



106 YEARS ~ 1915 - 2021

WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2021

Cymru Am Byth



His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
10th June 1921 – 9th April 2021

Colonel Welsh Guards
July 1953 – March 1975



His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel Welsh Guards
painted by Barrie Linklater (photo courtesy of Barrie Linklater)



WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

2021

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Her Majesty The Queen

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC

REGIMENTAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Colonel GR Harris DSO OBE

REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Colonel T C S Bonas BA

ASSISTANT REGIMENTAL ADJUTANT

Major M E Browne BEM

REGIMENTAL VETERANS OFFICER

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Bond of Friendship, France - Régiment de marche du Tchad
City of London Livery Company - Worshipful Company of Drapers

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Cover photograph: Taken moments before the Welsh Guards Guns Platoon launched their attack in support of a UOTC (University Officer Training Corp) Company attack at Longmoor training area. Photo credit - Sgt Chris Morgan.

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Colonel G R Harris DSO OBE, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

FOREWORD



Having had the privilege of commanding the Battalion during the Regiment's Centenary Year little did I know that I would be assuming the appointment of Regimental Lieutenant Colonel in August 2021, another significant privilege and I am conscious of the many distinguished Welsh Guardsmen who have held this important appointment before me. It is a great honour for me to take over from Major General Richard Stanford who has done so much to support the Regiment over his six years as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and I am sure all would like me to thank him for this as well as for his considerable commitment, enthusiasm and success during his tenure. The Regiment have been in excellent hands under him. We wish him every good fortune in his new appointment as the Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission.

Thankfully unlike 2020, 2021 has at last seen us released from many of the restrictions that have been imposed on all our lives as a result of COVID. We are not out of the woods yet, nor may never be, but at least we have been able to return to some form of normality. Evidence of this will be seen from the considerable array of varied articles you will read in this year's magazine and my thanks to all the many who have contributed to it not least the Editor, Major Martin Browne who has again been tireless in putting it all together. In this digital age, these Regimental Magazines are so important for not only are they hopefully enjoyable to read but they also act these days as a form of Regimental history that future generations can draw from rather than some digital file buried deep in the ether whose password has been forgotten, and whose system has been replaced by some further reiteration of Microsoft et al.

As expected, I took over the Regiment in excellent shape and this is testimony to all corners of the Regiment. I will not go into detail here on the many parts that make up our wide family as these are covered in detail in the magazine. However, it would be remiss of me not to mention some. I start with the Battalion and here I would like to first pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher who handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel John Livesey in September this year. Colonel Henry has led the Battalion during some challenging times, but he and they have responded magnificently to them all. Preparation and subsequent deployment to both Iraq (Op SHADER) and the Falklands (Op FIRIC) have been the main efforts this year and No 2 Company takes over from The Prince of Wales's Company in Iraq this December returning in summer 2022. It is excellent that the Battalion have and are trying to rotate as many through Op SHADER as possible, whether with the Company or on the staff. The loss of Sergeant



Gavin Hillier in March during a live firing exercise at Castlemartin was a huge blow to us all and he will be greatly missed by many who knew, liked and respected him. We are doing all we can to support Mrs Hillier and their two boys.

It is good also to see that No 3 Company deployed to Africa on anti-poaching operation (Op CORDED). The Battalion also deployed on Op ESCALIN, the Army's support to the fuel crisis in September and which endured beyond that. But aside from operations and training I am delighted that the Battalion have also been able to carry out some adventurous training and sports not least winning the Lawson Cup, the Household Division Athletics Competition which was resurrected this year and which many of the older generation will fondly remember, it was a great day. I am also glad to report that the Battalion's manning situation has greatly improved. Finally, a great honour for the Battalion was providing a Street Lining Company on 14 October when Her Majesty The Queen opened the Welsh Parliament (Senedd Cymru) with Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall also present. A very special day for Welsh Guardsmen to be in our principal city.

Whilst the Regimental Band have been very restricted in the first half of the year due to COVID, they have nevertheless maintained their high skills and musical excellence and since the summer are now back and fully engaged in the plethora of public duty engagements and much else, such as Beating Retreats at the Tower of London and the Battle of Britain Commemoration in September. We have bid farewell to Major Stewart Halliday who has been quite excellent as our Director of Music and we wish him well as the new Director of the Coldstream Guards Band. We welcome Major Craig Hallatt from Kneller Hall and who has previously been Director of Music for

the Band of the Household Cavalry. The Band remain great Ambassadors for the Regiment and are in every sense very integral to us.

The Association is also kicking back strongly from the earlier part of the year. Whilst there have been no major Association events including the annual trip to Hechtel in September, the branches have kept their activity alive. I am delighted that London Branch is going from strength to strength and that some former officers have agreed to take over some of the branches with the possibility of creating a new one in Newport. I am sure that 2022 will see the Association fully back to life and I am grateful to all Branch Committees and Members for making our Association one of the strongest across the country.

I am pleased that we continue to maintain close links with our cap badged CCF's, Dulwich College, the Oratory School, Millfield, Berkhamsted and Treorchy School. Supporting them can be a challenge given the Battalion's commitments, but the will is there and congratulations to the Regimental Support Teams for all they do to support our cap badged detachments in Wales.

Jiffy Myers, our Regimental Veterans Officer, continues with his excellent work in supporting those in the Regimental family who require help. Due to COVID he has not been able to get out and about in his usual manner but regardless he has succeeded in maintaining close contact. His work is invaluable, and we are extremely fortunate that we have such a dedicated individual and one who is now hugely knowledgeable.

