020 the Battalion celebrated what is sure to be the first of many St David's Day events at our new home. The day was particularly enjoyable due to the strong turnout of spectators from the Association and families.

The day started with a service at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, led by Reverend Matthew Dietz CF. During the service Brigadier JF Rickett CBE (CO 1WG in 1982) and Captain (Retd) J Everett (CSM 2 Coy in 1982) carried the Falklands Memorial cross forward for rededication. The Falklands cross; a memorial made in the Falkland Islands at Bluff cove in 1982 after the bombing of RFA Sir Galahad during the Falklands War. Hundreds of people fell silent within the Garrison Church to remember our fallen comrades and to welcome the memorial to its permanent home at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor.

The Battalion was unable to march to and from the church, despite the Adjutant's best efforts but there was a parade once back in Combermere Barracks that adhered to the traditional format. The Major General presented leeks to all Officers and Warrant Officers, while the Company Commanders presented leeks to their soldiers. Once everyone had a leek on their chest or attached to their headdress, the Commanding Officer marched the Battalion off the square

as the Major General took the salute. Following the parade, everyone moved into the sports hall which had been decked out with various display stands and bars, for a few drinks before dispersing to respective Messes to continue the celebrations.

St David's Day 2020 was an enjoyable and relaxed family day, on which we were able to celebrate who we are and where we come from, surrounded by Welsh Guards past and present. The celebrations finished where they began on the 29th February, with friends and colleagues sharing stories over drinks in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess!

The day wouldn't have been possible without the support from Regimental Headquarters, the Association and various members of the Battalion. Plans are already afoot for 2021 and we look forward to celebrating with you again on 1 Mar 2021.

1. *The night before (29 Feb) Sergeants Mess*
2. *On Parade*
3. *Par of the Congregation, Holy Trinity Garrison Church 1 Mar.*
4. *Maj Gen CJ Ghika CBE General Officer Commanding London District and Commander Household Division presents a leek to Capt Carl Taylor.*
5. *Marching off parade following the presentation of leeks.*





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Deer Stalking in Scotland

by Lieutenant LMF Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

Snow covered peaks and glacial lochs set the backdrop for a small group from Number 3 Company who were offered the opportunity to go deer stalking in the highlands of Scotland.

The group consisted of three members of the Sniper Platoon, two members of the Recce Platoon and one from the Anti-Tank Platoon. They were accompanied by two officers: the Regimental Signals officer and the author. A diverse range but with the majority specialising in surveillance and target acquisition, it was

the perfect opportunity to put these skills to the test.

As the pace of life in Battalion started winding down in preparation for Christmas leave, we made the long journey by car up to the north of Scotland. Our destination was the Novar Estate; thirty minutes north of Inverness

and made up of swathes of Caledonian Forest and heather moorland. Here we would spend two days rotating between honing fieldcraft skills around the estate and going out stalking with the ghillies. The estate itself is one of a kind in Scotland, home to large populations of three species of deer: Red, Sika and Fallow. Due to the size of the populations, there is a requirement to cull significant numbers of all three species of deer. This allowed us to pick and choose what we wanted to stalk in order to make the most of the short time we had.

The outward journey had proved to be a slow one, with

rain and snow hampering progress in Scotland. When we finally arrived, temperatures were well below zero and the sleet was driving in. We woke early the next morning, excited for what lay ahead. We had split down into pairs and the first two headed out with their respective ghillies. They were both heading for the 'hill' and in search of the larger red deer. This would be the real test of our skills - requiring us to not only spot the deer from distance but to 'stalk' them until close enough to take the shot and having achieved all of that, not to miss. The pairs returned empty handed, now understanding of the realities of stalking.



The ghillies decided to change things up in the afternoon. One pair headed into the forests in the hope of spotting some Sika, whilst the other pair headed for an area with numerous Fallow deer. This decision paid off with both pairs returning successful. With tales of miracle shots from unprecedented distances the group were desperate to get back out again. The ghillies repeated their winning formula on the second day and all four pairs had a taste of the action. It was evident that the snipers were the masters of their craft; LCpl Jones had tallied up 5 kills and LSgt Retallick hadn't missed a single shot. Although they had showed everyone up we were content knowing

the professionalism that they showed towards their job.

The trip not only presented an incredible opportunity to put our military skills into practice but it also turned out to be an amazing experience that will not be forgotten. The group are extremely grateful to the Novar Estate and Mr Elletson for making this opportunity possible.

1. *The author with a Sika hind.*
2. *The author and Captain Elletson with one of the ghillies.*
3. *Being rewarded with an amazing sunrise after an early morning start.*
4. *Gdsm Davies 14 with two Sika calves.*





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Lockdown Leadership

by Guardsman D Griffiths, Number 2 Company

As you read these words the lockdown may well be relaxing and almost over. But when I wrote them I was, as you probably were, in the sixth week of a lockdown that changed all our lives perhaps more than we thought it would.

It led me to think about the leadership I have experienced over the past seven weeks and how it can benefit me, and us, going forward.

When we were told that we would be dispersing for an unknown period, the general feeling was uncertainty and, I think, probably a little excitement. Almost two months later and we were still adjusting to an environment that was alien to many of us.

In terms of leadership, it seemed to me that this crisis may have been a time when the values and principles we hold ourselves to may have been allowed to slip. But that was not what I experienced. Instead, I want to explain what I experienced; the examples of good leadership that I have seen over the past two months, from my low perch as a Guardsman.

Leading from Home

Imagine, if you are not already, that you are at home and with your family and perhaps most importantly, away from work. Like me, you are dispersed. The opportunity, and the temptation to switch off is greater than ever. It would be the easiest thing in the world to pull your foot off the gas and stop leading in the same way that you would in camp.

But one thing I have not seen over the lockdown is leaders taking their foot off the gas and switching off. What I have seen is Non-Commissioned Officers,

both Junior and Senior, leading not from the front but from home. They appear on the Zoom calls, smart, presentable, shaved and with all the keenness you would expect in camp. We have transitioned from doing Physical Training in groups, whether section, platoon or company, and now we are expected to conduct that on our own, using our own pride as a motivation. Again, how easy would it be to fluff it and just say you've done it? How easy would it be to lie in bed for another few hours instead of getting up and out the door and on a run? Easy. But our NCOs are showing that they can do it, and that we can do it as well.

The Zoom conferences are new to me, just like they probably are to you. We are conducting lessons over video. Our leaders are still teaching what is needed so that we are prepared to go out the door when called. We have had ambush and patrol lessons, quizzes on Regimental history, and the junior soldiers – some of them only a couple of weeks out of the Infantry Training Centre – are delivering their own presentations and lessons on subjects, both military and personal. The result of this new environment is junior soldiers being mentored and trained and in delivering their own lessons and their own presentations. In spite of the lockdown, and thanks to the leadership of their NCOs, they are growing both personally and professionally. They are more confident as soldiers, as

men and women and, above all, the sections are working better as teams.

Leading in Public

When all this started, I was with my friends and fellow Welsh Guardsmen at Buckingham Palace, forming one of the two detachments needed for Her Majesty’s Guard. We spent every evening in front of the TV or scrolling through the news on our phones, wondering and debating what would happen. Nobody could have foreseen it turning out quite like it has.

Early in the lockdown, word came down our Chain of Command that a group of Welsh Guardsmen were to be trained as testers for the virus. I and a few others volunteered. Before long we found ourselves learning yet another new skill and working with skilled people who, before now, we may never have met. An afternoon was spent learning about the virus and its effects, learning how to don Personal Protective Equipment, and how to swab and take samples from members of the public. Members of the National Health Service were first to be tested: doctors and nurses, porters and paramedics.

We were positioned in a small hut in a large car park amongst members of the National Health Service and staff from Boots. Hands washed, aprons on, masks worn, eye pro donned and gloves fitted – we were good to go. What has struck me most during the weeks we have spent testing is how well we, and members of other regiments have adjusted to that new role, that new task. Most of us were Guardsmen, Private soldiers and not leaders, at least not in terms of rank. There we were, though, leading in public. Delivering a vital service in a way that was totally new to us



and displaying all the discipline and professionalism that would be expected of British Soldiers. Leading by example, being role models for the kind of behaviour expected of the nation.

We had people come to the testing booths who were unaware of what an uncomfortable procedure it was to get tested. I witnessed them approach the booths gingerly and instantly be calmed by the good humour and calmness of my fellow Guardsmen; instantly at ease. What my fellow soldiers did there was, to me, good leadership. They showed these members of the National Health Service, these doctors and nurses, paramedics and porters, how the British Army does things: with a sense of humour and immense calm in the face of pressure. But not only did they lead worried members of the public through their example, they led each other, with their positive attitude in a time where it is easy to have a negative one.





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This is, to me, what being a soldier is all about. We are not a mob. When the pressure mounts, we do not look out for ourselves, but look to each other, for collective calmness.

Leadership Elsewhere

In amongst all this business it has been so easy to get sucked in by negativity in the press and fall into a negative mindset. Everything on the news seems to be bad news but when the good news comes, it seems to come with clout. I was struck, probably as you were, by the immense leadership and humour shown by Captain Tom Moore, the D-Day veteran who has raised £30 million pounds for National Health

Service charities by walking the length of his garden one hundred times, all before his one hundredth birthday. With his Second World War spirit he brought a moment of joy to a nation that was struggling to laugh and struggling to understand its present circumstances. That is a part of the leadership I have seen. Leaders showing that we can still smile and be positive.

Which brings me to clapping. People have been coming out once a week to clap for our frontline workers. To shake bells, to say hello and to catch up with people on the other side of the street. Again, showing positivity under pressure is a form of

leadership. People out every week, willing themselves to be positive in times of darkness, willing themselves to see the positive side and to help each other. Whether it is helping a neighbour who cannot shop for themselves or by conducting your own small charity event, which lots of people including members of my own Regiment have done, getting up and acting with calm positivity when the pressure mounts is leadership. It is being a role model when the going gets tough. It is being there when the people to your left and right are getting nervous, so that they can look to you and gain confidence. Normally it happens in person. Now it often happens by

video. However it happens, leadership is about setting an example when times are hard. And that is what I have seen these last few months.

1. *Welsh Guards Covid-19 testing at Chessington World of Adventure*
2. *Covid-19 testing.*
3. *Gdsm Griffiths hiking with LSgt Prothero*
4. *Training on the area in Pirbright.*
5. *In happier, less socially distanced pre-Covid times! Skiing with the Battalion.*



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Welcome to Combermere Barracks

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Lewis, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main)

2019 saw the Battalion move from Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright, where, for many who have served has been known as the “Guards Depot.”

We merry band of brothers look forward to starting a new chapter and chase the Household Cavalry through the gates of Combermere Barracks, Windsor and return to London District with a spring in our step.

Home to the Household Cavalry for over 200 years, Combermere Barracks, named after Field Marshall Lord Combermere, was built to replace the original Clewer Barracks which was deemed unhygienic following a visit by Queen Victoria in 1864. A riding school was incorporated in 1881 and in 2006 the Barracks was renovated to what you see today.

Although the old “Guards Depot” for some will bring back fond memories, the new generation of Welsh Guardsmen look forward to the experiences that Windsor will bring and although we

anticipated that the locals might be slightly concerned at having two Infantry Battalions in Windsor; however, after just a few short months the Welsh Guards have won over the local population with their witty Welsh ways and professional manner.

However not all is well and in true “Guardsman fashion” the boys will always find something to complain about! Even though they are only 10 minutes from the M4 and close enough to London (you could fall off your horse and land in Trafalgar Square amongst the pigeons), the 50mph speed restriction between junctions 12 and 6 of the M4 is nauseating for the Welsh weekend commuter.

Combermere Barracks does offer excellent opportunities for the Battalion. Not only is Windsor Castle a stone’s throw away and a sobering reminder



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of the role we play when serving within LONDIST, but we have Windsor Great Park, Virginia Waters, the banks of the Thames and an excellent gym facility offering everyone the chance to shake of an aching back after a day on the square!

The Gdsm and junior ranks have now returned to single man rooms which for them is a huge win, but not so much for the young Platoon Commanders and Sergeants trying to track down those under their command after 1630hrs!

The Sergeants' Mess have also taken full advantage of the move and made the most of the facilities they have captured from the fleeing Cavalry, who did manage to gallop away with a brick from the pillar in the bar which may need to be recaptured in due course!

As good as the facilities are in the Mess, there is a slight worry on the face of the mess member that has been tasked with the planning of the summer function as all the married quarters overlook and can see into the mess garden from their bedroom windows! This is not seen as an issue for many, but in these days of rapid social media, mobile phone video uploads this is troubling for some - nobody, but nobody who is sober needs to see the Signals Warrant Officer doing his best Meatloaf impression after a few pints!

The Officers have settled well into the new Officers' Mess but would have struggled to do so without CSgt Evans 88 (the Officers' Mess CSgt) who reminded many Junior Officers of their Sandhurst days throughout the move. Work parades, room inspections and show parades featured



frequently in this hectic mess move which has been likened to 'herding cats' – well done CSgt Evans! The Officers had a rapid timeline to get the mess into a state acceptable to entertain in, due to a drinks party with local Windsor dignitaries on D+2; they just about pieced it together. Now settled, there remains one problem with the Officers' Mess: the Household Cavalry, as old and historical as they are, had significantly more paintings than we, and a much larger Mess membership also. Bare walls are a common theme that needs addressing in the coming years!

All said and done. Windsor is a fantastic town and has been the breath of fresh air the Battalion has long deserved, the Guardsmen and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers especially. We will continue to make it "our own" and this will undoubtedly take time, but we hope that past Welsh

Guardsmen and our families come and visit to sample what our new home and the surrounding area has to offer.

Cymru Am Byth.

1. One of the SLAM (Single Living Accommodation Modernization) accommodation blocks providing en-suite single rooms for our soldiers.
2. The Guardroom.
3. The All Ranks Pay as you Dine (cookhouse) facility provided by Aramark Side By Side
4. The Gymnasium
5. Another SLAM Accommodation block.



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A Special Anniversary

by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

We all enjoy a host of different types of anniversaries and they are always special in most cases.

4th August 2020 probably fell into the highest group of anniversaries for both Yvonne Brown and the Regiment for it marked her continual unbroken service in Regimental Headquarters for 40 years having started in August 1980. I would put a small fortune on betting that this must be a record of continuous employment in the same organisation, indeed almost a lifetime. A remarkable feat where she has shown dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for all across the Regimental Empire during those years.

Yvonne has witnessed the greatest turnover of staff in any Headquarters having served with 9 Regimental Lieutenant Colonels, 7 Regimental Adjutants, 17 Superintendent Clerks/Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants, 11 Directors of Music and 17 Commanding Officers. Quite a tally! She has also seen the Regiment serve in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Her service to the Regiment, London District and The Household Division was



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recognised by the award of the General Officer Commanding London District and The Major General Commanding The Household Division Certificate for Meritorious Service on 3rd August when Major General Chris Ghika CBE presented her with her certificate in his office in Horse Guards. Present at the award ceremony were also Yvonne's husband Paul, son Leon, daughter Lovenne and grandson Nazir, along with myself, Captain Charlie Ross the Assistant Equerry and the ADC Captain Orme Clarke. It was a very special occasion and kind of the Major General to spend an hour with Yvonne and her family.

On the actual day of her anniversary, 4 August, Yvonne was hosted for lunch in the Cavalry and Guards Club by all RHQ personnel including the former Regimental Adjutant Lieutenant Colonel Charles Stephens. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Richard Stanford, was sadly unable to attend being based in the Oman but made a special video

recording for Yvonne which was played at the lunch. Yvonne was presented with a silver statuette of a Welsh Guardsman suitably engraved. It was a highly enjoyable occasion and a fitting way to mark this very special anniversary. HRH The Prince of Wales had specially written a letter to her, his words were incredibly touching and were hugely appreciated.

I know Yvonne is highly respected and liked across the Regiment and we thank her warmly for all she has done for us since 1980. Of course, her 50th will be even more special!

1. *Yvonne being presented with her Certificate for Meritorious Service by Major General Chris Ghika CBE, Major General Commanding The Household Division*
2. *L-R; Colonel TCS Bonas, Paul, Yvonne, Leon, Lovenne and Grandson Nazir standing in the front*
3. *The Socially Distanced scene in the Major Generals Office.*
4. *Anniversary Lunch in the Cavalry and Guards Club. L-R; Vivien Bonas, Yvonne, Colonel Tom Bonas.*
5. *Yvonne Reading out her personal letter from His Royal Highness The prince of Wales.*
6. *Laptop viewing of the special video recorded message from the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.*
7. *Presentation of Silver statuette on behalf of the Regiment.*
8. *Private anniversary lunch in the Cavalry and Guards Club.*



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A Unique Event in Regimental History

by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

On Friday 14th August at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, a unique event may have occurred in the Regiment's history. Every Regiment in the British Army has seen generations of family members passing through its ranks and the Welsh Guards is no exception to this.

Indeed, the list of names and families in this century would fill many library shelves. There are also countless examples of brothers serving in the Regiment at the same time, currently the Salusbury and Clarke brothers. Although there are more knowledgeable Regimental personnel than I, I am not sure we have ever had a trio of [officer] brothers serving at the same time and, if so, this unique event occurred when Officer Cadet Cameron Clarke commissioned into the Regiment on 14th August to join his brothers, Edward and William with Edward recently

handing over as Adjutant to William. No pressure on the younger brother to follow in their footsteps!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were sadly not able to watch Officer Cadet Cameron Clarke pass out on the parade ground in front of Old College but were permitted to hold a picnic lunch afterwards. With the rain holding off we all enjoyed the special occasion until 3pm where stumps were drawn with cadets having to depart by 6pm and sadly no Commissioning Ball in the evening.



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for 1/2 of Roberts platoon in their home that evening with all of them wearing their Regimental Mess Dress. I am told it was a great night and all behaved impeccably!! Style indeed!

We have for some time now been blessed with a hugely strong cohort of officers commissioning from Sandhurst and I don't see this changing. They all bring something different to the table, but all absolutely share what we stand for as Welsh Guardsmen and the ethos and customs that have been our benchmark since our formation.



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Commissioning with Cameron Clarke was Officer Cadet Robert Cross, a member of the Sovereigns Platoon and, like Cameron, had done excellently at Sandhurst. A grade 8 pianist and with music and singing running through the family DNA, Robert sang to his whole intake in the field on completion of the final exercise, an impromptu moment which I am told all present will never forget. Bodes well for the Battalion Choir! In lieu of a Commissioning Ball, Roberts parents hosted a dinner party

1. *Off the parade ground (L) Cameron Clarke, (R) Robert Cross*
2. *A happy Robert Cross with his proud parents.*
3. *The Clarke Family L-R: Capt Ed Clarke, 2Lt Cam Clarke, Mrs Amanda Clarke, Capt Will Clarke*
4. *The Clarke Family with Grandmother*
5. *The Clarke Brothers L-R: Ed, Cam and Will*
6. *WO1 Command Sergeant Major (Home Command) Dean Morgan 10 with Capt Ed Clarke*
7. *WG Officers at the Commissioning Parade L-R: Capt Ed Clarke, Capt James Marsden, Col Tom Bonas, Capt Will Clarke, Capt Ed Anderson*



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Memoranda, A Punishing Experience

by Roy Lewis (2741392)

In his book "An Undistinguished Life" Andrew Gibson-Watt refers to the habits and conventions of the Regiment many of which he says were inherited from the Grenadiers who before we were formed recruited in South Wales.

One is Memoranda which he describes as 'legal business sessions of Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Company Commanders.' Those who had lost their names and were marched in to answer for their misdeeds would describe it as judgement day!

Officers who took Memoranda had a Regimental Scale of Punishment which listed almost a hundred offences beginning with "Absence" and ending with "Wrong order for parades or fatigues." The Scale used in the 1940s includes "Allowing a prisoner to escape" and "Being in a public house or property out of Bounds to Troops" and those found guilty of "Committing a nuisance after lights out" were confined to Barracks for five days. A man found guilty of having a bruised face had to "Remain in until well."

Those showing rifles during a dust storm in Transjordan thought it unfair to be given an Extra Drill for a "Dusty Rifle" but no-one could be charged with being "Improperly dressed in the streets" because there weren't any! Extra drills were the punishment for inattentive drill or fatigues and being idle on sentry but "Irregular conduct on sentry, being off his post, sitting down etc." was dealt with by the Commanding Officer.

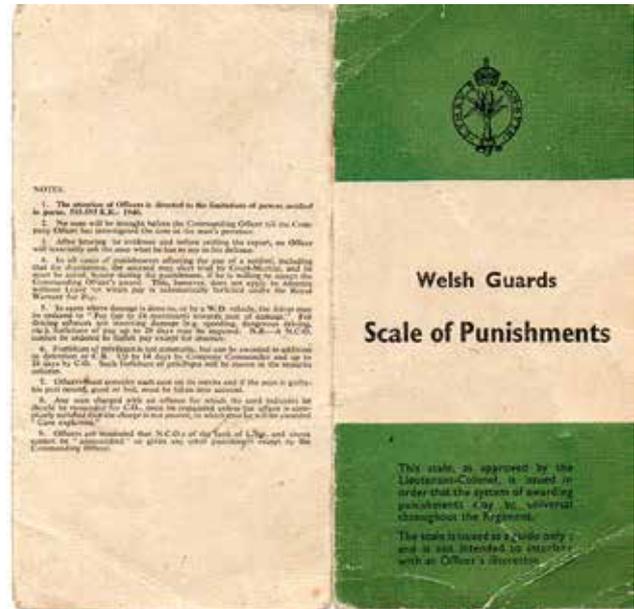
"Making a reply in the ranks," "Not shaved for a parade" and "Using obscene language" were dealt with by a Company Commander or Adjutant and

punished by Extra Drill or Extra Parades. There were fines for drunkenness beginning with 10/- (50p) for a first offence and although very few had cars there was a charge for "Dangerous driving and all offences against the Road Traffic Act" and "Being involved in a traffic accident."

The Commanding Officer also dealt with those who "Altered clothing without permission," "Being in possession of an article the property of a comrade" and "Borrowing or buying an article of kit or equipment without permission" but the offence which we now find the most amusing and inexplicable is surely "Being in bed without leave."

Editor's Note. The Powers and Scales of Punishment issued in 1940 were updated and incorporated into the provisional Regimental Standing Orders published by Colonel Sir Alexander Stanier Bt DSO MC on 1st March 1946 and then later incorporated into Regimental Standing Orders published and approved by His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel Welsh Guards on 1st March 1966. Interestingly the offence of "Grumbling when warned for duty" survived edit although the maximum punishment was reduced from a set 3 day's Confined to Barracks (CB) to a punishment at the Commanding Officers discretion!

Today discipline remains as important as ever, with



Commanding Officers memoranda taking place twice a month following the age old tradition of marching in, marking time and asking for permission to speak but adapted for the modern era by the inclusion of an Accused Advisor (normally a Pl Comd or Coy Comd) who is there to advise the accused of his rights!



The Guards Parachute Platoon
 by Sergeant LB Langley Welsh Guards,
 6 (Guards) Platoon Sergeant
 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

"We ought to have a Corps of at least 5,000 Parachute troops". These famous words in a letter dated 22nd June 1940 from Sir Winston Churchill to his chief military assistant, General Hastings Ismay, were the beginning of the British Airborne capability that would fight in every battle from the Bruneval Radar Station raid (Op BITING) in 1942 to the Mountains of Afghanistan (Op HERRICK) today.

A quick blast on google search will reveal various theories associated with how the colour was selected for the Parachute Regiment beret, but our preferred version, which is invariably true is; *When the colour of the Parachute Regiment Beret could not be decided, Generals decided to ask the first Private soldier they came across. The man they asked was a former member of Number Two Company Welsh Guards and he suggested the Company Colour, Maroon.* Maroon is now intrinsically linked with the Paratrooper not just in the UK but in a multitude of nations across the globe.

Although all of this is well documented, it is perhaps less well known that it was the Household Division that answered the call and the Welsh Guards sent their fittest and most experienced Gdsm, NCO'S & Officers from across the Battalion to take part in Pre-Parachute Selection.

At the end of the Second World War, the Guards Parachute Battalion was formed, serving in Palestine before being



disbanded and reduced to Company strength in 1948. The (Guards) Independent Parachute Company was formed to be the Pathfinder Company for 16th Parachute Brigade. Members of the (Guards) Independent Parachute Company were deployed to a number of operational theatres including Op MUSKETEER in 1956, jumping into Egypt, as well as working alongside 22 SAS in Malaya. When the unit was disbanded in 1975 many members of the Company went on to form G Squadron 22 SAS.

In 2001 the Guards Parachute Platoon was formed and placed in B Company, 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment (3PARA). Within 18 months the Platoon was spearheading the assault into Southern Iraq on Op TELIC 1. Three years later 3 PARA was in Helmand on Op HERRICK 4, with some members of the Platoon going to Easy Company in Musa Qala which saw some of the fiercest fighting of the whole Afghan campaign. The Guards Parachute Platoon deployed three more times to Afghanistan.