Our Trustees continue to give the Regiment and Charity outstanding service. They meet formally twice a year, but they have a number of sub-committees that meet more often and there is much interaction by them all on a variety of issues. Their governance and stewardship of the Charity is simply


first class and the Charity would not be in the healthy place it is without their dedication and expertise. We remain indebted to them for all they do.

I am delighted that our Friends of the Regiment were able to gather again in Cardiff Castle on 8 August thanks to Colonel Alan Peterson and his family. The Regimental Adjutant has covered this event in an article in this issue so I will say no more but to say a heartfelt thank you to the Peterson family and our Friends of the Regiment for their continued support and which has now been in existence since 2012. There are very few Regiments, if any, that have a similar organisation.

The Drapers Company also remain integral to us and we continue to value the very close links that we have with them. We have not been able to do all we had planned with them this year, but the intent is there for 2022. Their support in so many ways is always hugely appreciated.

My final mention goes to the engine room that is Regimental Headquarters. They are a small team but one I hope all will agree whose output is large. They deal with a myriad of matters, much of which is never seen by us but nevertheless is sometimes of equal importance as the big-ticket Regimental occasions. They are a very close-knit team whose modus operandi is simply "to provide an excellent service and support the Regiment".

I finish where I started by saying the Regiment is in great shape. One only has to look at for example the turn out for the informal Regimental dinner on 1 July to see an indication of this or the turn out on Remembrance Sunday. I believe we can look to 2022 with confidence and I commend the magazine to you, it's a great read and testimony to our strength. A very Happy Christmas to all.



Lieutenant Colonel J D Livesey, Commanding Officer

FOREWORD

If 2020 was characterised by a reduction in output for the Battalion, 2021 has been quite the opposite. As I write, The Prince of Wales's Company is entering the fourth month of Op SHADER 14, with elements of Number 3 Company and Headquarter Company in support; Number 2 Company is committed to Mission Specific Training for Op SHADER 14. By the time this magazine is published, The Prince of Wales's Company will have handed over the United Kingdom Mobility Company (Kurdistan) responsibility to Number 2 Company.

Whilst Op SHADER, and the associated training, has been the focus for the Battalion, our time in the Field Army has also presented further operational diversity and tempo. Currently, the Battalion also has soldiers and officers deployed in Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Kuwait, Cyprus and America; Support Company has also recently returned from the Falkland Islands, where they were employed as the Roulement Infantry Company. Number 3 Company are preparing to deploy on Op CORDED 9 in Zambia, where Welsh Guardsmen will be contributing towards anti-poaching efforts. With this operation comes a host of training opportunities, including the Operational Tracking Instructor Course in Brunei; deployments such as these demonstrably broaden the experiences and expertise of Welsh Guardsmen.

The Op SHADER training progression has proved us with good and demanding training. Though during that training, we were reminded of the attendant risks, with the tragic death of Sergeant Gavin Hillier on 4th March 2021. His death sent shockwaves through the Battalion. He was a passionate soldier, talented rugby player, and a fiercely proud Welshman. The character and spirit that our soldiers demonstrated as they embarked on further pre-deployment exercises, including a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, less than one week after the incident at Castlemartin

Ranges, was humbling. The training team's description of the Battalion as, "a very competent Battalion with a strong collective ethos" and "green grading" across all 41 training requirements, was a testament to everyone's professionalism.

The implications of the Integrated Review for the Battalion remain unknown at the time of writing, though more detail is expected by Christmas. The Battalion is stood by for any of the possible options for restructuring. The superb efforts of the Regimental Support Teams have generated, for the first time in a decade, a full complement of Gdsm, enabling us to approach this period with invaluable institutional resilience and flexibility.

Whilst there is uncertainty ahead, for the next 12 months, we remain operationally focussed on Op SHADER 14 and Op CORDED. I anticipate more opportunities for the Battalion, be they for further operations or demanding training, as well as sport and adventurous training, which I know we will grasp with typical enthusiasm. With close to 100 Welsh Guardsmen deployed in 8 countries, life within 1st Battalion Welsh Guards is busy and rewarding. We can look forward to 2022 providing us with similar challenges and opportunities.

Cymru am Byth.



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S COMPANY

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



Maj Starkey COLDM GDS
Capt Wilkinson
Lt Phillips
Lt Syms
2Lt Clarke
WO2 Davies 96
CSgt Marsh
Sgt Hiscock
Sgt Rutledge
LSgt Bond
LSgt Collins
LSgt Edwards 70
LSgt Noyes
LSgt Lovell
LSgt Lucas
LSgt Morgan 60
LSgt Millins
LSgt Okeke
LSgt Pritchard
LSgt Thomas 76
LSgt Williams 70
LSgt Mason (RSDC)

LCpl Divavesi
LCpl Jackson
LCpl Mclean
LCpl Roberts 72
LCpl Ryan 38
LCpl Ackey AGC(SPS)
Gdsm Armstrong
Gdsm Aylott
Gdsm Blake
Gdsm Byron
Gdsm Cooper
Gdsm Cleave
Gdsm Davies 12
Gdsm Dean
Gdsm Edwards 43
Gdsm Evans 53
Gdsm Evans 29
Gdsm Furminger
Gdsm Griffin
Gdsm Gurung
Gdsm Harrison
Gdsm Hender

Gdsm Hewitt 20
Gdsm Hewitt 82
Gdsm Hill
Gdsm Howard
Gdsm Howarth
Gdsm Howells 66
Gdsm Hopkins
Gdsm Hughes 65
Gdsm Jacobs
Gdsm Jackson 09
Gdsm James
Gdsm Jones 78
Gdsm Jones 130
Gdsm Jones 30
Gdsm Jones 71
Gdsm Kinsey
Gdsm Lias
Gdsm Laqeretabua
Gdsm Lewis-Evans
Gdsm Lewis-Webb
Gdsm Major
Gdsm Morris

Gdsm Nabukebuke
Gdsm O'Connor
Gdsm Odonovan-Cronin
Gdsm Osborne-Keddy
Gdsm Prince
Gdsm Ryan 57
Gdsm Ryder
Gdsm Salmon
Gdsm Sandall
Gdsm Smith 33
Gdsm Smith 35
Gdsm Suleman
Gdsm Sutton
Gdsm Tabuanira
Gdsm Thomas 83
Gdsm Underhill
Gdsm Weldon
Gdsm White
Gdsm Wass-Williams
Gdsm Williams 30
Gdsm Williams 93



2



3



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Last year's Prince of Wales's Company update finished with a fateful closing comment talking of 'flexibility' and spoke of an 'unpredictable Christmas period'; 2021 has not let us down. The journey the Company has taken - that now sees a significant number of Jamboys in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq - has not been plain sailing.

Following the Mobile Testing Unit delivery, supporting key COVID testing in London The Prince of Wales's Company focus changed to the initial stages of Pre-Deployment Training. It was important to brush away the cobwebs of both State Ceremonial and Public Duties in LONDIST and a period of less 'green' support to COVID. Where better to do that than sunny Wales? We went to Sennybridge to remind and revise some crucial basic soldiering skills. These ranged all the way from being back under a poncho to platoon attacks. These building blocks were going to be key moving forward.

A considerable amount of time was then invested across the Company to ensure we prepared ourselves adequately for the live firing in October. This again was conducted in Sennybridge; however, the weather was a lot colder, with targets difficult to make out during periods of heavy snow. It was a very productive five days, that gave us plenty of time to practice, deliver and 'go again' when required, with the use of live ammunition really focusing the minds of the Guardsmen. For some, this was the first live firing they had done post training at Catterick.

The plan was always to then conduct a few static ranges in the margins before returning swiftly to

Sennybridge, using some of the larger platoon-sized ranges, to progress our skills further and finish with conducting platoon-level live attacks by night. This was delayed due to several Jamboys being 'Tracked and Traced' and we continued to run the pre-vaccination COVID gauntlet.

The delay was frustrating but didn't prevent us from refocusing on some dry (as opposed to live, rather than making the mistake of thinking either Brecon or Northumberland are anything but sodden locations in November) training. The first step was to go back to Wales to build on our previous work and ensure we were comfortable operating as a Company followed by a quick turnaround for the long journey North to Otterburn Training Area. Otterburn was a Battalion-run exercise, meaning Battalion Headquarters found themselves in the challenging position of both running the exercise and testing themselves concurrently. Two weeks in Otterburn started at an airstrip in the South as the Companies staggered their arrivals into their simulated 'theatre'. We then moved through a series of challenging clearances and deliberate actions at both Company and Battalion level and ended considerably further North after a long advance to contact up another tough Northumbrian valley. With support from

a platoon of Grenadier Guards The Prince of Wales's Company performed extremely well and we all learnt a great deal, including living in the field for a prolonged period of time and the integration of assets provided to us from Machine Guns, Snipers and Recce.

Before we went on Christmas 'leave' we re-ORBATed in to three Platoons with the arrival of 2Lt Cam Clarke and LSgt Okeke stepping up as 2 Platoon Sergeant. We managed to fit in our missed live firing that also included a very gritty bayonet range that in usual fashion felt uncomfortable at the time but helped invigorate some infantry aggression and bring the Company closer together.

Christmas leave could not come early enough for The Prince of Wales's Company having bounced from one training area to another. We had been given the good news that we were first in the Battalion order of march for Op SHADER. This was something that really focused our minds with regards to the training planned early in 2021. However, the 'unpredictable Christmas period' came with the unwelcome news on Christmas Eve that we would have to head to the M20



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near Dover on Christmas day. The call was put out, and all ranks did an extremely good job of returning to Combermere Barracks for 0630hrs, rather than opening a stocking. These sorts of things are what we do, but it certainly did not make any of the conversations with our loved ones any easier over the festive period. The task was delivered extremely well, and the Welsh Guardsmen did an incredible job of testing haulage drivers, enabling them to cross the channel. The Company managed c.4,700 tests in a 24hr period – a great job.

Our broken Christmas 'break' came and went in a flash

and we returned to step on to the fast-paced Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) rollercoaster with an initial focus on individual training. This involved an urban training week in Longmoor and a shake out at New Zealand Farm on Salisbury Plain all in preparation for the test exercise in Thetford. Everyone, especially the Guardsmen, engaged and dug in meaning we reached the start line to be tested by Mission Ready Training Centre (MRTC) in a very strong position.

The start of Thetford was marked by the arrival of our new Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Davies, fresh

from the Infantry Battle School in Brecon and the handover of Company Second-in-Command to Capt Joe Wilkinson, stepping across from the Machine Gun Platoon. Both had to settle in quickly, which they did admirably. The whole exercise was four weeks long and ensured we and the wider Battalion were ready for deployment. It started with a complex Company Group CALFEX (Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise) that tested the whole Company live firing with support from live mortars and machine guns - by both day and night. The Final Training Exercise (FTX), focused primarily on Battalion



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Headquarters and saw The Prince of Wales's Company play a key role in three Battlegroup-level actions over a five-day period before we switched to the final two weeks of more mission/SHADER flavoured activity. The Company performed very well throughout and we were given a very bright green light for our deployment on Op SHADER 13.