I completed my All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (AAPS) in October 2015 and was posted to the Guards Parachute Platoon on 1 January 2016 as a Section Commander. Postings are normally for 2 years during which time I enjoyed the best 2 years of my Army Career to date. This was due mainly to several factors; the grown-up working environment which prevailed, working with soldiers that have high personal standards of fitness, professionalism and drive to better themselves and finally, the exposure to high levels of soldiering is unparalleled, ranging from the largest Airborne Jump in Western



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Europe Since World War 2, to deploying to America's Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC) with the 82nd Airborne Division.

1 October 2019 saw me return to the Guards Parachute Platoon as the Platoon Sergeant. During my time here our focus has very much been preparing for Very High Readiness (VHR) which included deploying to Kenya on Ex ASKARI STORM, Riot Training and a Battalion Urban Warfare Exercise culminating in a Night Attack on Eastmere Village at Stanford Training Area (STANTA). All this has been carried out within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrating both 3PARA and 16 Brigades commitment to deliver an Operational Output in all circumstances.

On Ex ASKARI STORM seven members of Number 2 Company Welsh Guards formed a Section under LSgt Burrows-Jones and attached themselves to the Guards Parachute Platoon. It was a great opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the Battalion what life is like for members of the Platoon. They fully integrated into the Platoon and performed well with Gdsm Hamer and



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all your training into practise are few and far between, but in the next 6 months the Guards Parachute Platoon will have Gdsm and NCO's in two Operational theatres, while maintaining readiness to deploy anywhere in the world if required. An opportunity not to be missed and not matched anywhere else in the British Army.

The Guards Parachute Platoon currently consists of:

- Captain F Wellesley HCR
- Sgt Langley WG
- Cpl (LSgt) Porter GREN GDS
- Cpl (LSgt) Williams 32 WG
- LCpl Coy WG
- LCpl Jones 50 COLDM GDS
- LCpl McGovern IG
- Tpr Grinstead HCR
- Gdsm Bayley IG
- Gdsm Barnard COLDM GDS
- Gdsm Forrest COLDM GDS
- Gdsm Goold GREN GDS
- Gdsm Holland GREN GDS



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Gdsm Williamson recording the highest TES (Tactical Engagement Simulation) kills in the Company.

Since returning from Kenya the Guards Parachute Platoon has welcomed LCpl Coy from No 2 Company and Cpl (LSgt) Williams from Catterick, another Number 2 Company man. Cpl (LSgt) Roberts has returned to Battalion and the Platoon would like to thank him for his 4 years of service to the Guards Parachute Platoon as a LCpl and as a Section Commander. We wish him all the best for the future.



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Currently, the Guards Parachute Platoon is hugely undermanned and has 14 vacancies for Guardsmen. The Welsh Guards have always been ready, willing and able to volunteer to serve with Airborne Forces and if you complete the AAPPS then you will be posted to the Platoon and be exposed to a unique soldiering experience like no other. We currently serve in an army where the opportunity to deploy on operations and put



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1. Members of the Guards Parachute Platoon about to Jump in America 2016. Standing L-R; Wint (GREN GDS), Langley (WG), Martin (SG), McClure (HCR), Brown (COLDM GDS), Celia (COLDM GDS). Kneeling; Pringle (HCR), Marchent (HCR)
2. Guardsman Goold (GREN GDS) walking off the Drop Zone (DZ) having just completed a parachute jump
3. Guards Parachute Platoon with 1WG Section attached on Ex ASKARI STORM 20, Kenya
4. Cpl (LSgt) Roberts (WG) overtaking members of the Household Division during a 3 miler in Pirbright
5. Sgt Langley (WG) on a visit to the Household Division All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (AAPPS) Screening in Pirbright
6. Guards Parachute Platoon Having just completed Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) in the USA in 2016
7. Sgt Langley (WG) LSgt Burrows-Jones (WG) and LCpl Ryan (IG) Ex ASKARI STORM 20
8. Platoon Commander Capt FC Wellesley (RHG/D) and Platoon Sergeant Sgt Langley (WG) after completing the pairs fire manoeuvre lane During LFTT in Kenya
9. LCpl McGovern (Right) about to conduct a Parachute Jump with a Polish parachute earning his Polish Wings
10. Sgt Langley the first Welsh Guards Sergeant to take over the Guards Parachute Platoon in 12 Years
11. Cpl (LSgt) Roberts (WG) about to conduct his last Parachute Jump before returning to the Welsh Guards
12. Jordanian Blackhawk - The Guards Parachute Platoon about to carry out an Air Assault Operation, Jordan 2018



Guards Parachute Association (GPA) Memorial to Guardsmen who have served in Airborne Forces

by Major ADI Wall MBE

The Guards Parachute Association was formed in 1975 following the disbandment of the Guards Independent Parachute Company, as part of the defence cuts.

Originally membership of the Association was limited to those who had served in the Company but this was later extended to include Guardsmen who had served in the Guards Parachute Battalion, or who were parachute trained and were serving or who had served in airborne forces, thus including those in 5 Airborne Brigade or in 22 SAS Regiment.

The first airborne members of the Household Division were those who, during World War 2, served with 11th Special Air Service Battalion, which subsequently became 1st Parachute Brigade in September 1941, and those in the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions. Post war reorganizations led to the formation of 1st (Guards) Parachute Battalion in 1946, later reestablished as the Guards Independent Parachute Company in 1948, and in 22 SAS Regiment when it was formally established.

Guardsmen currently serving in airborne forces are in the SAS Regiment and 6 (Guards) Platoon, attached to 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, formed in March 2001.

In 2019 the Chairman of the GPA, Jim Heycock, who joined 1WG in 1969, followed by service in the Guards Parachute Company and then in 22 SAS, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, realized that, other than a window in the Guards Chapel, which was in commemoration of all those who had served between 1946 and 1975 with the 1st (Guards) Parachute Battalion and the Guards Independent Parachute Company, there was no other memorial which recognized all those Guardsmen who had died when serving with the wider Airborne Forces.

Following further discussion within the GPA, it was decided that to meet this requirement it would be a fitting tribute to

erect a GPA Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), Staffordshire.

This plan being agreed, steps were taken to: submit an application to the Memorial and Landscapes Committee; apply to the Charities Commission for charitable status for the project; design a suitable statue, base and surrounds for the memorial; and consider how to raise funds to cover the obvious costs.

To date the Memorial and Landscapes Committee at the Arboretum have agreed and a site has been allocated, appropriately adjacent to The Household Division Memorial and The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces National Memorial.

Charitable Status for the project has been agreed by the Charities Commission and the Association has been granted Gift Aid by HMR&C.

A design for the Memorial has been made and agreed (see photo 1). The Memorial will incorporate a bronze statue of just over life size proportions, modeled on a photograph of a member of the Guards Independent Parachute Company leaving a drop zone, following a parachute jump. The statue will stand on a Scoutmoor stone plinth mounted on a base, also of Scoutmoor stone.

On the front of the plinth there will be a brief history covering those airborne units in which Guardsmen were involved, their roles and the theatres in which they operated. In outline these were as follows:

During the 2nd World War the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions were involved in major operations in Europe and the Middle East.

In September 1945, the 6th Airborne Division was deployed to the Middle East. Within a year the Division was reduced to two Brigades and during that change the 1st Guards Parachute Battalion was formed and saw active service in Palestine.

In 1948 the Battalion was disbanded as the formation to which it belonged was reduced to a Brigade, the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade. The battalion contracted to a company, the 16th (later called the 1st) Guards Independent Pathfinder Company, assuming the role of pathfinders for the Brigade. In the 1950s, 60s and 70s the Company saw service in the Canal Zone, the Suez Canal operation, Cyprus, Jordan, Borneo (in the SAS role) and Northern Ireland.

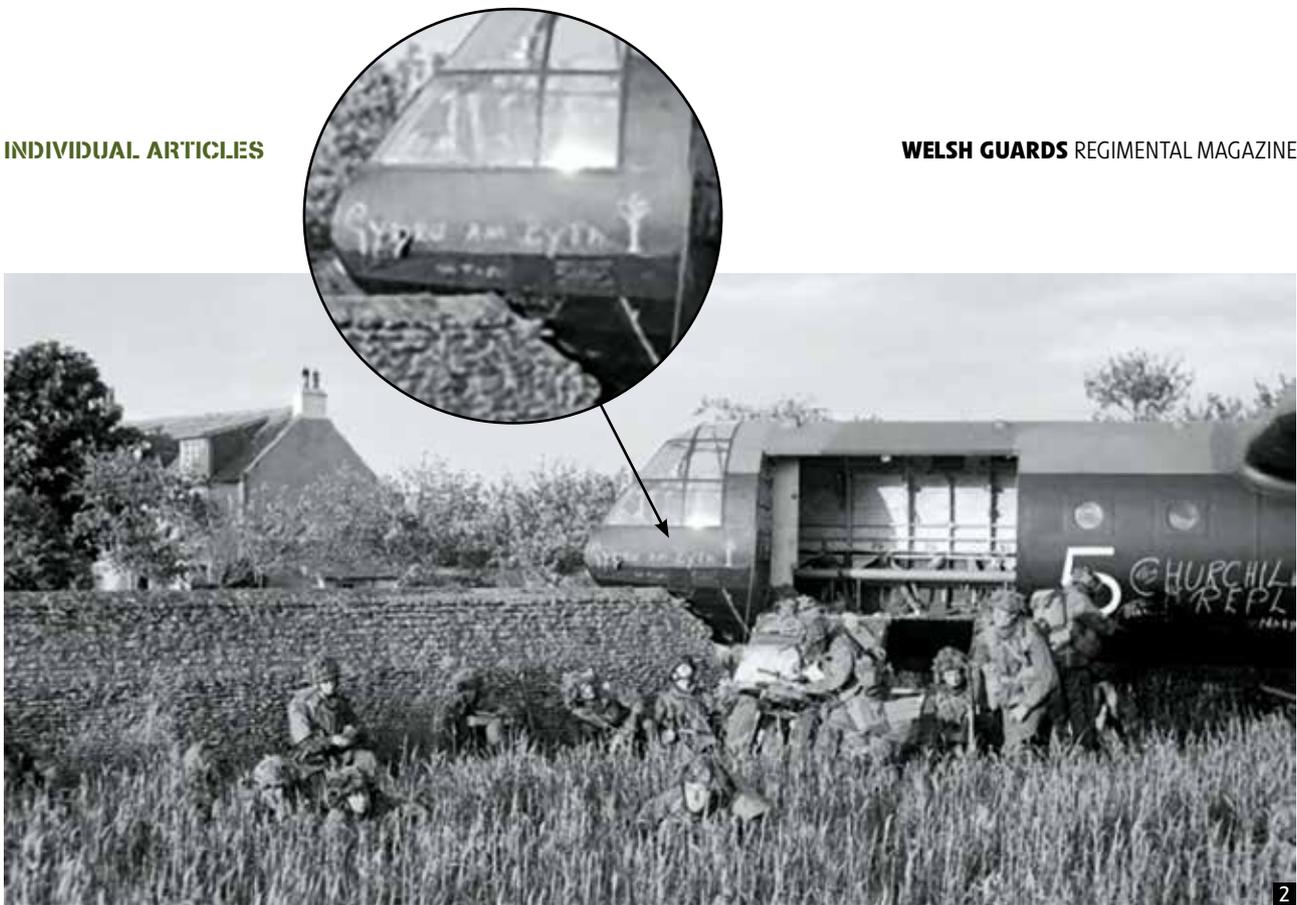
Following the disbandment of the 1st Guards Independent Company, several members of the Company volunteered for Selection and transferred to 22 SAS, joining the many Guardsmen who were serving and who had served in The Regiment in many theatres around the world.

In 2001 No.6 (Guards Parachute) Platoon was formed, becoming a part of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. Members of the Platoon have seen service in Afghanistan.

One side of the plinth will show the mottos of the Household Division and The Parachute Regiment, with another side describing what the statue depicts. Another side of the plinth will show a part of a poem.



The statue for the GPA Memorial is being modelled on a member of the Guards Parachute Company seen in the photograph taken during the Queen's review of 16 Parachute Brigade in 1967.



There will be a display of the cap badges of the 7 Household Division Regiments, laid out in a half moon on the front of the bronze statue. The Pegasus, the Household Division Star and the cap badge of the Parachute Regiment will be laid out on the rear of the base.

An information plaque will be placed at the entrance to the GPA Memorial site, displaying the Memorial name and showing when and by whom it was unveiled and dedicated. The whole site will be accessible by wheelchair; a path will take visitors around the whole memorial, to enable it to be studied from all aspects.

Fund raising has begun and generous donations have been made by The Household Division, each of the seven regiments of the Household Division, the SAS Association and the SAS Clocktower Fund, The Parachute Regiment, the Remembrance Trust, and members of the Guards Parachute Association.

At the time of writing this article, work had begun on the site, slightly delayed because of

COVID-19. The completion date and the date of the unveiling ceremony cannot yet be confirmed, but it is hoped that this will take place in 2021.

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank has agreed to be the Patron of the Guards Parachute Association Memorial project. HRH The Prince of Wales, the Patron of the Guards Parachute Association, has been invited to carry out the unveiling of the Memorial but again, his acceptance cannot be confirmed until dates for the unveiling can be decided.

The Charity Objectives of the Guards Parachute Association Memorial Project are as follows:

The Association is established to further the following 3 purposes:

1. To preserve and foster comradeship between serving and retired members of the Association by:
 - Providing an opportunity for members to meet at an annual dinner, normally to be held, on

the Saturday nearest the date of the 1975 disbandment of No1 (Guards) Independent Company, The Parachute Regiment, which was the 24th October, 1975.

- Providing a welfare network for members who may have fallen on hard times, or for their wives, widows, and children, at the discretion of the committee.
 - Organising and encouraging members to attend other functions, whether social, military or commemorative, as representatives of the Association.
 - Supporting and encouraging, in every way possible, Guards units and individuals serving in the airborne role.
2. To relieve need, hardship, and distress amongst past and present members of Guards Airborne soldiers and their dependents by making grants and providing such support as the trustees deem appropriate.

3. The commemoration and remembrance of those members of the Household Division who have served in airborne forces and who have died while in service, by the erection of a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and to educate the public and serving soldiers and veterans from all regiments and corps, on the long-established and cherished traditions and the history of Guardsmen in Airborne Force and the sacrifices made by Airborne Guardsmen in conflict in the service of their country.

1. *The Memorial will incorporate a bronze statue of just over life size proportions, modeled on a photograph of a member of the Guards Independent Parachute Platoon - Airborne Glider Troops from the Welsh Guards Normandy 6th June 1944 WG Cap Badge can be seen drawn on the Glider to the left of the door with the words Cymru am Byth.*
2. *Photo courtesy of Sgt Luke Langley, PI Sgt Guards Parachute Platoon - Airborne Glider Troops from the Welsh Guards Normandy 6th June 1944 WG Cap Badge can be seen drawn on the Glider to the left of the door with the words Cymru am Byth.*

Professional Golfers who Died in the Great War

By Nick Farr

Welsh Guards Association London Branch Associate Member
And Welsh Guards Reunited Branch Site Historian

Following the declaration of War against the Central Powers, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire on the 4th August 1915, Lord Kitchener the Secretary of State for War, appealed for an additional 100,000 men to enlist into the British Army 3 days after war was declared.

Within 8 weeks nearly 750,000 men from various peace time occupations had responded to the call to arms to fight for King and Country. These men included Professional Golfers.

Extensive research, undertaken by former Professional Golf Association (PGA) chairman of 25 years, Dr Phil Weaver OBE has revealed the identities of 116 PGA professionals who answered this call but never returned from the conflict. The PGA had 840 members in 1913, this relates to 14% of the membership who became fatalities in WW1.

These include the fate of the Cottrell brothers from Guiseley in Yorkshire. All four were professional golfers but three of them were killed in the conflict.

My own research has identified two PGA members who were to serve in the Welsh Guards; sadly both were killed in action.

In 1911 Matthew Owen was single, age 23, residing as a boarder at 19 Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, Warrington and listed as a Professional Golfer. He was the Golf Professional at Leigh Golf Club and remained there until 1914 after which he secured the post of Professional at Tynemouth Golf Club, North Shields, Tyne & Wear before his enlistment.

Matthew's entry into golf is not known but records confirm that he joined the Professional Golfers' Association in 1909 in the Northern Section.

Matthew enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (No 20934) on the 30th November 1914 aged 27 years and 1 month at Windsor. He transferred to Welsh Guards on the 27th February 1915 and was issued with a new service number of 502. He was appointed unpaid L/Cpl on the 30th April 1915 and promoted to Corporal and unpaid L/Sgt 30th July 1915.

He married Plesance Rabina Reed on the 14th August 1915 just 3 days before embarkation to France with 30 Officers and 1,107 other ranks on the 17th August 1915.

Matthew was killed in action on the 27th September 1915 at the Battle of Loos alongside 51 other Welsh Guardsmen just 6 weeks or so after his marriage. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial and also at the Tynemouth Golf Club. The general committee at the time of his death recorded:

"All must have been struck with Owen's singularly sweet and happy disposition, all deeply regret his death and the loss thereby sustained by the club"

In 1911 Douglas Terry Mabbitt was aged 16 living at 'Holmlea'

LOCAL GOLF PROFESSIONAL KILLED.

Information has been received that Sergeant Matthew Owen, Welsh Guards, who was the professional of the Tynemouth Golf Club, has been killed in action. He belonged to Harlech, Merioneth, and joined the Grenadier Guards at the commencement of the war. On the formation of the Welsh Guards he was transferred to the Prince of Wales' Company and promoted sergeant. He married Miss Reed, of Stephenson Street, North Shields, in August last. The dead man was 28 years of age.



Sergt. M. OWEN.

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MERTHYR GOLF PROFESSIONAL.

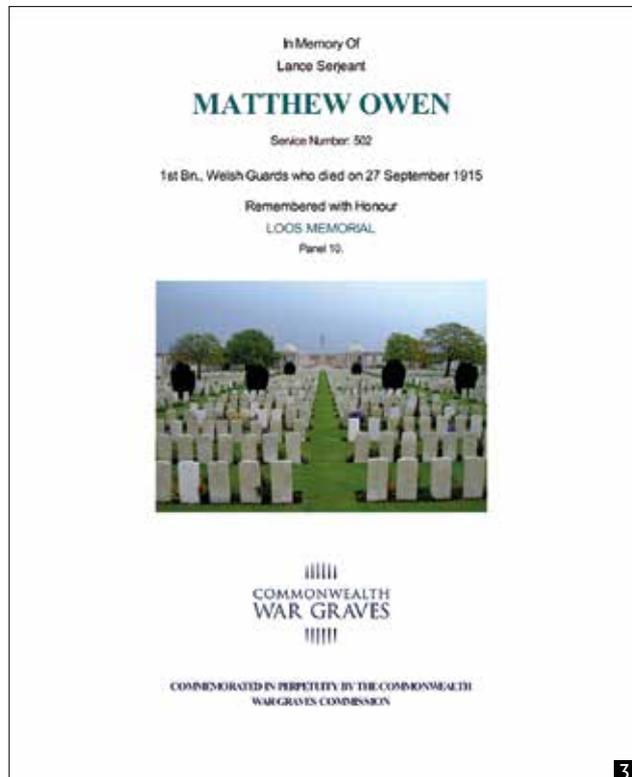
Official information has been received by his parents, Mr and Mrs Mabbitt, 7, Junction terrace, Radyr, of the death in action of their son, Lance-Corporal Douglas Terry Mabbitt, of the Welsh Guards, Lance-Corporal Mabbitt, who was only 21 years of age, joined the Welsh Cyclists in October, 1914, and was transferred to the Welsh Guards in March, 1915, going to France in August of the same year. Prior to the war he was golf professional at Merthyr. He served his apprenticeship at Radyr Club under Mr Marjoram.



D. T. Mabbitt.

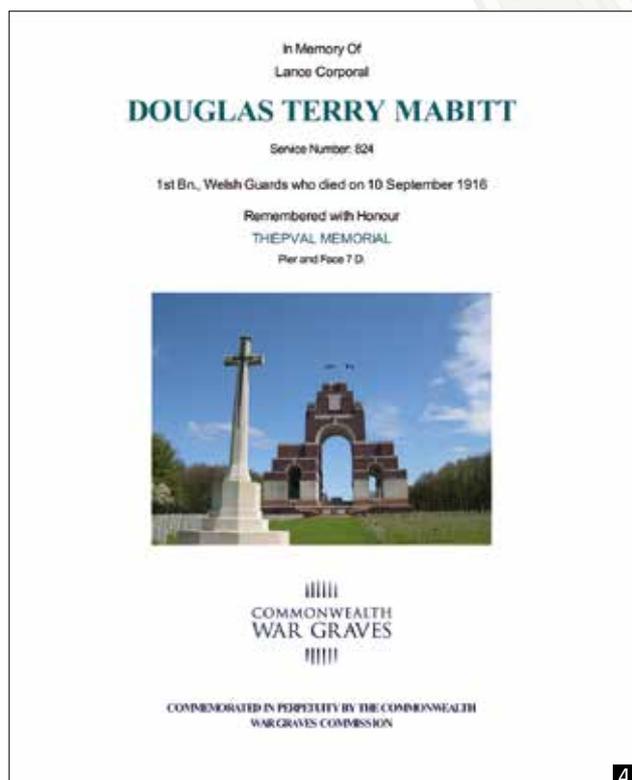
"PLUCKY TO THE LAST."

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May their sacrifice never be forgotten



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7, Junction Terrace, Radyr and was an Assistant Professional Golfer. He served initially under Harry Marjoram the Professional at Radyr Golf Club before moving to Morlais Castle Golf Club as Assistant to David Tate.

Douglas enlisted into the Welsh Guards (824) on the 19th March 1915 in Cardiff. He gave his age as 20 years and 3 months and his occupation as a Professional Golfer. He was appointed an unpaid L/Cpl in the field on the 8th August 1916. He was amongst the 72 Welsh Guards men killed in action on the 10th September 1916 at the battle of Ginchy.

Douglas is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing.

3 other Golf Professionals who enlisted into other Welsh Regiments died during WW1.

Private Cecil Ewart Griffiths, (285129) 2nd. Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment. Died of Wounds. 25th August 1917, 23 years of age.

Lance Corporal Ernest Lewis, (18745) 9th Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Died (most likely through sickness) 29th July 1918.

Private Ernest John Williams, (56680) "C" Coy. 10th Battalion Welsh Regiment, attached 38th Bn. Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) killed in action 19th April 1918 age 24 years old.

1. *Press death notification of 502 LSgt Matthew Owen*
2. *Press death notification of 824 LCpl Douglas Terry Mabitt*
3. *Commonwealth War Graves Memorial Certificate for 502 LSgt Matthew*
4. *Commonwealth War Graves Memorial Certificate for 824 LCpl Douglas Terry Mabitt*



Welsh Guards Regimental Archives

by Mrs Vivien Bonas

Back in January 2017 my husband mentioned to me that he was going to ask Captain Marcus Scriven to look at the archives section at Regimental Headquarters with a view to updating this and he wondered whether I would consider helping out with this task as “his assistant”.

With the move of all individual service records to “Restore Records Management” in October 2017, it seemed the perfect opportunity to organise the regimental archive correctly in the space they had vacated. Not knowing too much about this I ventured down to the bowels of the building to see exactly what I might be letting myself in for. What I encountered was about 16 huge filing racks with a myriad of papers, photos and other memorabilia stacked on the various shelves. Gosh what was I letting myself in for! Well I agreed to meet Marcus and discuss the whole task. All

went well and we embarked on our “updating plan”!