During the four weeks in Norfolk there were some standout performances marked by several Commanding Officer coins being handed out to well deserving Guardsmen. However, the performance of the Section Commanders - new to the Company - was brilliant throughout and made a real difference to the Multiple Commanders. This included: LSgt Morgan (from Mortars), LSgt Lucas (from Number 2 Company), LSgt

Millins (from ATC Winchester), LSgt Edwards (from the Training Wing) and the newly promoted LSgt Collins covering for the CQMS, CSgt Marsh, whilst he was on a course at the start. More crucially, the whole Company performed extremely well and all of us were able to leave with our heads held high.

Unlike Christmas, Easter leave was untouched by 'other taskings' and was a well-deserved break before final tweaks were made to The Prince of Wales's Company ORBAT. When we returned, an intense language and cultural package was delivered in Windsor and our final few drivers completed their Civilian Armoured Vehicle courses.

We now find ourselves in Erbil, having had the United Kingdom Mobility Company (Kurdistan) role handed over

to us by Right Flank, Scots Guards. With a number of attachments from across the Army supporting us in JOB ZORBASH (Joint Operating Base ZORBASH) we will be here until Christmas when we hand over to Number 2 Company. Our role is a crucial task enabling the wider Coalition to conduct an advisory role in the whole of the Kurdish Region of Iraq. The Prince of Wales's Company plan on rotating Jamboys through the various roles to ensure we exploit the opportunity to generate operational experience. The Company is unlikely to back together as a whole until 2022.

Major C E B Starkey
Coldstream Guards, Company Commander

1. *Members of 1 Platoon during their 10-miler in Thetford, conducted on a 'down' day during FTX and MRX for Op SHADER 13*
2. *Members of POWs Coy on Erbil tasking.*
3. *Lt Phillips briefs his Section Commanders on a Platoon attack during an exercise in Brecon*
4. *Gdsm Hughes on CT1 Ex in Brecon.*
5. *Gdsm Thomas 83 on CT1 Ex in Brecon.*
6. *POWs Coy say farewell to the outgoing Comd Offr, Lt Col Lewelyn-Usher as he leaves post his Op SHADER recce.*
7. *Pre-MST Urban Ops exercise in Longmoor.*



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



Maj Major
 Capt Powell
 2Lt Brown
 2Lt Cadogan
 2Lt Cross
 WO2 Greaves
 CSgt Edwards
 Sgt Doyle
 Sgt Harris
 Sgt Williams
 LSgt Burrows-Jones
 LSgt Duffell
 LSgt Jones
 LSgt Jones
 LSgt Love
 LSgt Parry
 LSgt Pritchard
 LSgt Prothero
 LSgt Roberts
 LSgt Siviter
 LCpl Griffiths
 LCpl Owen
 LCpl Mchugh
 LCpl Roberts
 LCpl Sanders
 LCpl Thapa

Gdsm Baller
 Gdsm Bartlett
 Gdsm Blackstone
 Gdsm Boland
 Gdsm Brown
 Gdsm Brooks
 Gdsm Bruce
 Gdsm Chamayere
 Gdsm Cassidy-Ballard
 Gdsm Chivers
 Gdsm Coles
 Gdsm Craig
 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Davies
 Gdsm Fury
 Gdsm Fry
 Gdsm Gallier
 Gdsm Griffiths
 Gdsm Griffith
 Gdsm Hamer
 Gdsm Harries
 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Hughes
 Gdsm Humphreys

Gdsm Hunt
 Gdsm Jenkins
 Gdsm John
 Gdsm Johnson
 Gdsm Johnstone
 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Jones
 Gdsm Kemp
 Gdsm Kiley
 Gdsm Krajewski-Moore
 Gdsm Logan
 Gdsm Marshall
 Gdsm McBride
 Gdsm McCoy
 Gdsm McPhee
 Gdsm Meaden
 Gdsm Miles
 Gdsm Milne
 Gdsm Moceyawa
 Gdsm Moran
 Gdsm Moore
 Gdsm Morgan
 Gdsm Norton
 Gdsm Manuku
 Gdsm O'Flatherty

Gdsm Owen
 Gdsm Owen
 Gdsm Parker
 Gdsm Peacock
 Gdsm Phelan
 Gdsm Phillips
 Gdsm Podmore
 Gdsm Podmore-cridle
 Gdsm Pugsley
 Gdsm Sandiford
 Gdsm Scott
 Gdsm Smith
 Gdsm Smith
 Gdsm Spires
 Gdsm Stringfellow
 Gdsm Taylor-Garmey
 Gdsm Thomas
 Gdsm Thomas
 Gdsm Twaite
 Gdsm Wall
 Gdsm Warrender
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Williams
 Gdsm Williamson
 Gdsm Wilson



While the rest of the UK braced for another lockdown last Autumn, the Battalion was readying itself for a packed 12 months of exercises and pre-deployment training for Op SHADER. We kicked off with a Battalion level exercise in Otterburn, which must be one of the most demanding training areas in the UK.

While it is fantastic for delivering realistic training, as anyone who has ever trained there can attest to, it is only rivalled by Sennybridge for bad weather. Despite the extremely testing conditions Number 2 Company fought through the weather and the terrain, focusing on what we do best – infanteering! We returned to a flurry of pre-Christmas activity, only to have our Christmas week cut short due to national restrictions, so we all managed a few extra days of leave. We bid farewell to Lt Richardson and Lt Haines-Henderson as they moved to ITC Catterick to face new challenges. We wish them all the best and look forward to them returning to the company for SHADER 14 having learnt a few new tricks.

The New Year brought with it new challenges and the Company worked tirelessly in the build up to our Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) for SHADER 14 in March. This included live ranges, vehicle drills, and medical training along with a whole host of MATTs (Military Annual Training Tests), physical training and short exercises. It culminated in a week of ranges in Castlemartin with a weekend to reset before heading up to the Thetford Training Area.

Ex TAJI DAWN commenced with a live company attack which saw Number 2 Company tasked to fight through and clear a challenging trench system. We then moved into a week-long conventional exercise which was a great opportunity to shake out as a

Company and put the lessons we had learned in Otterburn to good use. Finally, we moved onto the two-week MRX itself, which focused on all the skill sets that the Company will require when it deploys to Iraq later this year on Op SHADER 14. Our hard work in the build up to the exercise paid off and we were successfully validated to deploy. In the background to the MRX, we also managed to win the 'The Birchall 10' race and were fortunate to be visited by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Ben Cattermole, who promoted LCpl Owen 97 in the field. Additionally, Gdsm Davies 82 and Gdsm Johnson were both awarded the Commanding Officer's Coin for their effort and hard work in the run up to and during the MRX.

At the end of the MRX we saw a number of individuals move to Support Company to take part in their deployment to the Falkland Islands as the Roulement Infantry Company. We also lost Lt Haynes, who moved to Number 3 Company.

With The Prince of Wales's Company deploying in spring on Op SHADER 13, Number 2 Company found itself as the sole recipient of new guardsmen arriving from ITC Catterick. To facilitate this, we re-established Number 4 Platoon, into which all newly trained guardsmen were carefully managed, under the experienced eye of Sgt Parry. This allowed us to train new arrivals in mission specific skills without disruption to the wider Company training programme

before moving them across once they were at the correct standard. The success of Number 4 Platoon was wholly down to Sgt Parry's infectious energy, humour and great spirit and we wish him the best as he takes over as Platoon Sergeant of the Guards Parachute Platoon.

At the start of July, we bid farewell to Maj Chris Fenton and Company Sergeant Major McEvoy. Both of them put their heart and soul into the Company and any success that we are now enjoying is in large part down to their selflessness and determination. They have led the Company through some dark days, and we thank them for all they've done and wish them well as they move into their next roles at Space Command and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst respectively. We hope to see them soon as we are fascinated to find out if Maj Fenton has been issued a space suit as part of his new order of dress!

In the two weeks prior to Summer leave, we deployed to Oakhampton for the Battalion's Battle Camp. It's a curious phenomenon, but despite deploying in mid-July we yet again encountered some of the worst weather anyone had ever seen - even the local farmers were complaining about it. After three days of build-up training focussing on section and platoon level skills and drills, the Company conducted a deliberate attack on an objective akin to Mount Tumbledown. In an effort to negate the 5km clear line of view and fire that the enemy enjoyed, we conducted a fairly harrowing insertion tab to try and outflank their position and were pleasantly surprised when we caught the enemy completely off guard. Despite an extremely testing assault, this phase of the exercise

was a huge success. This was due in no small part to the recce patrol conducted by LSgt Roberts the night before - proving the old adage that time spent on reconnaissance is seldom wasted. On conclusion of the company-level training, we were able to complete a day's surfing at Croyde in North Devon, where several members of the Company surprised themselves with their natural talent on a surfboard - others less so! The Battle Camp concluded with a section-level patrols competition testing basic soldiering skills. All of Number 2 Company's sections took part putting in a valiant effort and narrowly losing out to Number 3 Company for first place - we look forward to challenging them again next year.

Summer leave, over in a flash, was followed by a renewed focus on Op SHADER 14. Despite having already completed our MRX we continuously strive to improve in order to avoid skill fade in the run up to our deployment later this year. As a result, the training programme is busy, but we wouldn't want it any other way.

Away from work this has also been a great year for sport, with multiple members of the Company representing the Battalion in various sports teams, from polo and golf, to rugby and football. The Company has also taken the opportunity to get as many people involved in Adventurous Training as possible with multiple trips planned and executed, including sailing expeditions as well as the surfing trip to Croyde.

Several members of Number 2 Company have taken up opportunities outside of the Battalion to make their mark, with Lt Cross posted to BATUK



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in Kenya for six months to work in the training team. Sgt Parry, Gdsm Dowdeswell and Gdsm Jones completed the All Arms Parachute Preparation Course (AAPPC). Their success has been inspirational and currently Gdsm Humphries and McCoy are doing their utmost to earn their maroon beret as well. The talent among our Non-Commissioned Officers has also been recognised and it's been great to see LCpl Brace promoted to LSgt and Gdsm Roberts, Sanders and Owen all promoted to LCpl, following their success on the promotion course at HDPRCC (Household Division & Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses).

Despite an extremely busy and demanding year we are acutely aware that our biggest challenges are yet to come when we deploy on Op SHADER 14. But if the last year has shown us anything, it's that the Men of the Island

of the Mighty are as strong as ever and we will face whatever challenges the next year brings, with absolute confidence due to all of the hard work that has been put in over the last twelve months.