To my mind there were many items that could be put in a black sack but Marcus thought otherwise and spent many hours ploughing through personal accounts and other “real” archive material whilst I tried to make sense of photographs, minutes of meetings, dinners, Remembrance Sundays, St David’s Days and other minutia. We enjoyed our meetings and made huge progress, thanks to Marcus’ diligence and careful inspection of everything. We



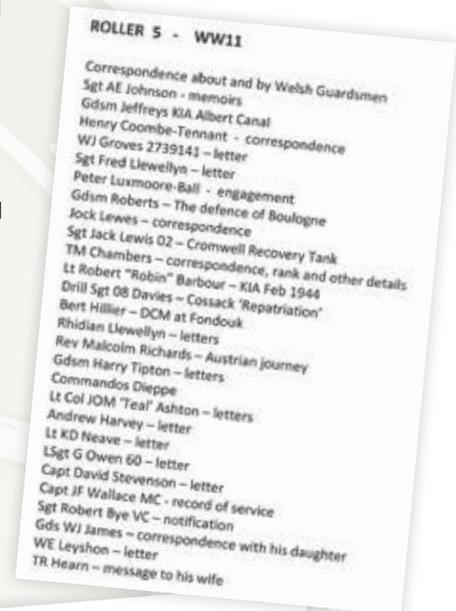
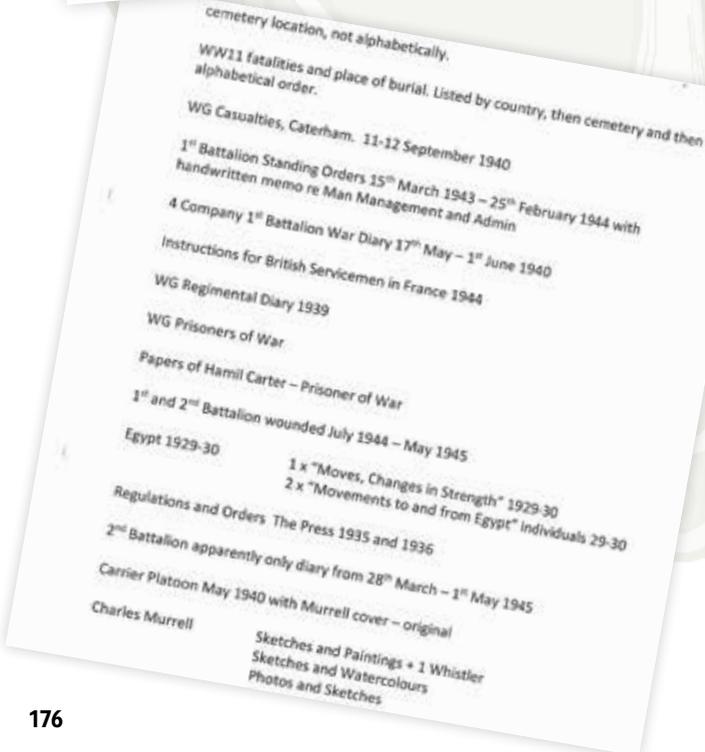
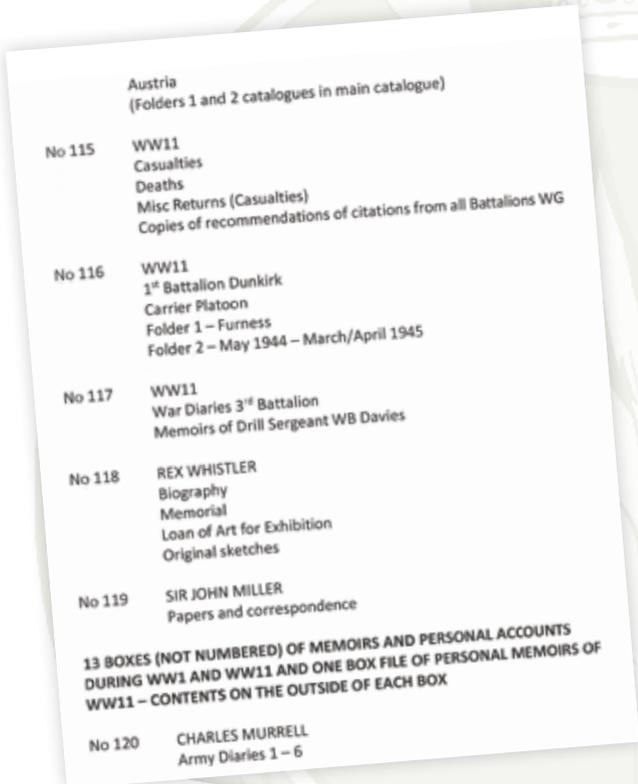
found so much of interest that it was hard to drag oneself away from one thing to look at another. There were so many personal accounts of battles, the situations they found themselves in and what they were thinking at the time and also a huge amount of photograph albums and

personal belongings, medals, diaries, war accounts, passports, letters home and so much more. Also probably about 100 mounted squad photograph dating back to the early 1900s.

It was decided that we would name all the filing racks from left to right starting from everything

connected to the Regimental Adjutant, the Battalion, WW1, WW2, Berlin, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, The Falklands and then finally Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Sadly, after about a year Marcus had to give up all the wonderful work he had done and return to his full time-time job. It was a hard task taking over what he had done so meticulously. I amalgamated boxes, built new ones and slowly began to make some sense of it. I kept the naming of the filing racks that we had agreed to and eventually managed to arrange the boxes in the various order that seemed to be the best. Then came the numbering from 1 to 170 and the logging on the computer so that hopefully when someone was looking for a specific item it would be reasonably easy for them to find it. It was a fun, if somewhat challenging, three years but so worth it to see the transformation of the "archives" as it is today.

Unfortunately we forgot to photograph what we had originally taken on! but the photographs which accompany this article show how well organised we are now, they give examples of the indexing system being used, what sort of items we hold and the storage systems we now have in place.



Our Particular Way of Doing Things The Welsh Guards Ethos Booklet

by Captain JO Dinwiddie

The secret behind many successful businesses, teams and indeed military organisations is a clearly defined shared sense of identity, a set of clear collective values to live by and high standards to ensure collective performance.

Recently, 1st Battalion have set about defining and recording its own corporate identity. This piece of work has been informed by the Regiment's heritage and the values we wish to project into the future. The project has produced an Ethos Booklet; a bound A5 hardback to be presented to every serving member of the Welsh Guards.

The ethos booklet is split down into several sections: 'Who we are', 'Our particular way of doing things', 'Our Identity', and 'Our Heritage'. These chapters seek to record and communicate the essence and strength of the Welsh Guards, it should become a source of reference and a baseline of standards for future generations of Welsh Guardsmen to aspire to and uphold.

Our Ethos itself is a set of collective attitudes, which we apply in our approach to life on and off duty; it informs how we conduct our tasks and should be instinctively understood by all. The booklet champions five key principles: 'Excellence by nature and through nurture', 'Guards discipline at our core', 'Leadership and initiative at the lowest level', 'Our Ysbryd: our spirit' and 'Patriotism and loyalty'. These five principles are briefly explained below with extracts from the booklet:

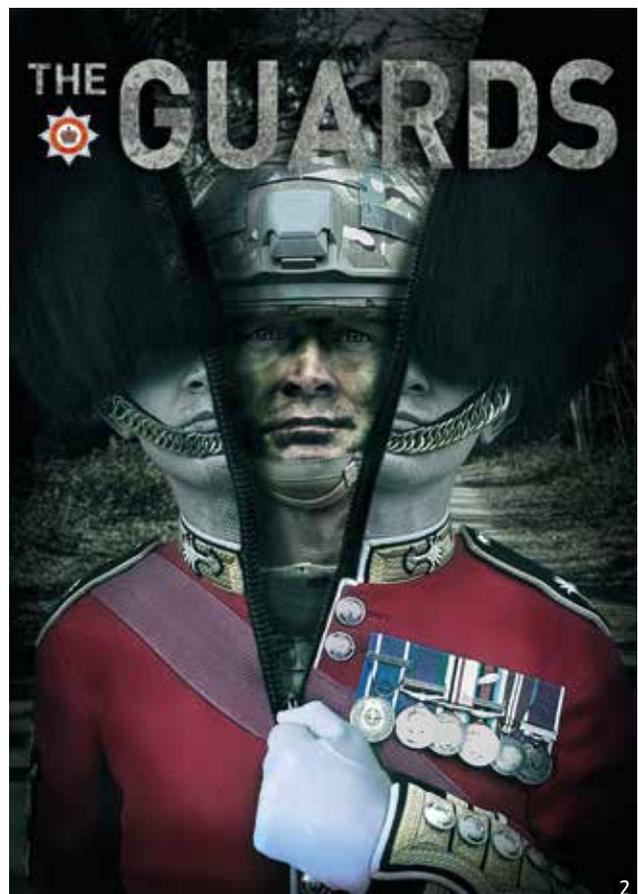
Excellence is our ultimate principle, the foundation of our ethos; it is applied daily by all. Our ethos, taught in training and nurtured in Battalion, demands above all

else the pursuit of excellence on operations, on the parade square, in training, in barracks and off duty.

Our personal discipline acts as the backbone of our endurance, fortitude and courage. It inspires confidence in those around us and makes us utterly dependable. Our personal discipline therefore forms the foundations of our personal reputation and is developed through individual pride and leadership at every rank. Leadership underpins our ultimate principle of excellence; it is nurtured through our personal discipline and pride in our standards, across all ranks: Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen alike. In the Welsh Guards we must all set the right example; we should nurture and develop those around us and we should empower others to use their initiative.

Our Ysbryd is perhaps the most unique characteristic of the Welsh Guards; humour, humility and compassion are as natural to a Welshman as the love of gold is to the dragon. The Welsh Guards are blessed to have these attributes coursing through our veins. It is evident in everything we do; it brings a light-hearted attitude towards our work, it enables us to learn and adapt and forges strong working relationships.

Loyalty and patriotism are at the heart of our fighting spirit, it is our 'indomitable will to win'. Winning is achieved through





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loyalty to each other, to our families, to our Regiment, to Wales and to our Monarch. Our loyalty is our conscience, it drives us to do the right thing and it gives us the courage to be utterly selfless for one another in the face of adversity.

Simon Sinek’s book on leadership impresses the importance behind understanding why we do things rather than what we do; whilst Stanley McCrystal’s

Team of Teams talks about the creation of a shared consciousness or shared sense of purpose to generate trust and effective teams. The Ethos booklet seeks to build a shared sense of belonging and purpose to provide meaning to our role and pride in our standards.

The booklet praises the performance and competence of those who serve in the Battalion, but it also promotes personal humility and

selflessness to combat elitism. Fortunately, these attributes are natural for a Welshman and instinctive for a Welsh Guardsman.

It is only when one leaves the Battalion that we fully appreciate the value of the Welsh Guards culture; the Battalion is our workplace, but it is also our family and our home. It is easy to critique the internal workings of an organisation from the inside, but looking from the outside-in, it is very evident that the Welsh Guards is a unique Regiment. It is the spirit and familiar compassion of those serving that one misses so greatly that makes the Welsh Guards such a formidable fighting force and special home.

I cherish the formative years of my career with the Battalion, but it took a period of comparison outside the Battalion to acknowledge the depth of experience, strength of leadership and quality of our

people in the Welsh Guards. The Ethos booklet is written for all those who seek to uphold excellence by nature and through nurture and ultimately, it attempts to build a collective spiritual bond between a family of warriors, promoting unity of effort through our personal discipline and strong selfless leadership.

The Ethos booklet is due to be printed and presented before the end of the year.

1. *Capt John “Jock” Steel Lewes, co-founder of the Special Air Service, Libyan Desert 1941*
2. *Our dual-role, encapsulated by Regimental Sergeant Major Parry*
3. *Members of The Prince of Wales’s Company on patrol in 2018 at the famous Bala Hisar keep, Kabul, Afghanistan.*
4. *On parade.*

The Welsh Guards Memorial Stone at Combermere Barracks Windsor

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Hughes (39)

Company Sergeant Major Headquarter Company

With 6 unit moves in the last 17 years we haven't exactly had anywhere we could call home, until now.

On moving into Combermere Barracks, Windsor it was clear that this was to be our new home and somewhere we could invest time and effort into making ours.

When the Household Cavalry departed, after nearly 200 years(!), they (quite rightly) took with them numerous items of history, including their historical vehicles that were dotted round camp. They also took their memorial to their fallen soldiers that was situated near to the Guardroom and which was commonly referred to as "The Gate Guardian". This gave me an idea, as I had visited numerous camps over the years, including various training regiments and tri service stations, all of which had a memorial near their entrance. A place that could be the focal point for events such as Remembrance Sunday but also somewhere soldiers could go to reflect on their fallen comrades.

I began to investigate what sort of memorial would suit not only us that are serving but also our veterans. I also wanted a piece of Wales here in Windsor and coming from a small mining town in North Wales, Welsh slate was an obvious choice. I decided to propose we purchase a slate memorial from the largest mine in the world in Blaenau Ffestiniog, crowned the town that roofed the world; the slate has a certain shade of grey that is only found there.

The Commanding Officer took the idea to the Regimental Trustees, to seek funding and they generously agreed wholeheartedly with the idea. We then began to design what would be a fitting lasting memorial for us as a Regiment. We toyed with the idea of having the names of our fallen inscribed on the stone but decided a regiment with a full and eventful history like ours this would be a huge task and one that wouldn't be cost effective or able to fit on the slate.

The Warrant Officer fraternity put forward 3 designs and it was decided to settle on a slate with our Regimental Crest and the words engraved either side would be ones known by all soldiers from every generation, the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon - *They Shall Grow Not Old*.....

Keen to enhance our Welsh heritage, we decided it was important to have the wording in Welsh as well as English and our design was born.

Obviously COVID-19 influenced the production but the small company from the Welsh town had the piece blown out of the mountain and on the table in a matter of days. The process started with 3 of the edges being straightened with a giant slate saw, the front was smoothed by hand and this gave the perfectly flat surface that the design could be sandblasted onto. Once proofread the design was stuck on and the sandblasting



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took a full 3 days work. Concurrently on the other side of the workshop the completely square steps and sills were being created. These would act as a plinth to box in the design and complete the perfect grey colour.

After 3 weeks work the stone was ready and was delivered on the 18th of September, 2 days later it was fully installed and cleaned ready for all to see. Spotlights will be fitted in due course which will ensure that the first thing that catches

your eye on entering our home is our memorial, a fitting 2 ton lump of Welsh slate detailing not only our Welsh heritage but also a solid and permanent feature in our identity that will outlive us all.

1. *How it all began.*
2. *Cut and smoothed.*
3. *Stencil, Sandblast and painting the detail.*
4. *Nearly finished*
5. *Final masterpiece, the Welsh Guards Memorial Stone.*





Assistant Equerry to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

by Captain CW A Ross

As many a fellow Welsh Guards officer reading this will have been fortunate enough to have experienced themselves first-hand, serving Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall as the Assistant Equerry is a huge privilege and an absolutely fantastic opportunity.

Having been handed the baton back in December 2018 by Captain Jack Farmelo, the past two years have flown by and I now look forward to handing over to my successor (whoever that maybe) in May 2021, so that they can create their own memories of working for and supporting Their Royal Highnesses (TRHs).

As the Assistant Equerry, we are seconded to The Royal Household in support of The Equerry, which is a tri-service competition posting. The role of the Assistant Equerry involves a variety of tasks, however, the key aspects include; assisting in managing and maintaining The Prince of Wales' military portfolio, leading on any





On a Welsh Guards basis, I was hugely lucky to be able to visit Battalion with our Colonel at Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright for the Op TORAL 6 Medals Parade in February 2019. In addition to this, now that His Royal Highness is Senior Colonel to The Household Division, we as the Assistant Equerry are responsible for organising and delivering the Senior Colonel's Conference. This is without a doubt one of the most surreal memories that I will take away from my time in this role, as it is not often one finds themselves having supper with six members of The Royal Family! Unfortunately, with no thanks to COVID whatsoever, The Prince of Wales's Company Review that was planned for May 2020 and Trooping the Colour, as we are usually used to delivering, were respectively cancelled and altered significantly; meaning neither event involved our Colonel.



business relating directly to the Welsh Guards, managing Her Royal Highnesses military affiliations, being the interface for all Welsh Guards officer recruiting and to fulfil the variety of duties required of the Assistant Equerry whilst up in Birkhall.

With regards to Royal Household duties, the vast majority of the Assistant Equerry's workload, is concentrated on supporting Her Royal Highness. In my time thus far, there have been ten audiences and eight visits to deliver. These have covered the bulk of The Duchess of Cornwall's military affiliations, including the likes of HMS ASTUTE, 4 RIFLES and RAF Halton. In July 2020, Her Royal Highness's military portfolio grew significantly when The Duke of Edinburgh handed over Colonelcy of The Rifles to Her Royal Highness. This took place in the shape of two separate yet succinct COVID restricted parades at both Windsor Castle and Highgrove.



One of the most rewarding aspects of the role is the planning, preparation and delivery of engagements, whether that be on a national scale or, more frequently, on a smaller scale with one of TRHs affiliated units. Whilst in this role, I have been privileged to be involved directly with national events such as D-Day 75 in Bayeux and VJ-Day 75 at The National Memorial Arboretum, as well as assisting in the delivery of the Commissioning of HMS PRINCE OF WALES. I have also taken the lead, on behalf of the Equerry, at the Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park and 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards 60th Anniversary Memorial Dedication Service at Llandaff Cathedral.

In addition to managing and planning engagements for affiliated units of HRH, there tends to be a small number of other events that the Assistant Equerry is required to either organise or support. Examples

of these include when The Duchess of Cornwall was invited to be the Reviewing Officer at The Royal Hospital Chelsea's Founder's Day Parade, which despite being postponed due to COVID, was executed in a very joyful socially distanced manner on the 15th July 2020. On a non-military theme, every year The Duchess of Cornwall hosts what is known as 'the dressing of the Christmas Tree'. This is an incredibly moving little engagement at Clarence House, which involves the Assistant Equerry donning tunic and bearskin in order to welcome and help children from Helen and Douglas House and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity dress the Christmas Tree before being served lunch in the Clarence House Dining Room.

The one rather unique and timely event that I was asked to attend, as it required 'working' on a Sunday, was the ICC Cricket World Cup Final at Lords! Her Royal Highness kindly supplied the Test Match Special (TMS) team with an elderflower and lemon sponge cake and, being the only cricket enthusiast within The Duchess of Cornwall's office, I took the heavy burden of having to deliver the cake to Jonathan Agnew (a.k.a. Aggers), whilst then watching the mesmerising final from the TMS box with the legends that are Aggers, Tuffers and Jimmy Anderson!

With COVID impacting virtually all aspects of life, the Assistant Equerry secondment to Clarence House was put on hold and I returned to London District in order to support the General Officer Commanding (GOC) in Horse Guards, as SO3 Visits. At the beginning of this role, I must admit that I didn't necessarily foresee the need for a visits officer, given the entire country was in lockdown, but there is a reason I am a





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mere Captain and the GOC is a General, as before I returned to Clarence House, Joint Military Command (London) had been visited by both Chief of the General Staff and the Secretary of State for Defence!

The final aspect of the role, which is probably the most intriguing and spoiling, is supporting both TRHs whilst up in Birkhall for the grouse shooting and deer stalking. The role is hugely diverse, with the grouse shooting requiring the Assistant Equerry to be in Scotland from Sunday's through to Wednesday's for

a period of approximately five weeks, whilst the deer stalking is every day for two to three weeks. For the grouse, the key role is setting up the 'infamous' gazebo in preparation for the shooting parties' lunch, whereas for the stalking it is ensuring the guests are prepared and ready for their day out on one of the beats with their ghillie. If one is incredibly lucky, His Royal Highness could well generously offer a day's stalking, which, like having supper around the table, is a memory I imagine most Assistant Equerries will remember!

1. *Joint Military Command (London) - (JMC(L)) Op RESCRIPT Equerry Support - Apr 20. Standing (L-R): Capt Ed Keith (Equerry to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal); Capt Robbie Thompson (Assistant Equerry to His Royal Highness The Duke of York); Capt Charlie Ross (Assistant Equerry to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales) Capt Tom Melville (Assistant Equerry to Her Majesty The Queen)*
2. *A Royal Picnic with a Royal View - Sep 19*
3. *The Assistant Equerry's Scottish Home!*
4. *The Rifles New Colonel-in-Chief - Jul 20*
5. *A very lucky and memorable day out on Whitemouth Beat - Oct 19*
6. *Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG) 60th Anniversary Service - Jul 19*
7. *JMC(L) Op RESCRIPT Secretary of State for Defence visit - May 20*
8. *Decorating the Christmas Tree at Clarence House - Dec 19*
9. *HMS Prince of Wales Recce - Oct 19*
10. *ICC Cricket World Cup Final - Jul 19*
11. *Whitemouth Beat Team back at Glas-allt-Shiel - Oct 19*
12. *Her Royal Highness showing RAF Halton how it's done during the Station's Centenary visit! - Jul 19*
13. *Her Royal Highness visits the Royal Hospital Chelsea-Jul 20*
14. *D-Day 75 Commemorations at Bayeux Cemetery - Jun 19*



Reflections of an Exchange Officer in the US

by Major E S Mathieson Welsh Guards
 Small Group Leader
 Maneuver Captains' Career Course
 Maneuver Center of Excellence
 Fort Benning
 Georgia, USA

Last year's article covered the administration involved in moving my family overseas. With the arrival process out of the way, we quickly settled in, I achieved certification as an instructor and taught a complete 6-month course.

As the students of Class 20-01 graduated in late March, COVID-19 impacted and Fort Benning implemented measures which changed life substantially.

After almost 18 months in post, this article takes the form of reflection on the differences between the British and US Armies, focusing specifically on organisation, training delivery and outlook.

One of the main topics which I have been asked about here is our Regimental system. Most US Army officers have had some exposure to the British Army. This is usually through operating alongside a British battalion in Afghanistan or Iraq, a Sandhurst exchange or a training event in Europe or one of the US collective training centres. Most remember tactical recognition flashes, specific headdress,





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customs or accents, even if they forget exact battalion names. When I explain our Regimental system, the contrast with the US structure is immediately obvious.

There are no capbadges in the US Army so an officer or soldier simply joins a branch, for example: infantry, armour, field artillery or military intelligence. Where they are posted does not depend on any affiliation. Once in the infantry, they can move with relative ease between armoured infantry, airborne or advisory units. On their left sleeve they wear the patch of the unit they currently serve with. Their right sleeve remains blank until they deploy. After that they can choose to wear the patch of any unit that they have deployed with. Owing to the size of the US Army, these patches are usually divisional or brigade level but there are many exceptions to this. The British concept of belonging to a home regiment which influences every aspect of military life is intriguing for my US counterparts. Their personnel management is considerably more formalised and rigid and as a result less open to adjustment based on the various layers of influence which we are subject to as careers progress. They find it fascinating that each regiment within the infantry has its own dress standards, methods of addressing each other across the ranks and ways of approaching the same fundamental tasks. Seniority, based in part on complex regimental histories, is also a goldmine for conversation, alongside explaining examples of British Army slang such as horror bag and hexi-TV.

One of the consequences of not having a Regimental system is that messes don't exist. This is also because the military housing system is different to our in-barracks/

PADs estate split. The US Army provides a monthly housing allowance which can be used to pay for on-post privately run housing or off-post housing provided by private landlords in the local economy. The size of the country and the expectation of active spouse support means that serving married unaccompanied is extremely rare. The default setting is that your life is based around the location you are currently serving at, with no accommodation for anyone attempting to weekly commute.

US Army officers never live and eat together in the way that our subalterns do when they commission. Furthermore, there is nowhere for officers to routinely socialise, bump into each other as they go to and from events during the working day and enjoy unplanned discussion of important work (and non-work!) issues. This translates into far more formal relationships across officer ranks and makes me even more grateful for the second family that the Welsh Guards has provided me with.

Culture, our shared national histories and politics form the basis for the second most popular category of question, specifically: Brexit, gun ownership, the US War of Independence, freedom of speech and the pros and cons our respective leaders and the structures they sit atop to govern. Additionally, a significant number of people we have met here can claim UK ancestry, with many focused on their Irish, Scottish or Welsh heritage. However, this is not the forum to expand upon these subjects. Suffice it to say that US views are a lot more nuanced than they are often perceived to be back home.

I have also found it interesting to experience the detail of how the world's most powerful army

conducts training. My course uses a near peer leadership model and so captains and majors train captains and lieutenants with very little chain of command involvement. My directorate has a lieutenant colonel as chief of training and a colonel as director of training. However, they provide top cover and course oversight rather than inserting themselves into the routine of course delivery. We are afforded a lot of scope and flexibility to deliver the training objectives.

This means that instructors can adjust the schedule at very short notice to meet the needs of our specific seminars. Furthermore, students are expected to demonstrate peer leadership from the outset. They are put into course appointments (with progressively more responsibility) to undertake a lot of the routine processes that we may be more accustomed to specialist support personnel undertaking: organising physical training, completing G1 returns, supporting trawls for manpower and drawing training resources. Students are expected to prepare themselves for imminent sub-unit command by "figuring stuff out" and not relying upon the course chain of command to do it for them.

Students are also encouraged to be active and frequent professional writers for a range of publications and expected to take part in regular discussion forums with senior officers and supporting agencies from outside the course. Both of these initiatives seek to enable them to constructively share views on their profession, analyse how they are developing as leaders and contribute to improving ways of doing things across the force.