Major A L Major, Company Commander

1. *Left to Right: Gdsm Baller; Gdsm Griffiths 06; Gdsm Stringfellow; LSgt Roberts; Gdsm Jones 46; Gdsm Morgan 35; Gdsm Williamson.*
2. *Gdsm Miles manning a General Purpose Machine Gun.*
3. *Number 2 Company's teams for the Birchall 10 in Thetford. Back Row, Left to Right: Gdsm Coles; Gdsm Sanders; Gdsm Hamer; Gdsm Williams 93; CSM McEvoy; Sgt Forde; Capt Powell; Gdsm Hughes 21; Gdsm Griffith 06; Gdsm Jenkins McHugh. Front Row, Left to Right: Gdsm Pugsley; Gdsm Norton; Gdsm Dowdeswell; Gdsm Roberts; Sgt Parry; Lt Cross; LSgt Prothero; Gdsm Jones 91; Gdsm Peacock; Gdsm Humphries.*
4. *Gdsm Fury sports a Sharpshooter rifle during a Battalion Battle Camp.*
5. *2Lt Brown, a Platoon Commander in Number 2 Company, urges on his sections during the Battalion's Battlecamp.*
6. *Gdsm Hughes and Gdsm Peacock approach an enemy position in the assault.*
7. *LSgt Burrows-Jones approaches an enemy position.*
8. *LSgt Prothero moves forward in the attack on the Battalion's Battlecamp on Dartmoor. The Operations Officer, Capt Campbell-Schofield, observes in an advisory capacity.*



NUMBER THREE COMPANY

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



1

Maj Young
 Capt Anderson
 Capt Davidson
 Capt Ross
 Capt Scott-Bowden
 Capt Vincenzini
 Lt Haynes
 WO2 Evans 31
 CSgt Bladen
 CSgt Cummins
 CSgt Rees
 Sgt Brown 68
 Sgt Forde
 LSgt Bilkey
 LSgt Buretini
 LSgt Chambers
 LSgt Davies 47
 LSgt Everett

LSgt Forgan
 LSgt Haines
 LSgt Jones 13
 LSgt Morgan 14
 LSgt Moseley
 LSgt Retallick
 LSgt Roos
 LSgt Sandison
 LSgt Williams 88
 LSgt Williams 91
 LCpl Ceesay
 LCpl Davies 14
 LCpl Davies 37
 LCpl Duval
 LCpl Dyer
 LCpl Goodwin
 LCpl Goss
 LCpl Toombs

Gdsm Cattell
 Gdsm Caufield-Dollard
 Gdsm Dade
 Gdsm Downes
 Gdsm Green
 Gdsm Graham
 Gdsm Healy
 Gdsm Hoyle
 Gdsm Hughes 92
 Gdsm James
 Gdsm Jones 36
 Gdsm Jones 88
 Gdsm Lee
 Gdsm Morgan 05
 Gdsm Newth
 Gdsm O'Brien
 Gdsm Osman
 Gdsm Perring

Gdsm Roberts 28
 Gdsm Seward
 Gdsm Sinclair
 Gdsm Taylor
 Gdsm Walker
 Gdsm Wilkinson
 Gdsm Williams 45
 Gdsm Winney



2

Training and deploying on Operations has dominated the past 12 months for the Company, with members of the Company deploying overseas to six different countries on four different named Operations.

Our primary focus for the year has unsurprisingly been operational deployments. The beginning of the year was characterised by the usual amount of uncertainty, in particular relating to the Battalion's wider deployment to Iraq on Op SHADER. After being warned off by the Commanding Officer in February to be prepared to deploy as a Company Group to Baghdad, a flurry of activity, including courses, ranges, driving licence acquisition and collective training commenced which lasted until April. Concurrently members of the Company were also deployed abroad on other Operations (Op MONOGRAM, the UK MOD's programme for providing counter-terrorism training and equipment to foreign security forces) and a significant proportion of the Company strength was attending individual courses to qualify them for their specialist roles in the Anti-Tank,

Reconnaissance and Sniper Platoons respectively. In total, a third of the Company attended one or more of the following courses: Anti-Tank Platoon Commanders, Platoon Sergeants and Section Commanders; Recce Commanders, Sniper Platoon Commanders, Section Commanders or Operators; Platoon Sergeants Battle Course, Section Commanders Battle Course and pre-JNCO Cadres. A very successful year for career and specialist courses has seen the Company grow in capability and confidence, setting the conditions for the next 12 months.

With such a well-trained cohort it came as no surprise that the Little Iron Men won the Patrols Competition comfortably during the Battalion's annual battle camp on Dartmoor, despite more than half of the Company being absent due to concurrent deployments in Iraq, Saudi Arabia (Op



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CROSSWAYS), Kuwait, Cyprus and Zambia (Op CORDED – anti-poaching).

The Commanding Officer tasked us to run an Empowerment project to allow our junior commanders to identify a project, plan and execute it without the involvement of the Officers and Warrant Officers. With the Battalion given the responsibility as the Brigade lead on Urban Operations, the JNCOs chose to develop a training facility in camp. Instigated by LSgts Davies 47 and Williams 91, the Company self-built an Urban Training Facility in an empty building. Not only did it give them the freedom to deliver a project, but they developed their project management skills and independence. Since its completion the company has used it on a weekly basis to improve on our skills with the culmination point being a week's training at RAF Honington in the 'gold-standard' kill house using

simunition to add realism and really test ourselves.