When the reality of COVID-19 hit, the installation's leadership had to strike a delicate balance



between minimising the threat to individuals while maintaining core outputs. Fort Benning's main focus is training, deemed vital to ensuring the ongoing operational effectiveness of the US Army. To sustain a force close to half a million strong, the decision was made to keep going with instruction and to continue to load courses of new recruits, unlike basic training units in the UK. The restrictions in place to allow this were extensive in scale and coverage, including families. These eased over time but required extensive and frequent briefing to ensure understanding and compliance. The response to COVID-19 served as a demonstration of potentially conflicting US traditions: personal liberty and duty to country. As the pandemic evolved it was

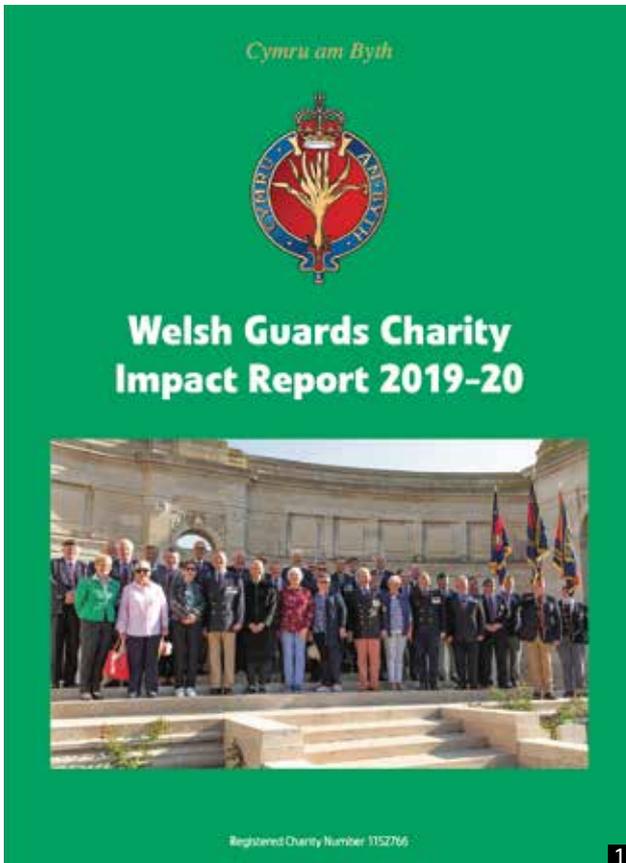
interesting to observe the way in which individuals wrestled with situations which challenged their normal outlook and approach to life while still recognising the requirement to adhere to direction from multiple layers of the chain of command and government.

We are now in our final 8 months of our time in Fort Benning and COVID-19 restrictions are gradually easing. We will be very sad to move on. It has been a fantastic experience - professionally challenging and fulfilling as well as a wonderful opportunity to embed ourselves in a unique culture and work at the heart of the most influential Army in the world.

1. *A very wet staff ride to Horseshoe bend, Alabama, site of an 1814 battle - part of the War of 1812*
2. *Cpts Ootoba and Bature (Nigerian Army) being promoted to Major by their respective instructors, Maj Mathieson and CPT Harris*
3. *Maj Mathieson with a mixed group of US Army officers and soldiers, a Jamaica Defence Forces SSgt and a Department of Defense contractor on the Fort Benning Armor School Tank Park*
4. *Preparing practice tank rounds for a US Army Armor School demonstration*
5. *Tank loading drills with the US Army Armor School*
6. *Team 3 instructors at the Australian dinner night*



REGIMENTAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING, WELFARE AND REGIMENTAL VETERANS



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The Welsh Guards Charity and Regimental Veterans Officer

by Jiffy Myers MBE

Welsh Guards Charity immediate response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

As the UK went into lockdown on 21st March 2020, the RVO received several calls from Veterans, concerned about the delivery of food and medication for their families. At the time, the Government hadn't set out its plan to cover this aspect of the lockdown and so the RVO sent out a request on social media for help from all Welsh Guardsmen, past and present, to assist. It was hoped that about 20 Welsh Guardsmen or so would volunteer to assist around Wales and be ready to react, at short notice, to a call for help.

Within a matter of hours, the volunteers came rolling in from all corners of the UK (also Malta and Tenerife) and the response was truly unbelievable, clearly demonstrating a family Regiment in action and looking out for their own. Veterans, family members, friends and serving members of the Battalion stepped up to offer their help. In all 216 people offered to help and were included on our database should a call

be received. Thankfully, following the Welsh Guards lead, the Government eventually put various schemes in place to help people and we only had to react to 5 calls for help and offers of support were put in place.

The Welsh Guards Charity – Welfare Grants

During this reporting period, the Welsh Guards Charity has received 61 requests for financial assistance with over £25,000 approved and provided in individual 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:

- A grant to purchase specialist equipment for a serving soldier's disabled child.
- Funding to build a disabled access home adaptation for a Veteran, seriously injured in Afghanistan.

- Funding towards the cost of a stair lift for a disabled elderly Veteran.
- Several grants to assist with the purchase of furniture and white goods for Veterans moving into a new home, when no other means of funding was available.
- Funding to assist with the purchase of an EPV (electric powered vehicle), for a disabled Veteran.
- A grant to fund private therapy for children of a Veteran, after a series of traumatic events.
- An emergency grant for an elderly Widow to purchase heaters and fuel for her home during the winter months.
- Funding for a disabled Veteran to be able to attend a Para Championship sports event.
- A variety of grants to assist with priority debts.

Case study 1. A Veteran, seriously injured in Afghanistan, asked for support with home adaptations. The first course of action was to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant from the Local Authorities. The grant provided, in this case, covered some interior adaptations to the Veteran’s new home. When this grant was exhausted, the Veteran still required help with

funding for a disabled access porch, so that he is able to transfer from his wheelchair in inclement weather. The Welsh Guards Charity and BLESMA provided a grant totaling £9,000 to cover the cost of this adaptation.

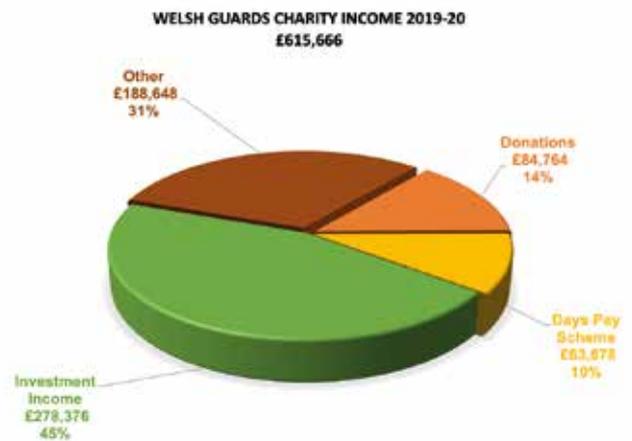
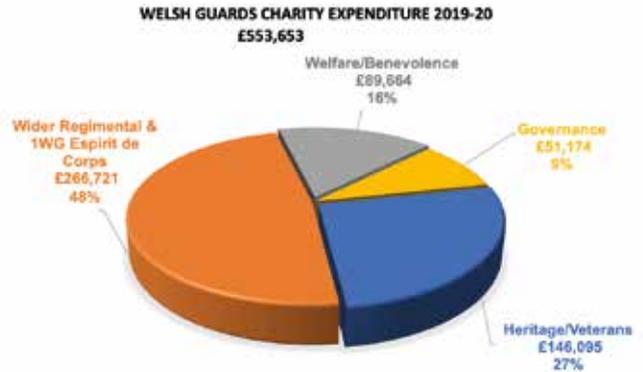
Case study 2. A serving soldier asked for help to purchase some specialist pieces of equipment, to improve the quality of life of their disabled child. The Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant to cover all of the costs of the equipment required.

Case study 3. An elderly Widow of a Welsh Guards Veteran contacted SSAFA for help with some home heating. Her boiler had been condemned, which left her with no way to heat her home. SSAFA contacted the RVO with an urgent request for funding, due to the slow pace of Local Authorities. An immediate grant was provided to purchase some temporary electric heaters. Further funding was then provided to have her boiler replaced and fuel provided. This request took a matter of hours to resolve.

Welsh Guards Charity website

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. For those who are still serving, the “Service Days Pay Giving” scheme is explained in full with examples of how payments are made.

Each year a Charity Impact Statement (photo 1) is



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compiled and published on the website for all to read giving in-depth reviews and costings on the Charity's support throughout the year.

The following extract from the Charity Impact Report gives you an idea of the funding required to enable the Welsh Guards Charity to fulfill its charitable objectives in the areas of Espirit de Corps, Heritage and Welfare and clearly shows the various sources of income and expenditure. As well as all the wonderful individuals who donate and fundraise for our charity, we are indebted to all our serving personnel who continue to support us through the Day's Pay Scheme. Never has the uptake been so good (close to 100%) and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

The Regimental Veterans Officer

The RVO is the single point of contact for all Welsh Guards Veterans and family members, who require welfare advice or support. Calls and messages are received 24/7. The RVO is able to provide advice and signpost to a relevant organization, charity or specialist group. Referrals can be made to provide support with mental health issues, debts, substance addictions, housing support, benefits/ PIP (Personal Independence Payment) applications, war pension applications etc.

Regular calls have been made throughout the pandemic, especially to those most vulnerable. Some have been for mental health referrals, others just for a friendly chat. When possible, home/local visits are conducted, following strict COVID guidance.

The RVO works with all major Service Charities including the

Royal British Legion, Army Benevolent Fund, SSAFA, Help for Heroes, Woody's Lodge and BLESMA. When a grant is requested, the RVO will approach all relevant charities on behalf of the individual.

1. *Charity Impact Report 2019/20*
2. *Adam Hobbs meeting HRH Duchess of Gloucester at the Buckingham Palace Garden Party*
3. *Dale Leach discussing home adaptations with the RVO*
4. *Serving Soldiers of the Battalion deployed on operations who are supported by the Welsh Guards Charity*
5. *Serving Officers, Soldiers and some of our younger Veterans, all supported by the Welsh Guards Charity*
6. *The RVO presenting Adam Hobbs with two tickets for the special wheelchair enclosure for the Wales v Italy six nations match in Feb 20 courtesy of the Welsh Guards Charity*
7. *The Welsh Guards Charity Christmas card 2020. Changing sentries at King George IV gate Windsor Castle in the 1960's. From an original picture by Sean Bolan 2020*



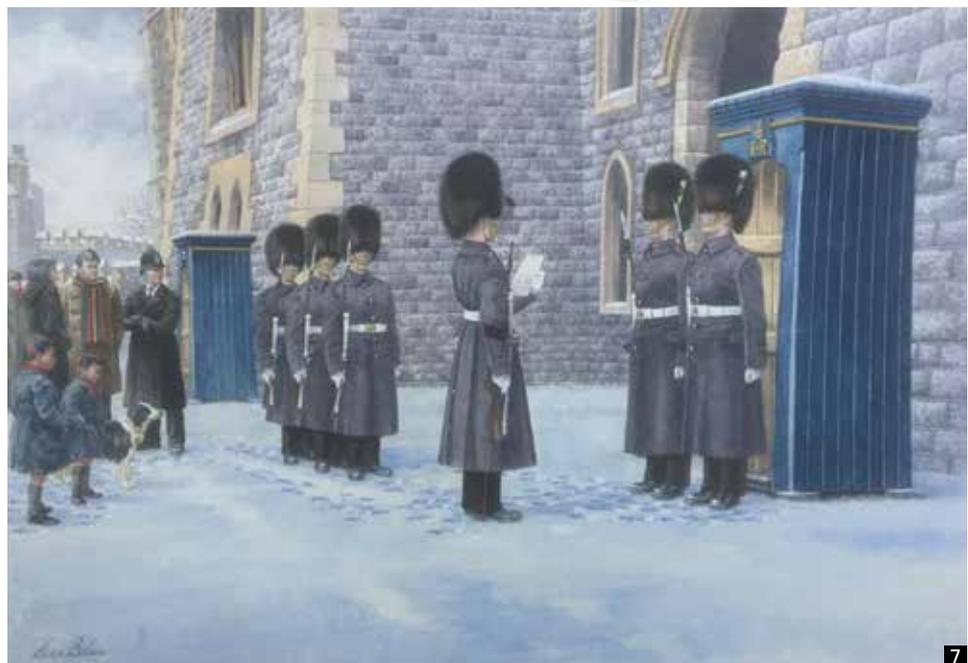
If you know of someone, who maybe in need of some support, please contact the RVO on:

Email: welshguardsrvo@gmail.com
Mobile: 07456 985729

Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers

WhatsApp: 07411 950784

Website: www.welshguardscharity.co.uk





Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) Debentures

by Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM
Assistant Regimental Adjutant

Once again, the Regiment has been able to provide, completely free of charge, two tickets for each of the Wales home games at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. These are then presented as decided by the Commanding Officer to worthy individuals.

In addition to the tickets purchased using the debentures owned by the Regiment, we have also been able to register for and purchase a special enclosure wheelchair ticket (and one for a companion) which was presented to Adam Hobbs by the RVO (see RVO report for photo).

With the Principality Stadium being converted into a temporary hospital (Ysbyty Calon y Ddraig – the Dragon’s Heart Hospital) to help fight the Coronavirus pandemic in Wales all events at the stadium have been cancelled until further notice and so our two debenture seats cannot be used until we are advised further. The WRU very much hope it will be available in time for the 2021 Six Nations home games - but only time will tell.

Tickets throughout 2020 have been presented to the following:

Wales v Barbarians – 30 Nov 19 (name of recipient not know at time of going to press for 2019 magazine)
Sgt Lucas

Wales v Italy – 01 Feb 20
LSgt Davies 35 (RST)

Wales v France – 22 Feb 20
WO2 (DSgt) Heath

Wales v Scotland – 14 Mar 20
LSgt Mottram - Unfortunately, this game was postponed due to Covid-19 and has been rescheduled to be played on 31 Oct 20 at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli

1. WO2 (DSgt) Heath being presented his two tickets by the RSM.
2. The Regiments two new "Issue of Year 1969 Debentures" extended until 31st August 2050.
3. LSgt Davies 35 being presented his two tickets by the Commanding Officer.

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. 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



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



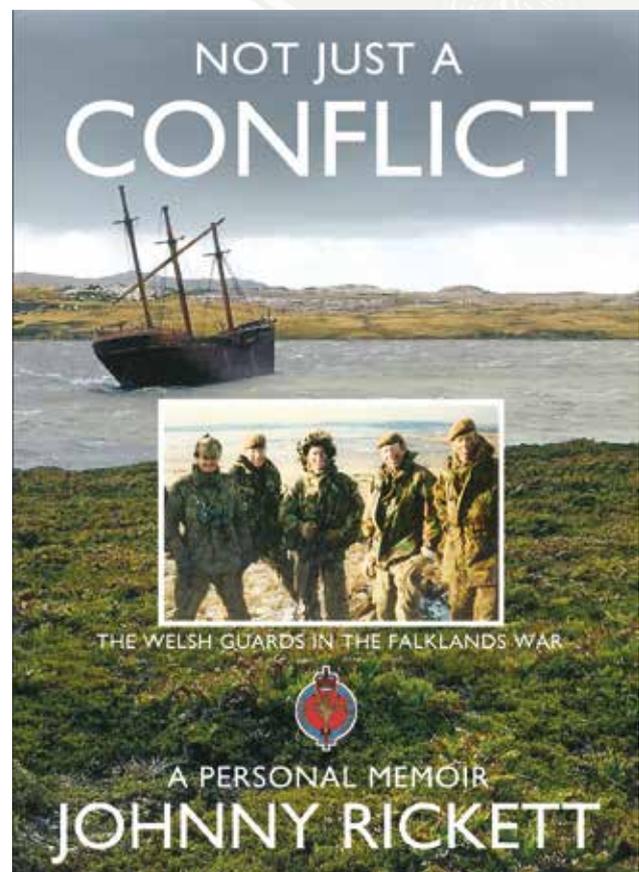
www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

The Welsh Guards Charity is pleased to be able to offer, free of charge to each member of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who took part in the Falklands War, a copy of the recently published book by Brigadier JF Rickett CBE

To obtain your free copy please pass your details to the Welsh Guards Association Secretary General, Maldwyn Jones 92 who is compiling a

list so that sufficient can be ordered. His email address is; secretary.general.wga@gmail.com

Anyone wanting to purchase a copy (cost £7 incl postage) can do so by registering their requirement through the Association Secretary General or by contacting Regimental Headquarters. All proceeds will go to the Welsh Guards Charity.





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Bonfire Night 2019

by Captain J Byrne Grenadier Guards, Unit Welfare Officer

Remember, remember the 5th of November. The gunpowder treason and plot; I know of no reason why the gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.

The 5th of November 2019 gave the Battalion Welfare Team the opportunity to run a community event for all those soldiers and their families of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and of course, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards to come together and enjoy great company with fantastic food, drink and entertainment. This was the first opportunity for all those living in the Windsor area to form a close bond with other serving soldiers and their families from multiple units.

The evening started with some children’s entertainment from the Army Welfare Service and a small funfair to keep the children busy. Before long the BBQ was fired up, so all could enjoy a hearty burger and a drink from the bar to warm themselves up on a cold November evening. All that could be heard was laughter and enjoyment being had by all. It was then time for the bonfire to be lit and to roar through the evening. However, this proved to be a little harder than expected! Fortunately, CSgt Bick and LSgt Morgan came up with an ingenious way of lighting the large bonfire in front of them and the waiting crowd, which will be kept a secret!

Once the bonfire was finally lit there was a roar from the crowd and a sigh relief from the welfare team that it had finally caught alight. Then it was time for the main event, the fireworks display, which shot into the nights sky sending colour and noise through a crisp November evening. The smiles and cheers coming from the children and even the partners were a joy to hear.

Bonfire night will become 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 from three true family Regiments.

The evening 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 this November.

1. *Sgt Lucas and his son, Thomas, enjoying the show.*
2. *The bonfire is lit, with families grateful for the heat!*
3. *An impressive fireworks display.*

South Wales Police Charity Boxing Event – 16 November 2019

by Warrant Officer Class 2 RJ Heath, Drill Sergeant

The annual South Wales Charity Boxing Event was held at the Vale Hotel, Cardiff on Saturday 16 November 2019.

LCpl Dane Elson was a Welsh Guardsman who paid the ultimate sacrifice and sadly lost his life whilst serving in Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 10 in 2009. For the past 10 years his family have remained close to the Regiment, holding a charity boxing event to raise money for the Welsh Guards Charity. The event has grown from a small crowd in St Athan to packing out a large hall in the Vale Hotel in Cardiff. Dane's father Stuart Elson has competed in the ring at the event every year. Last year was meant to be the final time he stepped into the ring but he continued to fight on this year due to a last minute pull out of one of the boxers. This was impressive to see and at 60 years young he fought as though he was half that age, putting in a great performance. There were no losers on the night, everyone received prizes for fighting and the overall standard was high from all boxers. Real grit, determination and spirit was demonstrated, earning the full respect of the audience, and displaying the values and standards that are expected of Welsh Guardsmen like LCpl Elson.

Stuart made it clear that this event is (definitely) the last time he will be competing and he will now sit back and enjoy the event as a spectator from now on. We are hoping to support the next event with two of the Battalion's boxers to take part in an exhibition bout.

The event not only supports the Welsh Guards Charity but also Cancer research Wales. The Elson family and South Wales

Police provide these amazing events for which the Regiment is extremely grateful.

I was honoured to be asked to go into the centre of the ring at the end of the night to say a few words about the Welsh Guards Charity and how it gives support to both serving and ex-serving members of the Welsh Guards and their families. It was also a pleasure to give an overview of what the Battalion has been up to for the past twelve months.

I would like to say a big thank you to Stuart and Alison Elson, along with the wider South Wales Police community for their continued support to the Regiment. It really does mean a great deal. A cheque for £1,500 was presented to the Welsh Guards Charity; for this and their continued support we are both grateful and humbled.



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1. The author with the event organisers, including Chief Constable Matt Dukes
2. The author steps into the ring to talk about the Welsh Guards Charity, and the Battalion.

St David's Day Charity Concert and Dinner Friday 6th March 2020

by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

For some years now the Regimental Band have held a St David's Concert in the Guards Chapel inviting members of the general public and others to attend.

This year was no different except that Colonel Alan Peterson suggested that we might like to go further by holding a Welsh Guards Charity fund raising dinner in the Cavalry and Guards Club following the concert. This idea was warmly welcomed, and planning started afoot.

As usual, the St David's Day Concert was a huge success and all those who were to attend the dinner were present. We were treated to a wonderful array of different music and the Regimental Band performed at their usual excellent level with a variety of pieces that demonstrated their exceptional ability. Performing with the Band was Danny Jones of the Royal Welsh College of Drama and Music who played a solo piece during "Concerto for Euphonium" which was quite magnificent and his presence confirmation of the strong links between the College and the Band facilitated through Colonel Alan Peterson and the Principal Helena Gaunt and other key staff at the College including Lucy Stout and Kevin Price. Also accompanying the Band and singing two songs was Lucie Jones, a musical star of the

West End and not surprisingly the Band (and others) a huge fan. A very special addition to a fabulous concert.

Following the Concert over 60 Friends of the Regiment and Regimental hosts proceeded to the Cavalry and Guards Club for dinner. Those attending paid a generous price for the dinner in order to support our Charity and the evening introduced by Major General Richard Stanford, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. Fine food and wine were enjoyed by all with the evening ending in a silent auction of two superb prizes donated by the Peterson family, one for top tickets to the Wales Rugby Autumn Series and an evening at the Royal Opera House to see Madame Butterfly. The dinner and the auction raised over £20,000 for the Welsh Guards Charity, a fantastic achievement and our warmest thanks to all our "Friends of the Regiment" and the Peterson family who made this possible.

A truly memorable evening and thankfully just in time with lock down coming into force a couple of weeks later.

Welsh Guards Fundraising Coins

The talented and very generous 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, produced, at his own personal cost, these fabulous Welsh Guards collectable coins to raise funds for the Welsh Guards Charity.

There are just a few sets left of these superb coins, so please support the Welsh Guards Charity and order your set today.

Typically, Alan did not want to delay making his promised donation to the Welsh Guards charity and so took the opportunity to present the cheque to his friend and the President of the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch, Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE (aka 22) when Tony visited Alan at his lovely home in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. Tony gladly accepted the cheque on behalf of the Welsh Guards Charity.



1. Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE accepting a cheque donation of £1,000 on behalf of the Welsh Guards Charity from Mr Alan Parry-Booth

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
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



Welfare (COVID-19) 2020

by Captain J Byrne Grenadier Guards, Unit Welfare Officer

2020 has been a very unusual year for all Welsh Guards personnel and their families, who have experienced significant changes to the status quo. Consequently, the Welfare team have had a busy year reacting to the changing requirements and delivering as much support as we could.

We have had to engage with all serving soldiers and their families in new and inventive ways, both by reaching families in Wales, and those who live in Windsor, Aldershot and Pirbright.

We started the year in normal fashion with St David’s Day as the Battalion’s first main event of the year, bringing the wider Welsh Guards family together. To help kick start the day and to ensure the families felt part of the celebrations, the Welfare team had an early 0400hrs start, delivering a small gift to every married quarter, which was well received.

2020 was a year that had been well planned, with several high-profile events to help bring the Regimental family together. As with many walks of life, COVID-19 drove a coach and horses through these plans, the Welfare team decided that it would support the soldiers and their families in a more unique fashion by laying on virtual events to help create a sense of community and to remind everyone that during lockdown the Battalion hadn’t forgotten them.

During the lockdown period we laid on events such as fancy-dress, ‘Virtual Bingo’, ‘Virtual Horse Racing, and a VE Day picnic on the doorstep. We also delivered Easter Eggs for all our serving soldiers, as well as birthday cakes. Crucially, we all came together on a Thursday evening to show our support for the NHS. Key to making all this happen was CSgt Douglas Bick and LSgt Chris Morgan who tirelessly worked through the lockdown period supporting the soldiers and their families. To show appreciation, the wives bought a small gift for the Welfare team. Looking to the future, we anticipate the Battalion deploying in guise on OPSHADER in 2021, where substantial welfare efforts will be made to ensure the wellbeing of the families.

1. Sgt Gareth Lucas and family
2. Welsh Guards Families Celebrate VE Day 75th Anniversary:
3. Commanding Officer and Family
4. LSgt Mathews, Jasmin and baby
5. LSgt Sanderson and family with Gdsm Cleave and Family





BRANCH REPORTS



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Guardsman Harold Holland, MM

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Welsh Guards Association

- President: Colonel TCS Bonas
- Vice President: Brigadier J F Rickett CBE
- Vice President: Captain A C Hopkins
- Treasurer: Major 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

It's that time of the year already where articles for the Regimental Magazine are due for submission and I have my opportunity to let everyone know of all the wonderful activities the Association has been up to over the last 12 months.

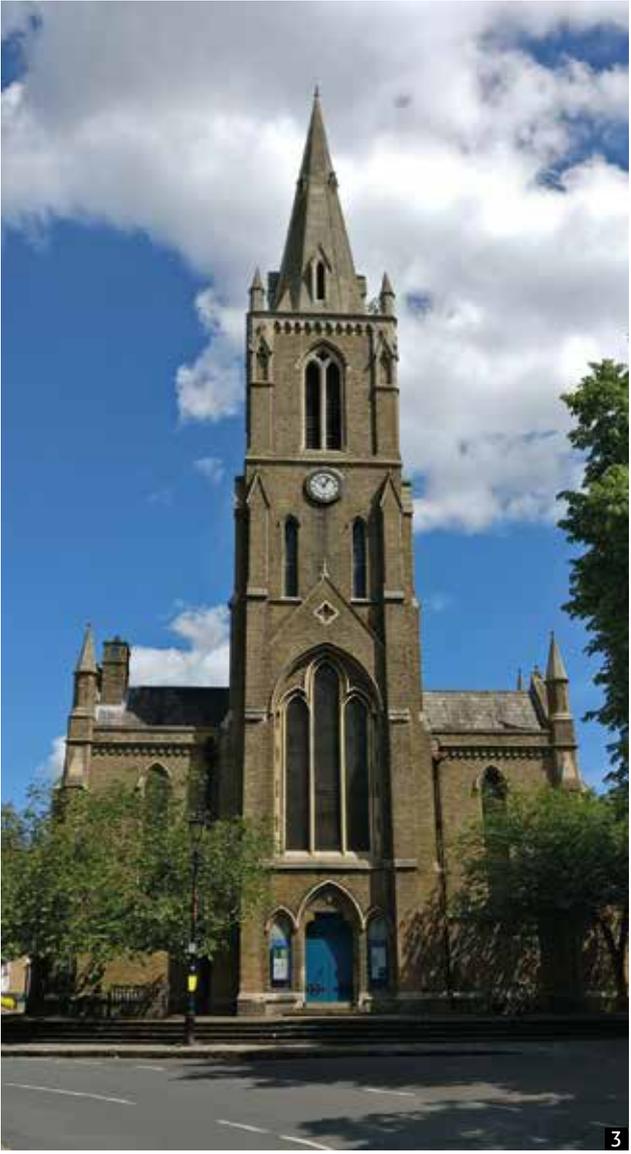
But this year has been like no other and we have been hit hard, as has everyone, by the COVID-19 pandemic which has swept the World - thankfully by the time it struck, all branches had at least managed to celebrate Christmas together which is most apparent in the branch reports.

As an association we had a busy year to look forward to, starting with celebrating St David's Day with the Battalion in their new home of Combermere Barracks in Windsor. The turnout from the Association was excellent. We laid on Coaches from North & South Wales, branches were responsible for their own accommodation which did not put people off and, in addition several members made their way to Windsor under their own steam.

I won't dwell too much on the day as the Assistant Secretary

General has submitted a comprehensive report, suffice to say, the day was enjoyed by all, we were welcomed and looked after immaculately by the Battalion, and we are looking forward to doing something similar in 2021 (COVID-19 permitting). I must add it was wonderful to see Harry Holland MM in attendance this year, I suspect the first time he has visited since he left, and it was a pleasure introducing Harry to RSM Michael Parry.

I was particularly excited to attend St David's Day this year, not only to meet up with old friends and the Battalion, but to witness the fruition of a plan hatched some years ago. Whilst I was Secretary of the North Wales Branch, I was approached by fellow Falkland Veterans with regards to the wooden Falklands Memorial Cross which I along with a team of volunteers from 3 Coy, under the guidance of



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LSgt Shaun Jephcott built as a Memorial for our friends lost on the Sir Galahad (the Cairn remains in Place overlooking Port Pleasant).

Once it was replaced by a lasting memorial in the Falkland Islands, the simple wooden cross was brought back to the UK and ensconced in the Chapel at the Guards Depot at Alexander Barracks, Pirbright where veterans would often visit with their thoughts and have private times of reflection. As we all know the 'Guards Depot' (as those who trained at and loved to hate), ceased to exist in 1993 when Infantry training moved to Catterick and Pirbright became home to the Army Training Centre (ATC) responsible for phase 1 training for non-infantry elements of the Army.

When I first phoned to initially check with the Chapel at ATC to establish that the cross was still in situ, the scripture reader I spoke with was actually looking at the cross when I called - clearly an omen? I promptly contacted the Battalion Padre, at the time a Major (Reverend) Catherine Gillham, to ascertain if the move was possible, however during this early discussion stage the Battalion were posted back to Elizabeth Barracks, just down the road from the Chapel and so the need for the cross to be rehoused was negated.

Of course, over the last few years with the many changes in Army systems, defence reviews, the various changes of roles, new equipment and sizes of units, part of these changes meant yet another move for the Battalion, this time to where we understand is now their permanent home in Windsor. Having visited the Battalion there it is easy to see why it is such a great posting,

the Barracks is a few minutes' walk from the town centre and a short drive to the M4 and M40 making journey time shorter for North and South Walians to get to Wales and home to visit their families.

So, during St David's Day celebrations in Brecon in 2019, I seized the opportunity and cornered the Battalion Padre, Captain (Reverend) Matthew Dietz, over a couple of drinks and discussed the cross, it's significance to Falkland Veterans and how we felt. He quickly agreed that it should be moved, and he got the ball rolling. I was included in all email traffic, so was aware of every stage of progress and it became apparent that facilitating the move wasn't as straightforward as I first thought!

Permission had to be sought from the Chain of Command, particularly the Commanding Officer of ATC Pirbright and the Senior Chaplain at Headquarters London District. The usual 'property' transfer forms had to be completed, transport arranged and of course a new home identified and cleared. Having done everything needed the Battalion Padre took possession of the cross and had all the required permissions to re-home it at the Holy Trinity Parish & Garrison Church in Windsor

The cross was re-dedicated with kind permission of the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher, during the St David's Day service at the Garrison Church on 1st March 2020 - a very moving and emotional day for many of us.

Sadly, we were forced to cancel the Association AGM scheduled for 19th May, hence the absence of minutes in this year's magazine. The



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Association Race Day lunch on 10th May at Ludlow could not take place as all racing was stopped and of course our Biennial Lunch scheduled for 30th April in Wrexham could not take place either - we very much hope that both events can resume in 2021? It quickly became apparent that we would not be meeting up again in person throughout 2020, which meant of course that the annual Darts and Shoot competition would need to be cancelled as well as the Battlefield Tour, which was once again fully booked. Such is the popularity of the Battlefield Tour that every single person that had paid a deposit to attend in 2020 wished for their deposit to be retained and carried over for them to secure a seat for 2021. Many thanks and congratulations to Steve Gelly and Paul Conlon for managing to organise one of the four annual WGA golf competitions in between Covid-19 spikes, lockdowns and restriction, they did a cracking job and the day, held on 26 August at Tredegar Park Golf Club is covered in a separate article.

Probably the biggest disappointment was the cancellation of the Queen's Birthday Parade, where it was the Battalions turn to Troop their Colour. It goes without saying that I was inundated with requests for tickets to attend and understand that wheels were in motion to

ensure that all requests would have been met. Thankfully the Battalion had the opportunity to "Troop" on a much reduced, more personal scale in front of Her Majesty at Windsor Castle, with the occasion being televised. It was probably one of the best parades ever, with the socially distanced drill and challenges of marching on grass mastered by every single person on parade. Even ever critical non-Guardsmen and civilian friends were suitably impressed, praising the performance of all those involved - just the lift the nation needed under the circumstances

The links between the Battalion and the Association are getting stronger and stronger. RSM Mike Parry has re-introduced the linking of Mess Seniors to their affiliated branches who in turn will be linking them up with serving personnel from their respective branch areas. Sadly, due to present restrictions this initiative has yet to get off the ground, but the intent is there, and it will happen. During this difficult period, the RSM has organised online presentations by members of the Battalion which have proved very interesting and Neil Rice has expanded on this in a separate article. I had a brief chat with Gdsm (now LCpl) Griffiths 86 before he started his presentation on Leadership and it turns

out his grandparents' were the local Postmaster and Postmistress when I returned from the Falklands in 1982 and his father was a good friend of my brother - a very small world

At the Secretaries meeting in 2019, it was sadly announced that the committee for the London and District Branch were standing down. A combination of an ever-aging committee and dwindling numbers in the branch (it was thought that fewer and fewer Guardsmen, on retirement were settling in the Branch catchment area) and it looked as if the branch would have to close. As an Association we really did not want to lose our London Branch which had been around since 1926 and had provided Welsh Guards camaraderie and comradeship for those settling in London and the home counties after serving nearby. Volunteers were quickly sought and came forward in the guise of; Tom Thorne (24125065) who volunteered to become Chairman and stand in Treasurer, Allan McCleod "aka Dusty" Miller (24185069) stepped forward as the Branch secretary and Lieutenant Colonel Ray Evans MBE stepped forward to become Branch President. They have very quickly established a Branch Facebook page which already has 74 members and are determined to see London Branch rise

again and once more become the great Branch it has always been in the past. Thank you to all involved.

With being introduced to online presentations, Swansea branch took this a 'stage further' and have held an online meeting which I understand was very successful., well done Jock on leading the way. By the time, this magazine has been published and distributed, we as an association will have held our annual secretaries meeting which will, for the first time ever, be held online via zoom - hopefully with some success.

I wish you all the safest of New Years and look forward, COVID-19 permitting, to meeting with as many of you as possible in 2021.

1. *Harry Holland MM - St David's Day Windsor 2020*
2. *Harry Holland MM (from the 1966 Regimental Magazine)*
3. *The Holy Trinity Parish and Garrison Church, Windsor*
4. *Memorial Cross in situ in the Falkland Islands*
5. *Memorial Cross having been re-dedicated in the Garrison Church*
6. *Association Members "on parade" - St David's Day 2020*



Cardiff Branch

(Formed 1919)

President: Lieutenant Colonel CJ Dawnay

Chairman: David W Parry (22831847)

Treasurer: Tony Fundell (22831629)

Secretary: Terry O'Shea (24047142)

43 Pwll-Evan-Ddu

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Bridgend CF35 6AY

Telephone: 01656 655889 or 07973 255527

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On Remembrance Sunday 2019 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.

In October 2019 Mr Bill Morris (22217619) and members of his family were invited to the United Services Mess in Cardiff to celebrate Bill's appointment as Vice President of Cardiff Branch of the Welsh Guards Association in the Branches Centenary year.

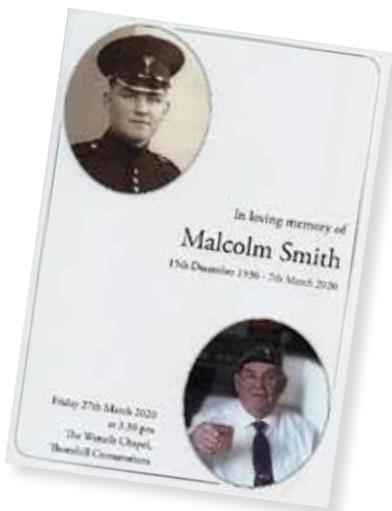
For over 25 years Bill has worked as both the Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch, supported throughout by his wife Maureen. The members of the Branch expressed their gratitude to them both for all their hard work and support to the Branch. Bill was presented with a certificate and engraved tankard to

mark the occasion and Mo was presented with a lovely Bouquet of flowers. The evening continued with an excellent buffet laid on by the Mess which was enjoyed by all.

In December we held our Christmas Lunch in Cardiff, enjoyed by all those attending.

With other members of the association the Branch was invited to a 2-day visit to the Battalion at their new home in Combermere Barracks, Windsor. On the Saturday members enjoyed an invitation to the Sergeants Mess or to the Garrison Church (or both!) for a concert performance given by the Band of the Welsh Guards, both being much appreciated and enjoyed.

On the Sunday we attended the Garrison Church service, returning to Combermere Barracks for the Parade, and presentation of Leeks. Next stop the gymnasium where the members of the Battalion had laid on a display of weapons, followed by further hospitality before our return journey to Wales.



On a sad note, in March 2020, Malcolm Smith (a former Master Stitch) sadly died following a long battle with ill health. Malcolm had been a good and supportive member of Cardiff Branch for many years, as is his son Simon, a Falklands veteran. Our condolences to Simon and all his family.

The Darts and Shooting day was to be held at Maindy Barracks in September - but was cancelled because of lockdown. Situation Unchanged.

As I am writing this in October 2020, I am reflecting on preparing for the Remembrance events in Cardiff which will shortly take place with the involvement of Branch members.

We extend to Welsh Guards everywhere our Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

1. Branch members present at the presentation to Bill Morris. L-R; Dave Parry (Chairman), Clayton McCann, Terry O'Shea (Secretary), Graham Boston, Bill Morris, Bill Milton, Chris Powell.
2. Presentation of bouquet of flowers to Mrs Mo Morris by Mrs Noreen Woodfield
3. Terry O'Shea, Branch Secretary presenting Bill Morris with his tankard and certificate signed by HRH the Colonel in recognition of long and outstanding service to the Welsh Guards Association.





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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

Telephone: 01443 492316

On the 14th March 2020 the East Glamorgan Branch celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. To mark this occasion the Branch celebrated with a formal dinner held at Pontypridd Rugby Club.

The evening was attended by the Branch members, the Branch President Captain Tommy Macdonald-Milner, associate members and invited guests which included councillor Maureen Webber from Pontypridd Council, who has supported the branch in the past and donated the venue fee. Guests and members enjoyed a sit down 3 course meal and the evening was enjoyed by one and all. The Branch is grateful to the Association Trustees for providing a generous grant to offset the cost of the celebrations.

We thank the Branch Chairman David Gaule and welfare officer Robert Kennally who organised the whole evening. On the 8th June the Branch normally hold a parade of Remembrance at the Falkland memorial stone in Ynysangharad Memorial Park for the Falklands fallen from Rhondda Cynon Taff borough area. This is usually very well attended by various veteran groups and dignitaries from the area but this year, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, it was a bit different. We were unable to hold the normal parade, as large groups were not permitted and the normal service at the Memorial

Stone could not happen for the same reason and the fear of attracting onlookers congregating together.

We could of course not let the occasion pass without some form of remembrance so John Hooper, along with Warren Williams 25, socially distancing themselves of course, attended at the stone to remember the fallen. Under the circumstances, this was a more solemn event than ever but we could not let this day pass without some sort of a remembrance for these sons of the borough that we could not bring home.

We look forward to 2021 when we can all hopefully get back to some kind of normality (be it a new normality or the old normality) and meet up with friends and comrades once again.

1. Warren Williams (25) and John Hooper, Branch Treasurer lay flowers at the Falkland Memorial Stone in Ynysangharad Memorial Park for those Welsh Guardsmen, from the Rhondda Cynon Taff borough area, killed in the Falkland Islands in 1982.
2. The Falkland Memorial Stone in Ynysangharad Memorial Park listing the names of the six Welsh Guardsmen from the Rhondda Cynon Taff borough area killed in the Falkland Islands in 1982.



Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembroke Branch

(formed 1974)

President: Major JGR Harding
 Chairman: Mr Keith Horrell (24838137)
 Treasurer: Mr Rob Rees (RAF)
 Secretary: Mr Alan Cunningham (24125105)
 19 Alden Drive
 Cockett
 Swansea SA2 0FH
 Telephone: 01792 554151
 Email: alan.cunningham1@ntlworld.com

2020 started relatively normally for the Branch. We had good support for attending St David's Day in Windsor with the Battalion and with a coach funded by the Association, we managed to fill it with members from Llanelli, Swansea, Cardiff and other areas along the M4 corridor in South Wales.

We headed to Windsor on 29th February, booked into our hotel in the centre and then enjoyed the Welsh Guards Band concert at The Holy Trinity Parish and Garrison Church. Following the

concert, we headed, en masse, for the Sergeants Mess in Combermere Barracks, our first ever visit there, but hopefully not our last. The Regimental Sergeant Major and his Mess

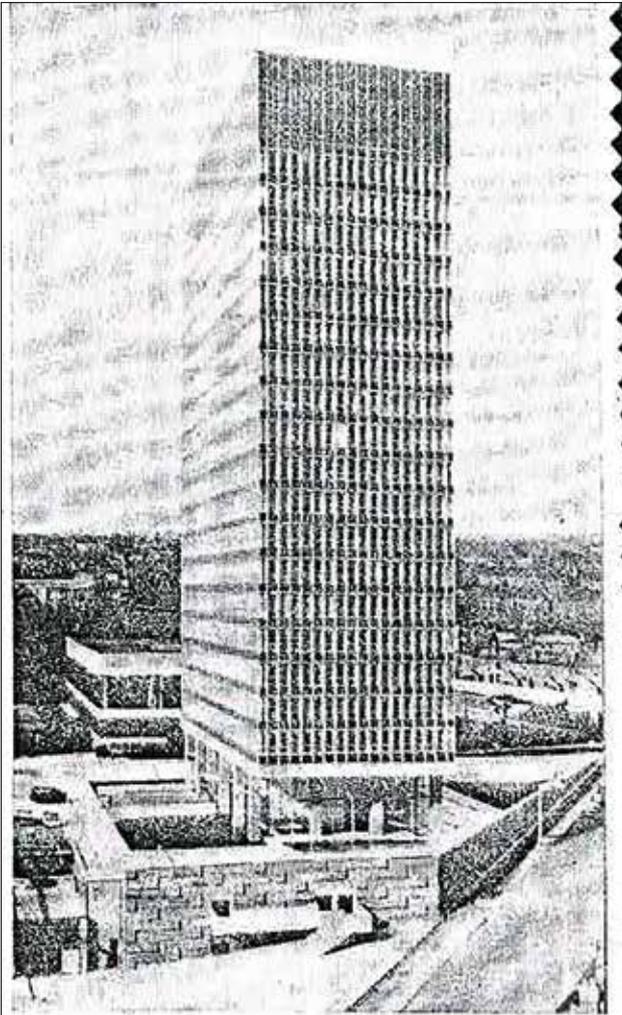


Members, as always, gave us a warm and friendly welcome and it was good to once again be among our Welsh Guards friends, both serving and from other Branches. The night was over all too quickly as we retired to the Hotel ready for the big day, which is covered in greater detail in an article here, so I will not repeat here what you will read there! Suffice to say, it was a superb day and left us already looking forward to 2021.

Of course, like everyone else across the Country (and World)

COVID-19 hit us like a ton of bricks and has altered nearly every aspects of our daily lives. Events cancelled, meetings with friends not possible and hibernation in our "bubbles" has become the new normal for most people? We relish the time when we can meet up again and will never take for granted the great friendships we have across the Association and the freedoms we have to enjoy our lives.

With very little to report from within the Branch for 2020, I



Horsforth Man And Highest University Building In Europe

A HORSFORTH man who was in charge of the construction of the highest university building in Europe (seen in above picture), is to be presented to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at its official opening next Thursday.

The man in question is Mr. John Croft, of Ye Widgeon's Roost, Victoria Drive and the building is the new Arts Tower at the University of Sheffield.

This giant construction rises to height of 255 feet and has 22 floors. It has been designed to

The building took almost three and a half years to complete and was finished just about one hour before schedule, after three months of intensive day and night work. "I didn't sleep for ten days at one stage," said Mr. Croft.

Although it will be the first time that Mr. Croft has actually met the Queen Mother at next week's presentation, he has seen her frequently in the past.

For he used to be a member of the Brigade of Welsh Guards and was often called upon to perform

have instead concentrated on telling a few little-known facts of one of our Branch members, Mr John Croft, who sadly died on 17 May 20 and a story from my own back catalogue which gets told occasionally!

Mr John Croft (22079206) sadly died on 17 May 2020 aged 90. John served in 1WG from 1948 until 1960 (see photo's 1 & 2) and was a member of the Llanelli Branch and before that the North of England Branch (he had resided in Scotland for many years). He told a story of the time he was on guard duty at Buckingham Palace when he made a challenge to an intruder three times with no response and so he hit the person with the butt of his rifle! He was told he would be facing a Court Martial for his actions, but instead was given an award for his actions - an unsubstantiated, but nonetheless quite probable story from the 1960's.

On leaving the Regiment John worked in construction and was in charge of the construction of the highest university building in Europe, the Arts Tower at the University of Sheffield. The 22-floor building took three years to complete and was finished just one hour before the deadline. John was presented to HM The Queen Mother when she opened the building on 23 Jun 66 (see press cutting at photo 3).

Where is Bernard Delfont! In closing this much-diminished branch report for 2020, I might take a moment to tell a tale of my claim to fame whilst serving as LCpl A Cunningham 05 entitled "Where is Bernard Delfont"!

In the early 1970's after finishing my second tour of duty recruiting, first with the Household Division Recruiting Team and then with the Regimental Recruiting Team under the leadership of Trevor

Jones 22 (aka Druid), I returned to 1WG at Chelsea Barracks and was sent to HQ Coy under CSM Dai Davies 21 (aka Grab a Brush).

I was immediately asked to join the Cpl's Mess entertainment committee who were preparing to arrange a social to welcome back the Coldstream Guards from Northern Ireland. They were discussing having a disco (as was always the case year after year) when I suggested that with all the theatres in and around London and close to the Barracks why don't we do something different and special - I was immediately given the job of arranging that!

So, a few days later I went to the palace Theatre stage door and, after introducing myself, asked to speak to Mr Max Bygraves and was told to come back in the interval - this I did, and I was taken to Mr Bygraves' dressing room to meet him. I explained to Max Bygraves what we wanted to do and thanked him for his time. He told me to return a few days later to discuss it further.

In the meantime word had spread around the Battalion that Max Bygraves would be performing at our Cpl's Mess function (!) Nobody really believed this and I had the mickey taken out of me for a few days and was given the nickname Bernard Delfont of London Palladium fame, as well as other non-printable names also. I was ribbed on Adjutant's Memoranda and by many SNCO's, including the RSM, WO1 Reg Coe.

I returned to the Palace Theatre as arrange to see Max and he told me that he wanted me to ensure before discussing any further, that we would have a good microphone and sound system and a car standing by to take the Kaye Sisters to Victoria Station. At this stage I

was getting a little concerned about cost and interrupted Max, saying "sir, we only have £60 in our Cpl's Mess fund" - he just laughed. The show he had put together for us included himself, the Kaye Sisters and Larry Parkin. I was over the moon and reported all this back to the Mess Entertainments Committee.

Then, whilst waiting for the show to take place I was promoted to LSgt, put in charge of the Regimental recruiting Team and posted out of the Battalion! As it was such a special occasion, which I had largely arranged, I was given an invite and dispensation to attend as a LSgt and on the day I had a very good friend (LCpl Hugh Purcell Jones pick me up from North Wales and drive me direct to Covent Garden, where I hired an evening suit and, accompanied by a young lady from the WRAC, I walked down the red carpet to a tremendous welcome.

It was a wonderful evening and a complete success even though I do say so myself. I know that Major Glyn White often laughed at this story and would often get me to repeat it over the years at Branch gatherings and events.

1. Gdsm John Croft in his Guards Depot Squad photo February 1949.
2. Gdsm John Croft in the all-conquering Number 8 Company Welsh Guards squad 1948/49,
3. Newspaper cutting from 1966.
4. Dai Thomas laying a Red, White and Blue flower Wreath at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Llanelli in memory of VE Day 2020
5. Andrew Brown 16 at the Welsh Guards Llanelli Memorial VE Day 2020
6. Flowers laid at the Welsh Guards Memorial Llanelli in memory of all those lost in the Falkland Islands 1982.





London and District Branch

(Formed 1926 renamed 2020)

President: Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) D R Evans MBE
 Chairman: T D J Thorne (24125065)
 Treasurer: Tom Thorne (Until a permanent Treasurer can be recruited)
 Secretary: Allan McLeod Miller (24185069)
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At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the London Branch Welsh Guards Association held on 22 January 2020 the President of the Branch Lieutenant Colonel CBF Stephens stated that after many years of service he wished to stand down.

In addition, the Branch Chairman Richard (Doc) Doughty BEM and the Branch Secretary Jeff Henan also wished to stand down, this along with the death of the

Branch Treasurer Douglas Wilcox left the Branch without Officers. Following a discussion led by the President of the Association, Colonel TCS Bonas a new Board was appointed.

We would like to thank the former Board and Vincent Jones, Malcolm Smith, and Nick Farr for their outstanding work in holding the branch together. Going beyond the call of duty in the work they have done, over the many years. We would also like to thank the many branch members for their help, with their attendance and of the selling of raffle and tombola tickets over the years.

The Christmas lunch which has been a feature these recent years has, along with most other events, been cancelled, however, we still managed to send out our raffle tickets and hold the Christmas Draw thanks to the support and encouragement of you the membership. At the time of compiling the branch report (October) it is too early for me to know who has won, but by the time you read this report (December) you will have been informed - so very many congratulations to the winners!

The aims, ambitions and timetable of the new team have been thwarted by Covid-19 and the necessary restrictions imposed. That said, more so than ever, in these strange circumstances there is a need to ensure that all Welsh Guardsman are in contact with the Association - membership is free. We must look after each other. The branch members have pulled together to help each other within the vast geographical area the branch covers. They were asked to phone or get in touch with members who had fallen through the cracks in their area or who had symptoms. We managed to contact 94 members who thought they had been forgotten. We had members in London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex, Norfolk, Hampshire, Devon, and Cornwall and many others all helping to bring those forgotten back into the fold. We would like to name the members who volunteered to phone or visited the forgotten few, they



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are: Kim Burnell, Steve Charles, David Evans 33, Peter Foulkes, Graham Larman, Allan Miller, Colin Monument, Gren Morgan, Tim Plowden, Malcolm Smith MBE. Well done everyone. Life is difficult for everyone. The branch membership now stands at 155 members with more to be contacted and in writing this, we would like to thank them all so very much.