The overall structure and organisation of the Company has remained extant with the three specialist weapons platoons (Anti-Tanks, Reconnaissance and Snipers) forming the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group when deployed on conventional exercises. Opportunities to build on the concept, interoperability between the platoons, allowing flexible employment and mixed grouping and thus adding maximum value and options to the Commanding Officer were tested, adjusted and refined in particular during Ex SHADER Tempest, during the live firing and field test exercises phases of the exercise. This built on the initial experiences gained during the previous year's exercise in Otterburn where the ISR Group had its first run out since Ex WESSEX STORM in 2017!



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Away from core business and in spite of ongoing restrictions related to Covid 19, the Iron Men managed to get away on Adventurous Training, in particular on sailing trips. Football remains popular amongst the Company and a number of soldiers represent the Battalion.

Alongside everything else, the Company found time to compete in the annual Commando Speed March charity race on the west coast of Scotland. The team led by Sgt Ben Davies completed the 6.7-mile race which follows the original route from Spean Bridge to Achnacarry House which was the route the commando recruits had to run during WW2. Achnacarry House was used as HQ of the primary British Commando Training Centre during WW2 of which number 8 commando was the designated "Guards commando" unit.

The Anti-Tanks Platoon has grown in number but experienced some churn of key personnel with a new platoon commander taking post early in the year. CSgt Cummins moved on from the post of PI CSgt, but fortunately remained in the Company fold, assuming

the post of Company Quartermaster Sergeant. He replaced CSgt Crew, also previously the PI CSgt who moved onto a key role as the Regimental Careers Management Officer's Assistant. The former Drum Major, CSgt Rees, assumed this post on return from operations in Nigeria and will steer the Platoon through the next couple of years where his extensive experience in Specialist Weapons Platoons will no doubt be bought to bear! Members of the Platoon were fortunate to have the opportunity to fire both Javelin and NLAW (Next generation Light Anti-tank Weapon) on a joint range with the Coldstream Guards and the empty missile tubes are now a (very large) badge of honour in their accommodation!

Capt Andersen's successful tenure as the Recce Platoon Commander came to a close and he assumed post as the Assistant Equerry to The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. We wish him luck in this key role where he will also be key in assisting Regimental Headquarters in Officer recruitment. He replaced Capt Ross who fortunately for us returned to the Company as the Second in Command



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where his experience has already had an early impact. Lt Haynes took over from Capt Andersen and almost immediately deployed to Zambia as the Liaison Officer to Op CORDED where he is paving the way for a planned deployment for the Company through 2022 on anti-poaching activities. CSgt Bladen promoted to CSgt and officially took post as the Recce CSgt.

Sgt Forde takes over the Sniper Platoon and is currently completing his Sniper Platoon Commanders course. The experience he has already accumulated as a Pl Sgt will set him up well for this role. Three members of the platoon are now qualified Sniper Operators with a further four currently on the course. I remain confident they will be successful, resulting in the entire platoon being qualified as Snipers from the recognised external training provider, the best it has been in the last 15 years.

After the Companies arduous battle-camp in Okehampton in July 21, CSgt Bladen organised a day's Adventurous Training which saw members of the Company push their limits by a day of coasteering off the coast of Torquay. In some

instances, junior members of the Company were jumping up to 30ft into the English Channel. Although, we would like to be able to say that all members jumped with no motivation, however, some of the more senior members of the Company required all manners of motivation. In all cases, their limits were pushed, and the day was thoroughly enjoyable.

Major J M Young, Company Commander

1. *Company Sniper Training.*
2. *Company team at the Commando Speed March Sep 21.*
3. *LCpl Dyer training Gdsm Downes on the Anti-tank CLU system.*
4. *Number 3 Coy Gp on MRX.*
5. *No 3 Company coasteering after Battlecamp.*
6. *Number 3 Coy Urban Training Facility Training*
7. *The Anti-tanks platoon conducting some live firing whilst supporting the Coldstream Guards cadre.*
8. *Sniper Training on Sniper Operators Course 2.*
9. *Sniper Training on Sniper Operators Course.*
10. *No 3 Coy Mobile Training Team in Baghdad delivering an Urban Operations Training Package*



SUPPORT COMPANY

Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth - Fear Nothing But Disgrace



1

Maj Charles-Jones
Capt Ward
Lt Burfiend
WO2 Cunningham
WO2 Deren
CSgt Pheasey
DMaj Potts
Sgt Lewis
Sgt Van Eyssen
Sgt Lewis
LSgt Evans
LSgt Davies
LSgt Gassama
LSgt Matthews
LSgt Morgan
LSgt Skates
LSgt Siwale
LSgt Viavalevu
LCpl Burchill
LCpl Davies
LCpl Dennis

LCpl Durkan
LCpl Lynch
LCpl Qaranivalu
LCpl Richards
LCpl Todd
LCpl Turner
LCpl Waqanisaravi
Gdsm Bastable
Gdsm Berry
Dmr Bowden
Dmr Brain
Gdsm Cadd
Gdsm Crimes
Gdsm Chesire
Gdsm Cobb-Evans
Gdsm Constance
Gdsm Davies
Gdsm Eccleson
Dmr Evans
Gdsm Evans
Gdsm Flipping

Gdsm Greenaway
Gdsm Healy-Roberts
Gdsm Heffernan
Dmr Hillman
Dmr Hughes
Dmr Jones
Gdsm Jones
Gdsm Jones
Gdsm Korosaya
Gdsm Lewis
Dmr Maund
Gdsm Mccarthy
Gdsm Morgan
Gdsm Morgan
Gdsm Namakadre
Gdsm Nightingale
Gdsm Olsen
Gdsm Oram
Gdsm Parker
Gdsm Parry

Gdsm Paterson
Dmr Price
Gdsm Purnell
Gdsm Qumivutia
Dmr Roberts
Gdsm Rokovada
Gdsm Rowlands
Dmr Sarpak
Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Stott
Gdsm Tennant
Dmr Thomas
Gdsm Twedde
Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Winnan
Gdsm Woosnam
Pte Gurung AGC (SPS)

We say it nearly every year but, 2021 has been uniquely busy with nights out of bed amongst the highest on record. Each of the Platoons have added their thoughts to this article.