Regimental Headquarters has been of enormous support in helping us settle in and we thank them all for their help and guidance. Especially Chris Hibberd in the stores and Christopher Enraght-Moony digging into the archives on our behalf. A special thank you however is reserved for Yvonne our longest-serving Welsh

Guard for which she received the Meritorious Service Award. In excess of 40 years of direct service to the Welsh Guards and providing assistance and help to many of the other Regiments within the Household Division also, we look forward to being able to celebrate this milestone with Yvonne in the not too distant future. The separate article suitably records this momentous occasion.

Our current Branch Standard and items of uniform for use on special occasions is showing its wear and tear - Bobby Joyce no doubt would have us believe it fit for purpose for at least another 50 years (Seconded by Blackwhack)! In order to have the London Branch stand out at our best

in the company of other Branches, we have bought a new Standard Bearers Pole and leather support pouch in readiness to receive our new Branch Standard which we understand will be forthcoming in the New Year? Standard Bearers were sought, and I am delighted to announce Kevin Jones and Steve Gelly have volunteered to become our Branch Standard Bearers. We thank them very much for volunteering and look forward to making use of their services, on parade in the New Year. We would also like to have a member volunteer who lives North of the Watford Gap so that we cover the North of our Branch area also. Volunteers, please let us know.

London Branch Committee Members. We have asked for volunteers to join the Committee and help us in organising future events, parades, and outings. We welcome one and all and should you be interested in helping please do speak or contact Allan Miller so that we can capture you - What's that never volunteer?

Branch members are asked to let us know of any improvements, or for any suggestions which the Branch can adopt and put into practice in the months ahead? Please do remember that we are here to support the Regiment but also ourselves and nothing demonstrates it more so than at present with this horrid virus.

We have sadly said farewell to a number of our members this year and their details are recorded in the In-Memoriam section of this publication. Our Condolences to their loved ones, families and friends, you will never be forgotten.

Do take care of yourselves and please, please make contact if you believe we can assist. I hope you had a very nice Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

1. Lt Col Charles Stephens and Richard Doughty being presented with engraved glasses (courtesy of Mr Nick Farr)
2. Lt Col Charles Stephens presenting Jeff Heenan with a Print of Presentation of New Colours



The Tragedy at Imber Court, Surrey

Dick Fletcher wrote of his experience of the events of that day:

In Early summer 1944 the Welsh Guards Training Battalion was stationed at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher. An athletics meeting was planned for the 29th June at Imber Court, the Metropolitan Police Recreation Ground in East Molesey. On the 28th having learned that it would probably rain on the 29th, it was decided that the event would be postponed to the 30th.

The day was, indeed, sunny and the meeting in full swing during the mid-afternoon when the dreaded sound of an approaching German V1 "Doodlebug" was heard by many, although music from the band drowned the sound for others. As people gazed into the sky, to our horror the missile's engine cut off. As the bomb began to fall to earth

men in PT shorts and vests began running for cover but, not knowing which way to go, even passed each other in their bid for safety.

The thing landed and exploded almost exactly in the middle of the "Island" of the running track. Following the inevitable silence there were a few screams and moans but almost drowned out by the shouted commands. Dead bodies seemed to be everywhere and some of them were merely mounds of burning flesh. Most people were in shock, but the natural leaders took over: a Drill Sergeant - I think his name was Fitzgerald - with his eyes weeping blood, swept a 6ft table clear of food to use the table as a stretcher and staggered to assist a wounded man. A fellow guardsman - maybe it was Gdsm Waddington - and an ATS girl lifted a badly wounded ATS girl into a makeshift ambulance. I

remember she screamed, "God! I am going to die!"

The Guardsman soothed her with encouraging words - but she died on the way to hospital. I watched my friend, little 32 Stephen Jones of Merthyr, in death, without a mark on his pale and smooth face, only the tell-tale flecked bubbles blocking his mouth. In all, twenty soldiers lost their lives that day and 105 were injured, some of them seriously.

We would like to thank Ray Isaacs for the way in which he has steadfastly kept the Memorial Garden in such good condition. We would also like to thank the staff of Imber Court, the Manager, Michael Kerslake, and his Deputy Simon Berry for their help over the years and their help for the future.

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

1. The Memorial Plaque at Imber Court
2. Ray Isaacs, who looks after and tends so well, the Imber Court Memorial Garden



Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Branch

(Formed full status 1957)

President: Captain HR Legge-Bourke

Chairman: Tom Peters (23523035)

Treasurer/

Secretary: Errold Jones (24581438)

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Penydarren

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Well where to start for what has been a terrible year for all. Our branch finished off 2019 on a high with very good turn outs at various parades and, like everyone else, was brought down to earth with a bump with the Covid-19 restrictions early in 2020

Our branch had to be split down the middle in early November as our Chairman Tom Peters and members local to Aberfan attended the Aberfan Remembrance Parade. A good turn out as always and well attended by locals and dignitaries. The rest of the branch attended the opening of the Remembrance Garden in Aberdare on 3rd November.

A fantastic Military Turnout and the Parade was set off by Welsh Guards CSM Scarfe who halted us by the dais where local school children from the Valley read accounts from each War and Conflict corresponding to each bench around the Garden. The Welsh Guards are well represented there in the sunken memorial stones on the floor with names of the fallen from different conflicts. Our Branch together with East Glamorgan

Branch clubbed together and funded the Stone for Sgt Robert Bye VC, I looked for it on the day and it looks quite superb.

The following week was as busy as it normally is with our Remembrance Parades throughout the Valley. The final and biggest Parade in Pant was again a huge event and with our President Captain Harry Legge-Bourke unable to attend our new friend of the branch Captain Tom Campbell-Schofield stood in and enjoyed the branches hospitality afterwards (see photograph).

We had a quiet Christmas and were looking forward to a busy New Year which started off well. The branch was invited (with Branch Standard) to take part in The council's re-signing of The Armed Forces Covenant which was a good event. It also



gave me the opportunity to put a plan to the branch which has been hatching into progress - so watch this space when we try and get things near to normal again.

In January I was lucky enough to have been invited by the Royal Welsh Association to a Luncheon to mark the Rorke's Drift Anniversary in Brecon Barracks. The event was organised superbly, and everything went off without a ripple. There were around 150 of us seated for Lunch and me and five or six Branch Members have attended a few of these

events and outings and a good partnership is beginning to develop so we look forward to seeing where this might take us in the future.

We were all looking forward to St David's Day but when put to our members, the overnight stay in Windsor, long return travel etc did not appeal and I was asked by the branch members to "sort something local" which I duly did! We had a wonderful branch luncheon and afternoon out with thirty members and wife's in attendance. We also had two ex-Mayor's as well as the

present Merthyr Tydfil Mayor in attendance and everyone has said what a fantastic afternoon it was. Afterwards of course a few of us "F TROOP" continued the motion and turned it from a "good afternoon" in to a "late night" (mostly the "class of 82")!

Myself and my lovely lady had a wonderful evening on 14th March with East Glamorgan Branch to celebrate their hundred years and I would like to thank them for the hospitality shown, it was a pleasure to attend and meet up with some old mates once more.

Then came the Covid-19 lockdown which has affected every aspect of our lives. As a branch, unable to meet physically, we have been trying our best to keep in touch through various other ways, although passing news and thoughts between members in our geographical area isn't easy at the best of times - but we managed the best we could.

We had our first meeting at the earliest possible time in September which was well attended and things seemed to be getting back to some kind of normal, when here we go, as I write these notes in October, we have a second lockdown to contend with - fingers crossed that this will not last too long and certainly not as long as previously

Our thoughts as a Branch as always to the families and friends of our late members -you are always in our thoughts. Also, our best wishes go to those who haven't enjoyed the best of health throughout the past year and we wish them a speedy recovery.

The Branch meetings when back to "norm" will be held on the first Monday of the month at the Ex Servicemen's Club, Lower High Street, Merthyr Tydfil at 2000hrs. Old and new members are more than welcome.

The Branch is looking forward to a better 2021 - well, hopefully it surely cannot get any worse. **LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES EVERYONE STAY SAFE.**

1. *Merthyr Branch after Remembrance Parade with our new Branch friend Captain Tom Campbell-Schofield*
2. *The Combined services Memorial Garden stones in Aberdare*



Monmouthshire Branch

(Formed 1920)

President: Captain MGA Scriven

Chairman: Mervyn Delve (22831721)

Secretary/

Treasurer: Steve Liversage BEM (24141822)
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2020 was not the Centenary year we had hoped for but contact between members and their families continued by telephone, post and e-mail. Communication is so important in a Branch such as ours with members scattered over a very wide area.

With numbers declining throughout the Association the Branch has had to work harder and depend on a loyal membership and the cancellation of what was to have been our Centenary Reunion Dinner was a great disappointment. But the anniversary is also a time to look back to the history of the Branch formed in 1920 but inactive until 1961 when it sprang to life and a monthly Branch Newsletter was issued.

It was posted or distributed by hand and within a short time brought Guardsmen of all ages and periods of service to events like Annual Reunion Dinners. We visited other Branches and took a step further by suggesting a reunion of all Welsh Guardsmen everywhere. We proposed a Biennial Association Dinner at the 1961 Annual General Meeting when it was agreed to discuss the matter further at a meeting of

Branch Secretaries later in the year in Cardiff.

The proposal was not welcomed by every Branch but Colonel C A la T Leatham, President of the Association, supported it and as a result the first Biennial Dinner was held on 17th March 1962 at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. Despite a smallpox epidemic in South Wales over 350 members attended, it was a great success and achieved its aim of bringing together members who had not seen each other for a long time.

Biennial Dinners covered the country, six were held in the Brangwyn Hall and also the City Hall, Cardiff, two in Chester and Ludlow Racecourse and others in the City of London, Pirbright, Shrewsbury, Wrexham, Llandudno, Aberdare and Merthyr, the latter attended by 450.

The Branch when its headquarters were in Ebbw Vale was supported by the General Manager of the steelworks, John Powell MC who had served in the

Indian Army in Italy. He was an Honorary Vice President of the Branch and when the 1973 Biennial Dinner was held in Chester was Director at Shotton steelworks nearby. He invited us to a reception in the works along with Welsh Guardsmen employed there and we had a most enjoyable pre-Dinner gathering with members of North of England and North Wales Branches.

Among our annual events in the Eighties was a short ride over the Severn to the White Hart in Brislington near Bristol where we met our west country members and those of the London Branch. We were always ready to try something new and on one occasion went to the Forest of Dean where we had a member and played skittles in his local pub against the local champions!

Of recent years our links with other Guardsmen over the Bridge has increased thanks to the Grenadiers and Coldstreamers who play us at skittles every April as near as possible to Saint George's Day. We are the current holders of



the very impressive St. George's Day Cup and intend to arrange another match as soon as we can. From their inception we have strongly supported the Association Darts & Shooting competitions and look forward to the next time they are held when we will defend two trophies, the Association Cup in Darts and the Aberdare Cup for Best Shot won last year by Gareth Liversage.

In 1967 another proposal by the Branch was an award to the Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year and since then the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy has been presented at the Annual Reunion Dinner. The Branch has kept the tradition of holding the Dinner since the first in 1962 at the County Hotel, Ebbw Vale and since 1980 it has been held in The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny.

We will continue to meet when and where we can, and it is up

to members to contact Steve Liversage our Secretary for all news and dates. Regular meetings, lunches and the Reunion Dinner will return and a telephone call, letter or e-mail to the Secretary will be greatly appreciated.

During the year we mourned the passing of two very loyal members, both from Abergavenny. John Stockham (22217741) served in Egypt in 1953/56 and was Standard Bearer and Chairman of the Branch as well as holding those positions in the Abergavenny Branch of the Royal British Legion. Mick Knight was the only Lifeguards Trooper in the Branch and a regular attender at meetings and all our functions. In recent years he did volunteer work for the Borough Council and was always present when we held our Annual Meeting in the Town Hall. They were typical

of many who have given much of their lives to the Branch and other organisations, supported as always by their wives and families.

Like millions who watched the Birthday Tribute to Her Majesty at Windsor we were very impressed and as Welsh Guardsmen very proud of the Battalion. The Castle brought memories back to those who paraded there, especially survivors of the 2nd Battalion which in June 1947 went into Suspended Animation and in a ceremony in the Castle handed the Colours it received in 1938 back to the King for safe keeping.

There being no Reunion Dinner in 2020 we missed our annual get together with serving Welsh Guardsmen who we greatly admire but hopefully both halves of the Regiment will meet again soon. We enjoy their company

and congratulate them for all they have done for the Regiment and the nation.

1. *The Annual Reunion with West country members of the London Branch at The White Hart Inn near Bristol, September 1994. Seated in the centre Major General Peter Leuchars.*
2. *Branch members at the Association Biennial Dinner in Llandudno, September 2004. Left to right Alan Mountjoy (23929747), Roy Lewis (2741392), Harry Derrick (23523219), Malcolm Davies (24185100) and Tommy Webber (23523339).*

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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Colonel DRP Lewis.

It was with great sadness that the branch received the news of the sudden death of Colonel David Lewis on the 28th October 2019. Colonel David had supported the Branch for many years and was a regular attendee, along with his lovely wife Mrs Sue Lewis, at our Branch annual luncheon at the Wroxeter Hotel. Colonel and Mrs Lewis invited members to their lovely home in Leintwardine for a day of fun and games followed by lunch on Armed Forces Day 29th June 2019. It was a nice sunny day which was enjoyed by all with wonderful food and much laughter, a full report appeared in the 2019 Magazine. Colonel David will be sadly missed but fondly remembered as a true gentleman.

Due to Covid-19 the memorial service which was being arranged for Colonel David had to be cancelled but plans are afoot for it to take place in 2021.

Christmas Luncheon 2019.

The 2019 Branch Christmas Lunch was held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club, an ideal location as it is just a short walk from the bus and railway Stations, and it has a small car park also. It has a superb reputation for food, and we were not disappointed - there was a good choice on the

menu. All food was served nice and the club has a well-stocked, well manned bar available.

St David's Day at the Henllan 2020.

The Branch held their Annual St David's Day Luncheon on the 23rd February at the Henllan Restaurant Nr Welshpool. We traditionally hold our celebrations a week prior to the actual date to allow Branch members to attend both the Branch event and the main Association celebrations with the Battalion if they wish to do so.

2020 was the 22nd year that we have celebrated St David's Day at the Henllan, something we felt could not be ignored and so to commemorate the occasion the Branch Chairman, Mr John Bates, presented a Welsh Guards Wall Plaque to the Henllan Restaurant and Mrs Diane Parry presented a bouquet of flowers to Ms Mai Breeze the Henllan Chef. Mai's Welsh Lamb is the best in the area and is served up by her first-class friendly staff who really do make the day (even coming around with second helpings for those that want it!) This year's attendance was 43 (with a few cancellations due to sickness and floods).

Brian L John (23523171).

On Wednesday 27th May I





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1. Colonel DR P Lewis
- 2-3. Branch Members with their wives and friends enjoying their Lunch
4. Members and friends enjoying their Christmas Lunch
5. Presentation of Wall Plaque and Flowers to Ms Mai Breeze
- 6-7. St David's Day Lunch at the Henllan
8. Brian L John (23523171)

received the sad news that Brian had died earlier that day. Brian stepped down as Branch Chairman after six years at the last AGM (in May 2019), due to ill health (he had been diagnosed as being in the early stages of Dementia). The decline in his health meant he had to be admitted to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in early April and he sadly died on the 27th May.

Brian joined the branch shortly after stepping off in 1962. His Father Tom John was a founding member of the branch and was the branch treasurer at the time. Brian was a regular committee member and fully supported the branch throughout the years. He worked for a local Coach Company in Whitchurch and would organise the hire of coaches, often driving the coach himself to save the branch costs! He still did the odd job collecting or delivering vehicles for the company for a long time after his retirement and for a number of years volunteered at the Welsh Guards Collection at Park Hall Oswestry, again driving a vehicle to displays like the Family weekend in Wellington Bks, and when the Collection had a display at the Cardiff Castle Museum and the Guards Museum London. He would always help out with the Welsh Guards Photograph collection at Park Hall as Photography was one of his hobbies.

He was presented with the Branch Loyalty Service Statuette by the then Branch Secretary Captain Ben Parry, following in the footsteps of Price Davies and Norman Edwards, and in July 2019 was presented with the Certificate of Merit by the Branch President Captain BMH Branston at the Wroxeter Hotel Luncheon.

Brian's funeral took place on Friday 5th June and sadly

due to Covid-19 restrictions it was not possible for Branch members to attend. His family intend to arrange a service of remembrance early in 2021 in his honour.

Brian was a proud Welsh Guardsman who will be sadly missed but never ever forgotten.

Trooping the Colour.

It was nice to see the Battalion perform a mini Trooping of the Colour in Windsor Castle with very short notice, limited time for rehearsals (as well as manning Covid-19 test stations) and having to observe social distancing and master marching on grass! They gave a brilliant display of drill, only the second time the Trooping of the Colour has been carried out at Windsor Castle and made us all extremely proud of them all.

Branch Information for 2021

Branch Committee meetings.

Branch Meetings will be held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club, but no dates have been agreed as yet.

St David's Day Lunch, Henllan.

Sunday 21st February 2021.

Wroxeter Hotel Annual Lunch.

Sunday 11th July 2021 (Due to the current situation the Hotel has not confirmed the booking). Hopefully, this will be done early in the new year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch President Captain BMH Branston and the committee members for their support throughout 2020 with a special word of thanks to all our members and their friends for supporting the branch.



North Wales Branch

(Formed 1936)

- President: Captain ACD Hopkins
- Chairman: Graham "The Bear" Binnie (24060777)
- Treasurer: Captain ACD Hopkins
- Secretary: John Burns (24823395)
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Branch Activity.

2020 got off to a good start for the North Wales Branch with Branch members attending many of the forecasted events towards the end of 2019 and into the

first few months of 2020 however, events along with the optimistic intentions to increase branch awareness as well as grow branch numbers for regular attendance were soon brought to a standstill

due to the COVID pandemic lockdown.

Our last normal meeting took place a week after the St David's Day celebrations, with a socially distanced meeting taking place just recently at the beginning of October which was only hours before the renewed restrictions were implemented placing the majority of North Wales once again into lockdown.

Again, our members have regrettably found themselves attending the funerals of several of our veteran brothers, notably our first socially distanced funeral for Barrie Moulton who joined the Welsh Guards in 1956 having served seven years as well as being awarded the

Campaign Medal for Cyprus. Pall, Standard Bearer; John Burns and a Guard of Honour provided by Graham Binnie, Jiffy Myers and Tim Ryan attended the Church Service. In a definitive and final show of respect for our Welsh Guard brother the Standard and Guard of Honour lead the funeral procession along with the vicar on foot, for the half mile route from Hope Parish Church to the Cemetery in the torrential rain.

Barrie's daughters Tania, Melanie, Tracy and brother Gareth were extremely grateful for the turnout from the Association donating the very generous collection to the Association as a thank you. Barrie's Campaign Medal for



Cyprus which is on display can be viewed at the Welsh Guards Collection in Park Hall. Only 734 of these medals have been awarded.

2019 Wrexham Branch Christmas Meal.

This took place at the Nags Head in Wrexham; it was a well attended successful night with eighteen members which included partners who have also supported the branch throughout the year at various events. A great time was had by all.

2019 Bangor Branch Christmas Meal.

This took place at the Waverley Hotel in Bangor; it was well attended by the regular branch members who meet up at the Waverley Hotel on the 3rd Monday of the month. Again, a great time was had by all.

St David's Day.

This year the North Wales Branch arranged a coach for the North Wales, North of England and the Montgomery-

Shropshire & Midlands Branches to travel down to Windsor to join the Battalion in Combermere Barracks for St David's Day.

With pick-ups from Bangor along the North Wales coast branch members travelled with only a slight diversion to the planned route due to recent storm flooding.

We took a stop off near one of our old postings at Tern Hill Barracks for lunch and refreshments then onto Windsor to drop off at the two hotels. Everyone enjoyed the journey down. The Sgt's Mess kindly put on a curry night on the Saturday night which was well attended as was the Church Service concert provided by the Welsh Guards Band at the Garrison Church.

The Sunday was an amazing and very emotional day starting with the church service again at the Garrison Church in Windsor led by the Reverend Matthew Dietz CF, chaplain to

the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards as well as Field Marshal Lord Guthrie. Where finally 10 years of hard work from Maldwyn Jones came to fruition with the Falklands Wooden Cross that was originally erected in 1982 was dedicated to its new and permanent home in the Garrison Church. Not a dry eye in the house could be seen during the ceremony, a very fitting and emotional tribute to our brothers who did not return from the Falklands war.

A quick session of "On the bus, off the bus" followed just to remind us what it was like when we served as some piled into coaches in a mass evacuation from the Church back to Combemere Barracks, the remainder of us took to the good old LPC (Leather Personnel Carriers) for a short sharp quick tab back to camp!

On return we all piled onto the drill square for a bit of a wait for the presentation of the leeks, luckily the weather remained good and spirits were high

amongst the veterans who had a bit of banter during the wait. We couldn't help but feel sorry for the serving Guardsmen on parade waiting quietly and patiently - been there, done that!

Leeks presented, march past completed then once fallen out everyone headed over to the Gym where the Battalion provided company display stands, refreshments and a band which went down a treat with the members. It was great to pull up a sandbag and chat with the serving members of the Battalion, catch up on progress with the ever-evolving technology, check out the latest hardware and catch up with old friends.

Dinner was then served in the Sgt's Mess for the branch members many of whom stayed until late in the evening. On the Monday morning there was a few tired heads who slept most of the way home to North Wales on the coach.

It is fair to say that the Battalion did us all proud, the hospitality shown to the branch members was wonderful. Every member from all ranks within the Battalion made us feel special. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the effort put into accommodating us be it from the chefs, cleaners, bar staff, display stands and the QM for protecting that nice new Gym floor!

It sincerely was a remarkable weekend which we will continue to promote within the North Wales Branch to increase awareness and numbers for attendance next year.

38th Falklands Memorial Service.

Due to the lockdown restrictions the usual well planned and attended annual service at St Giles Church including a Choir and memorial parade had to be replaced with a discrete socially distanced memorial service which took place at the Welsh Guards Falklands War Memorial. Capt Chris Hopkins

has provided a detailed article on this year's event.

Darts & Shoot Competition.

North Wales Branch had a good response to creating a team to enter into this year's competition, but unfortunately COVID put a stop to any practice sessions as well as resulting in the event being cancelled IN ANY CASE. We look forward to representing the branch at the next competition hopefully in 2021.

1. *Bangor Branch Meeting, L-R: Graham Binnie, David Morgan, John Jones, Gwyn Williams, Ifor Williams, Brian Williams, Gary Glyn Jones, Gwyndaf Williams, John Burns*
2. *2831467 Barrie Moulton RIP*
3. *Wrexham Branch Christmas Meal*
4. *Saint David's Day - Coach Journey Down to Windsor*
5. *Saint David's Day - Coach Journey Down to Windsor*
6. *North Wales Branch - Falklands War Memorial*



North of England Branch

(Formed 1946)

President: Captain J W Daniel

Chairman: Post Vacant

Treasurer: Mr Arnold Brassey

Secretary: Mr Stephen Ollerhead

10 Penfold way

Dodleston

Chester CH4 9NL

Telephone: 01244 661091



1

Well what a year it has been so far! After our excellent Christmas Dinner at the Green Oak Pub and Restaurant at Ellesmere Port on 1st December 2019 (see photo's) where we had a good attendance and a wonderful time with all our ladies present. Our numbers have dwindled quite severely now, due in main to age or ill health as we suspect is the case in most branches.

We still have a regular hardcore of six or seven who attend our monthly meetings but once again have had to change our regular venue from the Tudor Rose Hotel to the Green Oak Farm Public House and Restaurant, Rossmore Road, Ellesmere Port.

We are unable to set a regular monthly date/time for the meeting due to availability of members, so anyone wishing to attend is asked to contact me by telephone

(01244 661091) beforehand to confirm the date and time. We try to keep the meeting as near to the end of the month as possible.

Lastly to end this very strange year I would like to pay tribute to; Arnold Brassey, Paul Liddy, John McGuiness, Peter Oldfield, Billy Kelly, Terry Evans, who along with myself make up our magnificent 7 without who this Branch would no longer be able to exist.



2

1. L-R: Arnold Brassey, John McGuiness, Peter Oldfield, Alan Turner (at the back) and Bob Harper (on the right)
2. L-R: Sue Ollerhead, Gill Evans RIP, Steve Ollerhead, Terry Evans, Jack Traynor, Annie Dimmock-Liddy and Hayley Mathews.



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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

Having been asked to compile the Branch notes in a year which, for obvious reasons, has been particularly void of any activity whatsoever both in the Branch and in the wider Association, I (that is Bob Chambers (24645750)) have decided to go "off piste" a little and in part 2 of the report relate my experiences whilst on secondment in the Cayman Islands in 1994.

Part 1

As we all are too fully aware, due to the recent outbreak of that nasty virus which I'm sure you're all fed up of hearing about and the restrictions imposed on the whole population, it has not been possible to hold any Branch meetings this current year. Branch members have managed the best they can whilst adhering to the rules and have carried out welfare checks via telephone with each other.

What a year 2020 has turned out to be - hopefully 2021 will be a lot kinder to us all.

Over the period covered by this report the Branch has sadly said farewell to two Branch members; LSgt (22217605) Roydon Leslie Price (Roger) who died on 9th February 2020 aged 87 years and Gdsm (23550192) Richard Taylor who died on 13th December 2019 aged 80 years after a short illness. Rest in Peace Welsh Guardsmen "Your



3

Duty is done".

On Saturday 13th June 2020 I am sure we were all glued to our TV screens to witness a wonderful, spectacular and unusual Queen's Birthday Parade at Windsor Castle put on by 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and composite Band of the Household Division in front of HM The Queen whilst adhering to social distancing measures. To say it was outstanding is an understatement, it gave the entire nation a lift and was performed magnificently by the young men and women of the Welsh Guards and Household Division Band and we congratulate them all on a job well done.

A reminder that we hold our monthly meetings on the



4

second Monday of every month at the Bridgend Ex Servicemen's Club (Covid 19 restrictions permitting) and as a Branch we welcome All Welsh Guardsmen or Women who will be made extremely welcome.

Season's Greetings for the end of the year and a Happy Prosperous Covid free 2021 New Year.



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**“Once a Welsh Guardsman
Always a Welsh Guardsman”**



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Part 2

I read with interest on social media of the formation of the Royal Cayman Islands Regiment in September 2020 and remembered back to the time I spent there in 1994.

In 1994 I was fortunate to be selected to go on secondment for two years to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service where I served three months carrying out local community procedures which included protection of wildlife, patrols to catch Parrot snatchers, theft of Turtle eggs, Hurricane Shelter duties and varied other offences.

I then passed selection for a newly formed multi-cultural Special Task Force which suited my combination of past military skills combined with my then current Policing skills. The Task Force’s first major operation was policing the influx of Cuban refugees who at that time were fleeing Cuba under Fidel Castro’s regime to try and get asylum in Miami. Other duties included mounting ceremonial parades with the duty Caribbean Royal Naval patrols, fighting drugs and firearms importations along with dealing with any issues to the Island’s threats of that time.

The Island is a British Overseas Territory situated in the Western Caribbean neighbouring Jamaica, Cuba, and Honduras. The Special Task Force was recognised for its work in handling the Cuban crisis with an evening hosted by his Excellence, Mr Gore at Government House. The experience is one I will never forget and one I was selected for due to my Guards training and background. Having completed my secondment and returning to South Wales Police in 1996 I then went on and specialised in numerous covert roles throughout my

career finishing as a Detective Inspector on Special Branch’s Welsh Extremist Counter Terrorism Unit, working alongside Specialist Units and Special Forces.

It was pleasing to be informed that in September 2020 the newly formed Cayman Islands Regiment’s recruits were being trained by a Short Term Training Team (STTT) consisting of personnel from the Welsh Guards, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the Grenadier Guards and the Royal Marines – providing the islanders with the basic infantry skills required to be qualified soldiers, including Drill, weapons handling, battlefield casualty drills and navigation. The work of this STTT is the subject of a separate article in this publication.

For me it was history repeating itself from 26 years ago when I can proudly say that I was a founder member of that Special Task Force, the idea that came to fruition this year with my old combination of Welsh Guards and Police officer skills being used on those distant shores.

1. *Gdsm (23550192) Richard Taylor RIP. Photo taken in Windsor whilst groom to Lieutenant Colonel WAFL Fox-Pitt MVO MC*
2. *Queen’s Birthday parade Georgetown 1995 in company with HMS Broadsword detachment.*
3. *Cuban refugees 1994 seeking asylum off the British waters of Cayman*
4. *Drug operation 1996 awaiting drug boat entering Cayman waters*
- 5-6. *Cayman Islands Regiment reviving Drill instruction and weapon training in 2020 by the joint Short-Term Training Team (STTT) commanded by WG.*
7. *Hearts and Minds exercise in Tent City Georgetown with Cub*



Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch

(Formed 1927)

President: Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBETD

Chairman: Mr K Trenchard (24449915)

Treasurer: Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBETD

Secretary: David Williams (24623938)

17 Golwg yr Eglwys

Pontarddulais

Swansea SA4 8EE

Telephone: 07779 246345

Email: wgaswansea@gmail.com

Well what a year 2020 has been!

The branch had settled into meeting at Cwmfelin Social Club every second Monday of the month. The number of members attending the meetings were starting to rise and the Branch were actively planning several social events locally. These included family lunches every other month at different venues in Swansea. The Branch had arranged an away trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in May and all was starting to look good until we were hit with the COVID National Lockdown which put a screeching halt to all our plans.

During the lockdown period and these strange times, we find ourselves in, the branch has kept in contact by holding a few Zoom/Facebook

room meetings. A little slow to start with (most of us members were not too sure of the technology), we have gradually grown the group involved. For a short while Members were able to meet at Cwmfelin Social Club in August as lockdown restrictions allowed, however this was short lived.

We have been joined by Sgt Joel Bladen (Swansea jack), who has become our link to the Battalion. Welcome to the branch Joel, we look forward to seeing you either at a Branch meeting or one of our zoom meetings soon.

1. A Swansea Branch Zoom meeting under way.
2. Branch Secretary and Tony Davies 14 laying a wreath at Swansea Cenotaph on Remembrance Day 2020.





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

Well, what a year? It started with the threat of a new virus, Covid 19, started in China, but was believed to be spreading throughout the World! Sadly, it has!

The Battalion was snugly ensconced in their new Barracks in Windsor carrying out Public Duties and plans were being made for us to celebrate St David's Day with them. Members of the Association Branches were really looking forward to joining them on this eventful day and with transport being subsidised by the Association, we would be well represented. It is a family day enjoyed by everyone, from the youngest Guardsman through to the Commanding Officer and to the oldest Association member.

Allan Cunningham was tasked with the job of getting a coach load of Veterans from Llanelli via the M4 corridor to a Travel Lodge he had booked in Windsor and thus onto the Barracks for an evening of pull up a sandbag, mixed of course with generous amounts of spirits and beer, back to the hotel and then on parade the next morning for the big day. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend, due to being in Benidorm and the threat of a Spanish lockdown, but from what I've heard, the Dai's Day gig went off exceptionally well, but of course it would. It always does!

I escaped from Spain on the Thurs 12 March by the skin of my teeth as Spain went into lockdown that day. Turnaround times at the Airport were being shortened and baggage was flying on and off the various carousels. Our flight was the last scheduled flight into Cardiff, before all flights became repatriations taking passengers everywhere and not always where they wanted to go!

We had to isolate (or were advised to) for 14 days before the whole UK followed suit.

It has been a stressful time for everybody, with those who have other medical conditions even more stressful, but we seemed to have won this particular battle and come through the worst of it but warned it would return later on in the year.

Unfortunately, it has! Hence, we see many of our Boroughs forced into a second lockdown and I imagine many more will or will have by the time these notes go to print.

The Battalion though have had to soldier on. Their biggest day, The Troop was cancelled as we know it. But a mini troop in front of Her Majesty was carried out by the Windsor Castle Guard, using social distancing (a phrase we all have got to know) and the Parade went extremely well. All credit to those involved and to those who strived to make it happen! Dressing was the key here, with extra distance between the next man or woman as in this case

WO1 (RSM) Mike Parry has conducted zoom meetings with members of the Association, as he wants the Association more involve with the Bn. For this Sir, we thank you. The meetings are covered in greater detail in another article.

How have we managed then? Many of us have had to forego going away on holiday, visiting our local or going to see a film at our local cinema. There were no Maccie D's, Burger King or KFC and no local Restaurants. Strange new terms like "social distancing and furlough" have come into our vocabulary and are now all too often used.

Some have taken up walking the dog, running even! Alan Parry-Booth keeps his mind

active and us entertained with his daily poems. All good stuff, but he is also very good with his woodworking, making sticks, whistles and love spoons, out of pieces of wood you and I might use on a bonfire. Wiz, aka Steve Jennings has also done great things with wood which impresses many of us with his fine work.

Potsy (Bobby Roberts) and Rodders (Paul Rosser) recently made a pilgrimage to Holmfirth to visit our Bard, Allan Parry-Booth and his lovely wife Lynn. They came away with a stick each from AP-B's magnificent collection and presented Mrs AP-B with a bouquet of flowers. An eventful trip, AP-B hasn't been the same since!

This dreadful disease has put a stop to all manner of events and reunions of course. Falklands visits, Darts and Shoot, golf, biennial lunch and many other branch organised events also.

There is one Reunion in the pipeline though. Paul Morgan (aka Flicker) is organizing a weekend reunion at the Seaview Hotel in Porthcawl (Covid allowing) 12 to 14 Mar 21. It was a tremendous success some years ago and with the hotel recently being refurbished, promises to be just as good this time. Details are on Facebook and our website. If you haven't already booked, get in now or you may be too late.

I have met many of our Brothers though, albeit in sad circumstances, normally at funerals! I have attended quite a few, more than I wish to count, but two in particular spring to mind!

For those who remember John (Jack) Prosser, He was the Battalion Butcher in Munster and Chelsea. He had little to do with WG after he left, until one day a chance meeting



with Potsy whilst working as a cleaner in Cardiff Airport. Potsy convinced him to attend last year's Association Darts and Shoot at Maindy Barracks and Bang, he was back in our Family. But unfortunately, he succumbed to Covid-19 and was sadly taken on 6th June. I was honoured to be asked to dress his coffin and parade with our Branch Standard at his Funeral in Barry and thank Potsy for asking me to get involved. His wife Sian too for allowing me to carry out our services at his last parade.

The second was the tragic and unexpected passing of Dai Graham. Dai passed after a massive heart attack. Quite unbelievable for those who remember the Walk on Wales a few years past where Dai walked the whole distance of the Wales Coastal Path, with a few other Veterans.

Dai was cremated at Cardiff on 14th August with Covid-19 restrictions not allowing us all to attend the service. A Drumhead service was organised and carried out at a local hotel where Captain Jan Koops read a brilliant Eulogy into Dai's life and Edward Vaughan-Jones (aka VJ) sang Calon Lan (quite excellently I may add,) before the hearse took Dai to the

Crematorium for a private Family service.

My thanks go out to the other Standard Bearers that day, Nag (Phil Edwards) of Cardiff Branch and Andrew Morgan Brown of Llanelli Branch. Also, Sgt Stuart Laing of RHQ who as per, sounded a note perfect immaculate Last Post and Reveille. There was a great turnout of WG Veterans, Simon (Squeak) Weston, the Mott brothers, (Nicky and Johnny), VJ, Brian Elliot, our own Larry John, to name but a few. Great to get around a table with a drink for a chat, but sadly, yet another sad occasion.

An appeal put out by the Chairman of the Guards Chapel Committee, Major General Robert Talbot-Rice CBE, for kneelers to be presented for use in the Guards Chapel, was quickly responded to by the WGR Branch President, Lt Col Tony Davies. At a cost of £185 each, these quality hand crafted kneelers will last a lifetime and are a fitting tribute as they contain the Welsh Guards Crest atop and details of the individual being remembered along the leading edge. It was the intention to purchase one kneeler, but such was the support and encouragement shown by members, that

enough funds were raised in record time by the WGR Branch membership (on the website and through social media) to purchase three. They have just been produced (see photo's 4 & 5) and are in memory of:

CC THOMAS - LCpl Chris "Bowser" Thomas O3, KIA Falkland Islands

PA FRYER - Gdsm Paul Fryer, KIA Northern Ireland

PJ PRICE - Sgt Philip Price, KIA Northern Ireland

So, what does the remainder of this year and the upcoming year bring? Sadly, I suspect more gloom and despair before it can get better. Christmas is just around the corner. No Santa in the stores. No Halloween celebrations. No Remembrance Parades! What do we have to look forward to? We just have to soldier on and wait it out!

We can hope things improve and we have to play a big part to ensure it does. We have to be disciplined and do what we're advised to, even if we don't agree with it.

Gents, I am just a spokesperson for us in this great Branch. But I'm sure my Management team and all members will

back me in playing a part to get us winning again. I thank you all, Mal and Neil at Association Headquarters, Keith my Chairman, Tony my President, all Branch Vice Presidents, Mike C and all you members in helping me compose these notes.

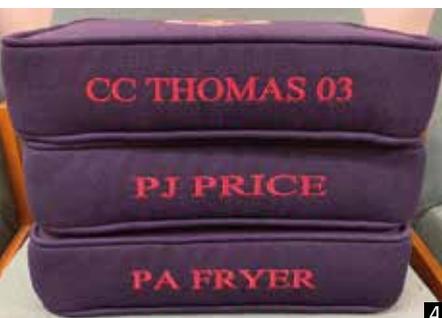
I wish you all a Merry Xmas and better New Year and above all..... STAY SAFE!

Our Branch notes would not be the same if we did not end with a poem from the very talented and wonderful Alan Parry-Booth:



INGRAINED

1. *St David's Day Windsor*, Larry John (24141857) to Lisa "Mmm, not a bad pint, but it's not Amstel"!
2. *St David's Day Windsor*, Harry Holland MM (23877354) and Wyndham "Skinny" Jenkins (23879318) chatting about the Aden days.
3. L-R: Paul "Rodney" Rosser (24336563), Alan Parry-Booth (22326094), Bob "Potsy" Roberts (24400031) during their visit to Alan at his beautiful home in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire
- 4-5. WGR Branch sponsored Kneelers for the Guards Chapel.



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*Since I was just a nipper
I've never understood
Why I have this great compulsion
To make things out of wood.*

*I started off with aeroplanes
And then I turned to boats
Then super rural farmyards
With horses, sheep and goats.*

*I bought some carving chisels
And I carved a perching owl
The net result was not quite right
A weird looking fowl.*

*Went on to carve the female form
With all its wondrous curves
But sanding all the fancy bits
Played havoc with my nerves.*

*Then I got a bit too cocky
In my skills I'd tend to bathe
So, to give myself a challenge
I bought myself a lathe.*

*I turned gavels, plates and truncheons
And some pretty tidy bowls
I used up loads of lovely wood
Some ended with the coals.*

*My next essay was cribbage boards
Now you may think that boring
But with no room for errors
It left no time for snoring.*

*For years I made Welsh love spoons
A fascinating craft
By carving leeks and dragons
Each one was truly "Taffed".*

*But with my current hobby
My needs are all fulfilled
I joined the local gathering
Of "The British Stickmakers Guild".*

*I'm now producing market sticks
And super shepherd's crooks
With a myriad different timbers
And designs from brilliant books.*

*I make my sticks at leisure
And I've improved my speed
With heads of hares and pheasants
I'm very pleased indeed.*

*Now we are here in lockdown
I have this gift divine
A hobby so absorbing
At the age of eighty-nine.*

*So, if you've never made a stick
But wish to have a fling
Then find your branch of B.S.G
Or just give me a ring.*

Alan Parry-Booth.

The Welsh Guards Collection

(established 1995)

President: Brigadier JF Rickett CBE

Chairman: Colonel TCS Bonas

Treasurer: Major ME Browne BEM

Secretary: RQMS RW Parry 95

Curator: Mr ST Evans

Cartref ni

44 Crossfield Avenue

Winsford

Cheshire CW7 1EG

Telephone: 01606 593953

Email: stanevans67@hotmail.com

No one could possibly have imagined what we were about to be up against at the turn of the year. Not since the 2nd WW had anyone experienced such devastation by one common enemy.

In 1939 it was Adolf Hitler who thought he could rule the world, now some 81 years later it was the dreaded Coronavirus pandemic which seemed to be hell bent on wiping us all out. At first thousands of people thought it was just a scare and failed to take things seriously. The thought of everyone wearing safety masks or other forms of PPE was like something out of a "sc-fi" movie!

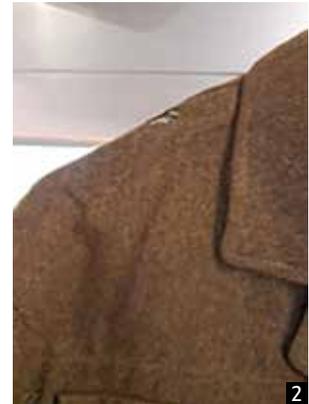
A relic from the 2nd World war.

On Friday 21st February at East Bristol Auctions, lot number 41 consisting of uniforms belonging to a Welsh Guards Officer of the 2nd WW. This particular Officer was none other than Lieutenant (later Captain.) J A W Dent (MID) who on the 3rd September 1944 was the very first allied tank to enter Brussels. Coincidentally out of the five-man crew on board, two members of his crew were named Beresford but unrelated. Guardsman Robert Beresford was the hull gunner and Guardsman Ralph Beresford was the wireless operator.

The lot consisted of two Battledress blouses, one service dress jacket and one parade forage cap. I'm glad to say that I won the lot by telephone bidding. "Not recommended for those with a heart condition"! Unfortunately, all the items had some of the worse moth damage I had ever seen in my 26 years as Curator (see photo's 1 - 9). Another disappointment was that all the shoulder boards and rank insignias plus all the brass and leather buttons had been cut off. It's what some collectors call "Top and tailing." They butcher uniforms just because they haven't the room to store them. Within minutes of receiving these items by Royal Mail they were straight into my freezer to make sure they were now safe from infestation and unable to pass anything on to my other stock items.

St David's day at Windsor.

Whilst attending the St David's Day parade and celebrations in Windsor, I was pleasantly surprised to meet Mrs Pam Bellis, widow of that great Welsh Guardsman Idwal Bellis who, after completing 22 years'





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service in the Regiment, most people will associate with his long service in HM Tower of London as Keeper of the Castle. She had sought me out to present to me, for the museum, a small photograph album containing photographs from 1915 of groups of Officers and men of the Regiment. To think the album is 105 years old. Many thanks Pam.

It wasn't long before the Government brought out new rules for self-isolating social distancing etc and public buildings were being closed by the hour. We were made to have sanitation points, distance markers on the floors and Perspex covering to all public areas. Even after all the effort we put in we were still unable to stay open because we didn't have the manpower to control the number of visitors entering and making sure social distancing could be controlled. So unfortunately, we remain closed.

Plan B is now underway whereby I will install 8 CCTV cameras with two large monitors situated in the main reception and in our office. We will get a professional carpenter to make frames to hold Perspex panels to cover everything that could have been touched by our visitors. This plan B will hopefully satisfy the authorities and allow me to open up, unmanned with the exception of somebody controlling numbers entering the Museum. Our 1st WW display in another building has remained open all the time, unmanned because everything is behind glass.

All this equipment is very expensive, and we were fortunate to receive a grant from our governing body AMOT (The Army Museum Ogilby Trust). Director of the trust Mr Andrew Lloyd MBE saw our situation and endorsed our application with a very

handsome donation. Over the years I have got to know Andrew very well and he is always there to listen and help in dire situations. Thank you, Andrew, you really are one of life's Gentlemen and the Welsh Guards Museum and the Regiment will always be indebted to you. If there is a shortfall of money for this venture, then the Regimental Trustees will support us as they always have over the years.

As always, we need volunteers to help out with looking after our visitors and taking care of the displays and general housework within. We have a second building which holds our reserve collection with hundreds, yes hundreds of artefacts which need looking after. By that I mean making sure they are in good order, protected from the elements and ready for display at any time. As you may be aware, we cater for schools and other places of learning and the reserve collection gives us the option of displays at other premises at short notice.

May I take this moment to wish everyone associated with the Welsh Guards family a safe voyage through these trouble times. Please take care and be safe and before we know it we will come out the other side aware of what we have achieved and through what we hope will never return again.

- 1-9. *The extent of the damage to the recently acquired uniforms of Capt JAW Dent.*
- 10. *Mrs Pam Bellis presenting the photograph album to Stan Evans, St David's Day 2020*
- 11. *An example of the quality of the photographs included in the album kindly presented by Mrs Pam Bellis.*



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Saint David’s Day 2020

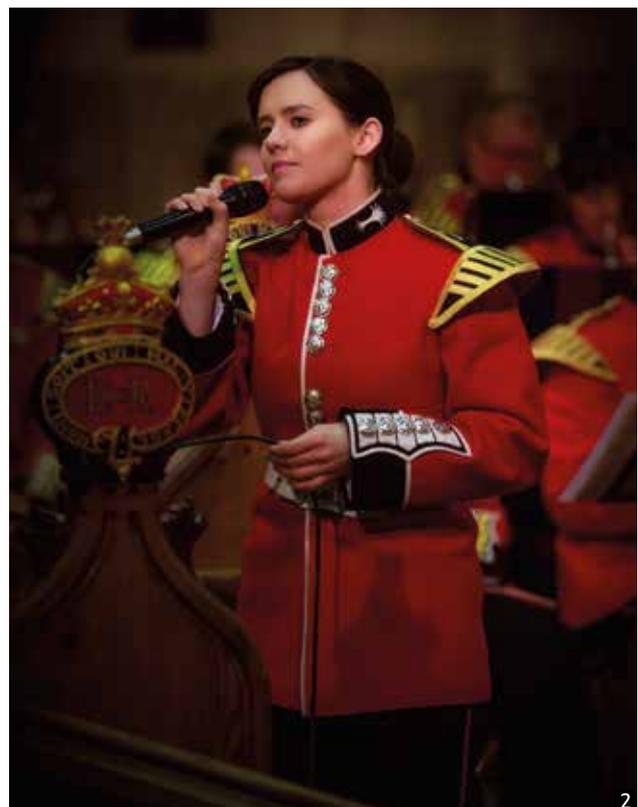
by Neil Rice, Assistant Secretary General
Welsh Guards Association

Members of the Association enjoyed the very best of hospitality from the Battalion as they gathered together to celebrate St David’s Day in the Battalion’s new home of Combermere Barracks Windsor on Sunday 1st March 2020. The celebrations began on Saturday Night with the Regimental Band giving a free concert in the Holy Trinity Parish and Garrison Church.

In front of a full house, the band gave a wonderful varied performance of traditional military music mixed with some great contemporary works including a unique arrangement of “Calon Lân” for trombone, a medley of both traditional Welsh tunes and Shirley Bassey hits and a stunning performance by Lance Sergeant Maria Lacey

singing “I would rather go blind” by Etta James.

After the concert and by kind invitation of the Regimental Sergeant Major, we headed off to the Sergeants Mess and joined the non-musical members who had been firmly ensconced in the bar since 1800 hrs! There were a good number in the mess





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from the battalion and the beer and banter flowed in equal measure.

Sunday dawned with a bright blue sky so any fears about the weather were dispelled as we made our way back to the Garrison Church for the traditional Saint David's Day service, made very special this year as the Falklands Cross was being blessed, rededicated and installed in its new permanent home. This simple wooden cross was made by members of the Battalion in June 1982 (see photo 3) and erected on a stone cairn at Fitzroy over-looking Port Pleasant to commemorate and remember all the Welsh Guardsmen, including our three Special Air Service men and the attached personnel who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. This temporary memorial was replaced with a permanent memorial in the form of a fourteen-foot-tall Welsh Celtic Cross rough-hewn in blue pennant stone which was erected and dedicated at a service held on the 11th November 1983. The wooden cross was brought back to the UK and housed in the Guards Depot Chapel, Pirbright. With the Guards Depot no longer being an exclusively Guards establishment and the Battalion now making its long-term home in Combermere Barracks, Maldwyn Jones, the Secretary General of the Welsh Guards Association who helped build the original memorial embarked on a crusade to have the cross moved and brought to this more appropriate home in the Garrison Church, Windsor. There were a good number of Falklands Veterans in the congregation as the cross was brought from the entrance of the church to the alter carried by Brigadier Johnny Rickett the Commanding Officer in 1982 and Captain

Jimmy Everett who was the Company Sergeant Major Two Company during the Falklands campaign. The rededication service was beautifully conducted by the Battalion Padre, the reverend Matthew Dietz CF. It was a wonderfully moving ceremony culminating in a beautifully sung Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. "Yn angof ni chant fod"

After the service we made our way back to Combermere Barracks and formed up on the square with the rest of the Battalion. It was a beautifully bright clear day but the wind was icy and cutting as we waited for the parade to begin with Brigadier Johnny Rickett collecting the Association leeks from the Major-General commanding the Household Division, Major General Christopher Ghika CBE (Irish Guards). After the distribution of leeks, the parade marched off the square with the Major General taking the salute. It is impossible to overstate the restorative power of marching behind the Regimental Band, as soon as we stepped off the years fell away as the necks hit the back of our collars and the Association "Eyes Right" more than matched that of the other companies on parade.

The formal duties of the day completed everyone headed into the gym where the Battalion demonstrated some of the recreational activities they get to enjoy as well as having some of their modern weapons on display. From the gym we moved onto the Sergeants Mess where a first-class lunch was served along with some liquid refreshment.

We are very grateful to the Battalion, their hospitality was second to none, the Commanding Officer, the Regimental Sergeant Major and their respective mess members were perfect hosts



and everyone made us feel very welcome indeed. It is days like these where we demonstrate that the Welsh Guards Family is not just a catchy tag line, it is a very real and cherished way of life that we enjoy and appreciate.



1. WO2 (Band Master) Hatton leads the band through the magic of music with Tom Davoren's Stone Mountain Magic
2. LSgt Maria Lacey blows the audience away with her rendition of I'd Rather Go Blind.
3. The temporary memorial cross being dedicated by the Battalion Padre, the Reverend Peter Brooke in 1982 when first constructed
4. Preparing to leave the Officers Mess. L-R, Back row: Captain Orme Clarke (ADC to the Major General), Colonel TCS Bonas, Major General C Ghika CBE, Lieutenant Colonel H Llewelyn-Usher, Mrs Helen Llewelyn-Usher Front: Mrs Vivien Bonas, Mrs Ghika, Ms Emelia Llewelyn-Usher, Ms Felicity Llewelyn-Usher
5. L-R; A Williams 50, Bob Bowen, Al Cunningham, Howard Davies 82, Peter Williams 300, Jon Woodham 08, Kenny Williams 05
6. The Falklands memorial cross being carried into position by Brigadier JF Rickett CBE (CO 1WG in 1982) and Captain JMF Everett (CSM 2 Coy in 1982)
7. The Band performing under the conductorship of the Director of Music, Major Stewart Halliday



8. WG Falklands Veterans, with the Battalion Padre, the reverend Matthew Dietz CF after the rededication of the Memorial Cross. L-R: Richard Jones 29, Steve Jones 98, Maldwyn Jones 92, Jimmy Salmon, Kim Hibberd, Bryan Matthews, Paul Cunliffe MBE, Henry Vaughan-Jones, Steve Gelly, Ian Morgan, Adrian Hinder, Phil Wright, Robert Baynham
9. Brigadier JF Rickett CBE presenting leeks to members of the WGA on parade.
10. The WGA contingent marches off parade.



A reminder of the camaraderie at the Darts and Shoot from previous years which we hope to enjoy once again in 2021.

DARTS AND SHOOTING COMPETITION 2020

Darts and Shooting Competition 2020

By Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM Assistant Regimental Adjutant

Saturday 19th September 2020 was scheduled to be the annual Association Darts & Shoot Competition in the Sergeant Mess at Maindy Barracks Cardiff.

But, like the majority of other events in our calendar, we were obligated to cancel it due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the restriction imposed to ensure the safety of our members.

We very much hope to be able to gather together in 2021 at Maindy Barracks Sergeants Mess and the tentative date of Saturday 18th September 2021 has been pencilled into the Forecast of Events.

As a reminder, the results from the 2019 competition and so remaining as holders of the trophies for 2020 are:

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**





The Coronation

by Bill Britton (22217653 Gdsm) Served 1952 to 1955

The year was 1952 at the time I was working down Llay Main Pit, if you worked down the mines you were exempt from going into the forces.

Each weekend I went out to enjoy myself, but all my friends were in the forces. As they came home on leave, they called me a coward which I got tired of and so made enquires to join. I then found out that none of them were in the Welsh Guards and so I joined the Welsh Guards and what a turn up for the books!

My Dad gave us a life of hell, so it was no surprise to me when I enlisted, but the training was still hard and very difficult. For those of you that have been there and done it you will all know what I am talking about. Finding out what sports team you could go in for was good, but when it came to boxing, I was soon on the floor. I found a liking for all things Cross country running, I liked it, a chance to get out for a while. The highest I achieved was 7th when running for the Welsh Guards, I was fit back then, fitter than a fiddler's elbow.

We were just coming to the end of our training when the floods hit Canvey Island so off to Southend Airport, we went to fill sandbags (with a rum ration at the end of the day). On our way back to Pirbright we were informed that the old King had passed away and we were told to get ready for a Coronation in the June. For weeks we were out on the square rehearsing standing still for a long time whilst watching the RSM drill the officers!

No one was left out and the rehearsals went on for over a month or more. Our Platoon

Sergeant went on parade with no firing pin in his rifle and was inspected by the RSM who saw it and we were all given hell for a long time over it!

Come the day before the big day and we were sent to Wellington Barracks. The next morning, we were up an hour early, had breakfast and got dressed then marched down the Mall and took up our positions not far from St James' Palace. I was facing the park, the crowd behind me complained that they had been waiting there all night and now I was blocking their view! It was now just before 7am and we were in place and ready.

At the start of the parade were the five Royal Dukes on horseback, it took two hours for the parade to go by me. Once the ceremony had started in Westminster Abbey the street-liners we were given a rest. I recall had a Kit Kat and a cup of tea then it was back out onto the Mall to street line for the return journey of the Royal procession.

It would be another two hours for the complete procession to pass by again, I remember it rained a little as The Queen of Tonga went past me in open carriage - strange what you remember?

We got back to the Wellington Barracks at around 4pm had some food, got changed and then went out into the crowd and enjoyed the night.

Remembering an Exercise to Libya

by Gerald Tilston (Gdsm 235232123) Served 1959 to 1962

I came from a Farming background and was called up for National Service which at that time was two years.

To join a Guards Regiment, you had to sign up for three years with the encouragement that you were paid more money - this I did!

I enlisted into the Welsh Guards on the 23rd February 1959. My initial training was completed at both Caterham and Pirbright. Caterham for basic drill and Pirbright Depot for field Training.

On completing basic training, I joined the Battalion at Pirbright and went to Support Company and later was employed as an Officers Orderly.

In the early 1960's the Battalion was part of the 1st Guards Brigade and went on exercise to Libya on Exercise STARLIGHT. Libya at that time was an independent Kingdom ruled by King Idris 1st (1951-69) who was deposed by Gaddafi in 1969. I was fortunate enough to go on this exercise to accompany a senior officer.

I recall we flew from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire a town quite near to Wootton Bassett and landed at a remote airfield Al Adem. I remember very little regarding the exercise, but I do recall the severe fluctuating temperature extremely hot by day and fearfully cold at night. The exercise was covered in the 1960 Regimental Magazine as follows:

In March the 1st Guards Brigade Group flew to Libya to undertake the biggest air transported exercise conceived since the war. Each of the three rifle companies of the battalion were attached to the three battalions of the brigade respectively to bring them up to strength for the exercise.

The companies flew from Lyneham to El Adem, an RAF base several miles south of Tobruk in Britannia aircraft of Transport Command. From El Adem they were flown to Timmi, a small Arab village



Gerald standing outside his tent enjoying a drink.

on the Mediterranean coast between Tobruk and Derna.

The exercise was enjoyed enormously by all concerned. The weather was perfect and bathing in the Mediterranean was taken full advantage of before the start and at the end of the exercise. Once again all our supplies were flown to us and to prove how successful the exercise was, we never once went short of anything.

After the exercise we returned to England and then to Caterham in preparation for another destination and in November 1960 we moved to Gort Barracks near Dusseldorf.

It was here that I stepped off on the 23rd February 1962 and started as a reservist of four years with the colours. At the end of my service I joined an auctioneer's company in Chester as a trainee auctioneer and valuer and worked in auctioneers' companies in England, a job I greatly enjoyed.

I am now retired at the young age of 82 and continue to help out at my local auctioneers and at the Welsh Guards Collection at Park Hall Oswestry.

Remembering Tower of London Guard (1957)

by John Kirby (Gdsm 22831232)

It was November, a foggy damp and cold morning and I was on sentry duty from 0200hrs until 0400hrs. My sentry box was close to the Main Gate.

At about 0210 hrs, a vehicle stopped outside the gate, the bell sounded on the side gate which I opened and a LSgt appeared and said to me "Watch yourself I am picking up Drill Sergeant Roden from a Beefeaters party and he will have had a few drinks

and be worse for the wear! A few minutes later DSgt Roden arrived (the first time I had seen him in civvies), he stopped in front of me and said, "Morning Sentry", I stood at ease and did not answer. Twice he said, "Morning Sentry", he then took a step forward and bellowed

"Sentry I said effing Morning", with that I came to attention and said "Sir". He then said to me "put yourself in the report for speaking while on sentry duty"!

The Sergeant of the Guard (Sgt Morgan), who had witnessed it, was amazed and told the Officer of the Guard who said to me "you would still have been in the report even if you hadn't spoken as he would have had you for dumb insolence"! The Company Commander, when I was marched in front of him said "will you never learn Kirby"

and promptly awarded me one extra duty (on the Tower Guard).

I am now approaching 85 years of age but have never forgotten this story!



Welsh Guards Association Zoom Meetings

By Neil Rice, Assistant Secretary General

As we all know, and I am sure tired of being reminded, it has been a very difficult year with effectively all the planned Association activities having to be cancelled, however we did manage to hold a few interesting and informative events using Zoom.

The Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Michael Parry is very keen to form stronger links between the serving members of the Battalion and the Association and to this end arranged and hosted three excellent zoom meetings which many branch members were able to attend once we had managed to beat the technology into submission.

All three meetings followed the same format, an opening presentation on a specific subject with a question and answer session followed by a general Q&A on all matters Welsh Guards.

The first meeting took place on the 15th July where the

newly promoted LCpl David Griffiths 86 gave us a very interesting and insightful presentation on leadership, focusing on the life of WO1 (AcSM) John Lord MVO, MBE and related this to his own challenges as a newly promoted NCO to ensure that we continue to follow the enduring values and standards of the Household Division.

LCpl Griffiths is part of the team of Welsh Guardsmen who are carrying out Covid-19 testing around London District and he gave us a great insight into the work they are doing and the challenges they face. It is wonderful to see the

Regiment assisting in this vital and important work. As well as talking to us about it on the Zoom call LCpl Griffiths has also covered his work in an article entitled "Lockdown Leadership: A Guardsman's Perspective" which he wrote when a Guardsman and which was published and read widely on The Army Leader website (www.thearmyleader.co.uk).

LCpl Griffiths gave a wonderful set of presentations and we all wish him well in what will undoubtedly be a long and very successful military career, it is heartening to see that the battalion has men of this calibre to continue the highest levels of achievement that the Regiment has always enjoyed.

The Second meeting took place on the 22nd July where Sgt Rhys Rutledge gave a presentation on his work for the "Defeat Don't Repeat" initiative.

Sgt Rutledge is the founder of "Defeat Don't Repeat" (DDR).

Rhys Rutledge started selling drugs at the age of 15, by 19 he had been arrested and given a custodial sentence. After his release he found very little support and quickly went back his old ways. Realising he was potentially falling into a cycle self-destructive behaviour and seeing the effect of his actions on his friends and family he forced himself to make a fresh start and joined the Army. Since joining the Welsh Guards in 2010 he has made a serious commitment to his career and is now a Sergeant.

Aside from his career within the Battalion, Sgt Rutledge has passionately built the "Defeat Don't Repeat" concept by capitalising on his personal experiences. The programme aims to steer young and vulnerable individuals away from their troubled backgrounds before they become trapped in a harmful cycle of crime and repeat prison sentences.

A lively Q&A session followed the presentation and I think it fair to say that the work that Sgt Rutledge is doing is genuinely inspirational and had the potential to change so many lives for the better.

The third meeting took place on the 25th August where the Regimental Sergeant Major, supported by members of both the North and South Regimental Support Teams gave us an overview of recruitment into the Regiment.

Given that all the Association members on the call had come through the Guards Depot, be it Caterham or Pirbright, it was a very useful and timely update on the current recruitment process, which is, to say the very least, different from how it was "back in the day".

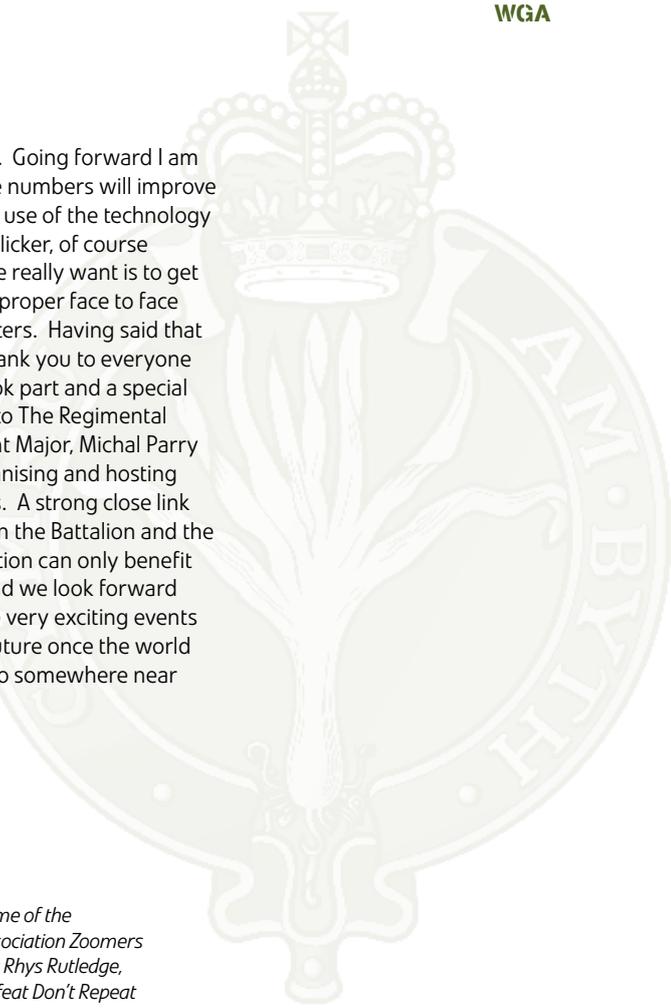
It is reassuring to see that the current level of recruitment is

way better than it was not that long ago and it is clear to see that the work being done by the Regimental Support Teams is really paying dividends, but you can't help but think that the Regiments success on the recruitment front is despite the "help" of Capita rather than with it. We explored the ways that the Association can help support recruitment as we have large numbers of ex Welsh Guardsmen throughout the entire catchment area for Welsh Guards recruits and the Regimental Sergeant Major offered to look at supporting any activity that helps put the Battalion in the public eye.

I think it is fair to say that these Zoom meetings were a good start. Some members had problems with the technology and the numbers could have been better but we do appreciate that this is all very new and the whole Coronavirus environment is

strange. Going forward I am sure the numbers will improve and our use of the technology will be slicker, of course what we really want is to get back to proper face to face encounters. Having said that a big thank you to everyone who took part and a special thanks to The Regimental Sergeant Major, Michal Parry for organising and hosting the calls. A strong close link between the Battalion and the Association can only benefit us all and we look forward to some very exciting events in the future once the world return to somewhere near normal.

1. *Some of the Association Zoomers*
2. *Sgt Rhys Rutledge, Defeat Don't Repeat*





FORECAST OF EVENTS 2021

(Many dates are yet to be confirmed and all are subject to change due to the ever evolving Covid-19 situation. In particular, the Freedom of Pembroke Dock parade, the Freedom of Ceredigion parade and the Association Biennial Lunch are all still TBA)

JANUARY

FEBRUARY Sun 21st Montgomery-Shropshire & Midlands Branch St David's Day lunch at the Henllan
Wed 24th - Sat 6th Proposed Falklands Veterans visit to the Falkland Islands - Group 1 Mar

MARCH Sun 7th - Wed 17th Proposed Falklands Veterans visit to the Falkland Islands - Group 2
Sun 28th (tbc) St David's Day with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Windsor
Fri 12th - Sun 14th Welsh Guards Reunited Branch Reunion weekend, Seabank Hotel, Porthcawl

APRIL

Wed 21st Household Division Golf Championships (Spring Meeting)
Thu 29th Memorial Service, Guards Chapel for Colonel DRP Lewis
Thu 29th Colonel-in-Chief's Golf Cup (1st/2nd Rounds)
Tbc Household Division Golf Championships
Tbc Preliminary rounds of the Colonel in Chief's Cup

MAY

Tbc Welsh Guards Association Handicap (A day at the races) - Ludlow
Tbc Welsh Guards Association Annual General Meeting
Thur 20th Welsh Guards Club Dinner
Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd Defence of Arras Commemorations
Sat 29th Queen's Birthday Parade - Major General's Review

JUNE

Sat 5th Queen's Birthday Parade - Colonel's Review
Sat 12th Queen's Birthday Parade - Trooping The Colour
Sat 26th 39th Falklands Memorial Service and Reunion - Wrexham

JULY

Sun 11th Montgomery-Shropshire & Midlands Branch Annual Lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel

AUGUST

Wed 12th Llanelli Branch Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Sat 4th & Sun 5th Freedom of Arras Parade
Fri 10th - Sat 12th Autumn Golf Meeting at Royal St Georges
Sat 11th - Wed 15 Association Battlefield Tour
Sat 18th Association Darts & Shoot Competition, Maindy Barracks, Cardiff
Thu 23rd Colonel-in-Chief's Golf Cup (Finals)

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Tbc Association Secretaries Meeting Cardiff
Sun 7th Regimental Remembrance Parade London

DECEMBER

Wed 9th Llanelli Branch Meeting

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 Welsh Guardsmen:

***22217329 LW Anthony**

Died: 25 May 2020, Aged: 86
Served: 1949 to 1955

2740423 Sgt RG Bartram

Died: 30th April 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 93
Served: 1944 to 1948

24025082 WO2 RI Bellis

Died: 23rd November 2019, Aged: 70
Served: June 1960 to 1992

***24623924 K Cartwright**

Died: 15th November 2019, Aged: 59
Served: August 1982 to August 1985

22082175 LSgt CM Cashman

Died: 11th April 2020, Aged: 89
Served: 1948 to 1967

24593996 Gdsm K Chamberlain

Died: 8th October 2020, Aged: 55
Served: 1982 to 1984

Captain R J H Coe

Died: 9th April 2020, Aged: 87
Served: 1953 to 1977

2734306 LSgt DC Cook

Died: 13th April 2020, Aged: 100
Served: August 1937 to February 1946

***22019206 J Croft**

Died: August 2020, Aged: 90
Served: 1948 to 1960

22831186 Gdsm JT Davies

Died: 15th July 2020, Aged: 83
Served: 1954 to 1957

23523176 LCpl GK Davies

Died: 1st March 2020, Aged: 80
Served: January 1959 to January 1965

***24285492 VW Davies**

Died: 7th March 2020, Aged 67
Served: April 1972 to June 1975

24652004 CSgt RA Davies

Died: 1st September 2019, Aged: 53
Served: 1982 to 2006

***24299736 D Demery**

Died: 3rd July 2020, Aged: 68
Served: September 1972 to 1986

***23523109 PB Door**

Died: 11th November 2020, Aged: 82
Served: 1958 - 1981

2734113 Gdsm S Elsbury

Died: 7th April 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 101
Served: February 1936 to 1945

24385338 Gdsm DR Evans

Died: 26th April 2013, Aged: 56
Served: July 1975 to September 1978

23354004 LSgt RJ Eynon

Died: 11th August 2020, Aged: 82
Served: November 1956 to November 1963

2741297 Sgt S Fisher

Died: 21st May 2020, Aged: 92
Served: 1946 to 1957

22022573 Gdsm P Fold

Died: 12th February 2020, Aged: 90
Served: April 1948 to February 1950

25021145 Gdsm M Floyd

Died: 20 June 2020, Aged: 45
Served: 1992 - 1995

23092648 Gdsm KF Glover

Died 8th June 2020, Aged: 83
Served: 1954 to 1956

***24386530 D Graham**

Died: 2nd July 2020, Aged: 64
Served: 1975 to 1983

***2740690 JG Hagerty**

Died: 31st January 2020, Aged: 93
Served: February 1945 to April 1948

24076064 Gdsm MJ Harrison

Died: 28th August 2020, Aged: 70
Served: 1967 to 1974

WD Heber-Percy MBE

Died: 2nd August 2020, Aged: 81
Served: 1957 to 1962

Major HJ Herbert-Jones

Died: 19 November 2014, Aged: 92
Served: November 1941 to January 1949

***2740150 IB Hicks**

Died: 21st October 2020, Aged: 93
Served: September 1944 to April 1946

***23593904 MD Hobbs**

Died: 20th March 2020, Aged: 81
Served: 1958 to 1960

2740106 Gdsm RA Hughes

Died: 5th August 2020, Aged: 93
Served: 1944 to 1965

***23523092 BE Hughes**

Died: 17th November 2020, Aged: 79
Served: 1958 to 1968

***23577105 R Hughes**

Died: 8th May 2020, Aged: 82
Served: 1958 to 1960

23523171 Gdsm BL John

Died: 27th May 2020, Aged: 82
Served: January 1959 to January 1962

***23550191 AJ Jones**

Died: 15th November 2019, Aged: 81
Served: March 1958 to April 1960

23877259 LSgt G Jones

Died: 31st December 2019, Aged: 79
Served: 1961 to 1971

***23877226 ID Jones**

Died: 15th March 2020, Aged: 76
Served: August 1961 to April 1964

***23421426 D Keen**
Died: 29th March 2020, Aged: 82
Served: 1957 to 1959

Colonel D Kirkwood DL RASC
Died: 1st May 2020, Aged: 75
Attached to 1WG: 1978 - 1980

Captain TH Luckock
Died: 21st November 2019, Aged: 86
Served: 1954 to 1961

***24203113 K MacCleod**
Died: 15th April 2020, Aged: 65
Served: May 1970

***24185148 GJ McCarthy**
Died: 11th April 2020, Aged: 64
Served: April 1971 - September 1974

AOR Mitchley Esq
Died 30th December 2018, Aged: 91
Served: November 1944 to March 1954

***22831467 B Moulton**
Died: 23rd August 2020, Aged: 83
Served: July 1956 to July 1963

2741847 CSgt K Parry
Died: 5th April 2020, Aged: 90
Served: 1947 to 1973

25177403 LSgt L Peek
Died: 24th December 2019, Aged: 34
Served: August 2003 to September 2015

2735449 Gdsm J Perkins
Died: 6th October 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 101
Served: 1940 to 1945

22217605 LSgt LL Price
Died: 10th February 2020, Aged: 87
Served: August 1953 to August 1955

***24079070 J Prosser**
Died: 6th June 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 71
Served: November 1966 to October 1975

***2741295 DEV Richards**
Died: 28th October 2020, Aged: 92
Served: September 1945 to September 1947

25003695 Gdsm IJ Richards
Died: 1st November 2019, Aged: 50
Served: May 1991 to May 1995

***24141984 R Roberts**
Died: 12th December 2019, Aged: 73
Served: 1970 to 1987

***24440965 J Roberts**
*Died: February 2020, Aged: 62
Served: 1976 to 1980

23523418 Sgt B Rose
Died: 10th June 2020, Aged: 78
Served: 1960 to 1969

22679570 Gdsm W Simpkin
Died: 3rd May 2020, Aged: 88
Served: 1952 to 1960

24343434 Gdsm RA Smith
Died: 1st February 2020, Aged: 63
Served: 1974 to 1979

22217863 LSgt MBE Smith
Died: 7th March 2020, Aged: 83
Served: 1953 to 1977

23866379 CSgt R Smith
Died: 4th May 2020, Aged: 76
Served: 1961 to 1984

***24598962 M Smith**
Died: 18th February 2020, *Aged: N/K
Served: 1980 to 1986

22217741 Gdsm J Stockham
Died: 5th December 2019, Aged: 84
Served: 1953 to 1957

23550192 Gdsm RC Taylor
Died: 13th December 2019, Aged: 80
Served: 1958 to 1960

***22831470 B Thomas**
Died: 22 January 2020, Aged: 80
Served: 1956 to 1963

GN Turner Esq
Died: October 2019, Aged: 84
Served: 1954 - 1956

***2739370 GLS Ward**
Died: 24th March 2020, Aged: 93
Served: February 1944 to July 1945

***24263898 SC Whatling**
Died: 21st November 2019, Aged: 60
Served: September 1975 - June 1986

JS Wheeler Esq
Died: 23 July 2020, Aged: 85
Served: 1953 to 1955

22217562 Gdsm D Williams
Died: 19th November 2019, Aged: 86
Served: 1952 to 1955

22217300 WO2 DJ Williams RVM BEM
Died: 8th December 2019, Aged: 87
Served: 1950 to 1978

***23908695 M Williams**
Died: 14th July 2020, Aged: 73
Served: November 1964 to March 1971

*Denotes missing some detail which we have been unable to ascertain

SERGEANT'S MESS HOSPITALITY THE NIGHT BEFORE ST DAVID'S DAY 2020



Back Cover: Lance Sergeant Prothero from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, carrying out a COVID-19 test, at testing site in Chessington, Kingston-upon-Thames.





Face Shield

Direct Splash Protection



NM