In the first half of 2021 Support Company was not only told to deploy to the South Atlantic as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC - see separate article), but it also saw the Company deploying to Sennybridge for a week to run its own training based out of Farm 5. The Mortar and Machine Gun Platoons concentrated on their support weapons leaving the Corps of Drums (CoD) to get stuck into the Battle Craft Syllabus. This week of training culminated in a joint live firing package with the Mortar Platoon supporting the machine guns and CoD in a defensive position near Cilieni Village (a MOD mock village for Fighting in Built Up Areas (FIBUA) near Sennybridge). As luck would have it a platoon from Guards Training Company were in the village and watched from the urban ops demo house. Very much a case of 'when you pass out, this is what you could win'. The highly accurate weight of fire even managed to achieve the seemingly impossible and started a small fire in the impact area. An act that even the range warden was impressed with given the time of year! With the Christmas cobwebs blown out we returned to Windsor to prepare to run Battalion-level ranges to qualify the Rifle Companies' for the Op SHADER Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX). To enable this, we deployed to Salisbury Plain Training Area and, taking full advantage of the opportunity to train with the Rifle Companies, the Mortar and Machine Gun Platoons were in action again.

This time testing their skills with troops operating on the ground and the MFCs (Mortar Fire Commanders) and the mortar OP deployed tactically.

Not only was this a first for some of the junior members of Support Company but it was also a first for a lot of the junior Guardsmen in the Rifle Companies. It's safe to say that they left with a new-found appreciation of the Battalion's organic firepower.

As soon as we had cleaned our weapons, we were on the move again. This time heading north to Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland to take our place in the Welsh Guards Battlegroup exercise. This time we deployed in a more traditional role with me, the Company Sergeant Major, the Mortar Platoon Commander and Colour Sergeant in the Battlegroup Headquarters. The Machine Gun Platoon pushed out to support a rifle company then recovered to reset and go again and the rest of the Company carried out a more supporting role covering off the Real-Life Support (RLS) side.

By now every element of the Company had been trained and tested and then - having received feedback and corrected problems with more training - tested again. Our cycle of continuous improvement was working overtime and we were getting better and better. This cycle would soon show its true worth, but before that we had more live firing to do.

This time we deployed to

Pembrokeshire's stunning Castlemartin Ranges. Support Company was, again, providing the training needed by the Rifle Companies for their test exercise that was only weeks away. During this week of live firing we took troops through a steady progression of live fire training which culminated in company attacks at the end of the week. This was when the Battalion was hit by the tragic death of Sgt Gavin Hillier. This was a very difficult time for those on the range that day and our thoughts are with Sgt Hillier's family and friends. In spite of the horrific event, every man there conducted his duty with the utmost professionalism. I could not have asked for more from any of them.

After leaving Castlemartin we deployed from the furthest Western point of the UK to the furthest Eastern point, Thetford. Support Company's time in Thetford was set at two weeks which would see us taking part in the Battlegroup Headquarters Command and Staff Trainer Planning Exercise. However, there came a classic 'Question 4 moment' and the situation had changed. Support Company would be staying for a further two weeks. I cannot say that everyone was over the moon about this, but the Company settled in and, it's safe to say, smashed it out of the park with an exceptional performance. This was made even more spectacular because the focus up to that point had been on conventional warfighting and now, with no notice, we had to play catch-up with the Rifle Companies and get evaluated by an external team. We left there with a clean sweep of green passes and it was time for some very well-earned leave.

However, concurrently to all this great training we had been preparing to deploy to the Falklands and, for some, leave was to be cut short. Flights to the Falklands had been affected by COVID-19 meaning that we had to take what we were given and that included a 14-day isolation period either in the UK or the Falklands. Our first flight would miss out on four days leave to meet the timeline imposed upon us. Before we really had a chance to get stuck into leave, we found ourselves 8,000 miles away from home wondering why the days were getting shorter and the temperatures had dropped considerably.

The Company's time on FIRIC has been fantastic. We took advantage of Adventure Training, wildlife spotting, battlefield tours, joint exercises, memorial services and parades and, of course, the opportunity to meet the Falkland Island community who were as welcoming as if we were on tour in Wales. Needless to say, FIRIC was a real success and the men of the Company who had been there before found that deploying as a Company far outweighed deploying as an attachment to a rifle company which is the norm for Support Company platoons.

During our time on FIRIC I also had the opportunity to promote several Guardsmen and a Lance Corporal. Anyone who has commanded will tell you that this is one of the best things you get to do. I was even fortunate enough to be able to take them to the Welsh Guards memorial in Fitzroy and promote them in a place so steeped in Welsh Guards history that it can be considered sacred ground. There, with our forefathers watching on, LCpls Turner



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and Lynch and LSgt Sawali put on their new rank for the first time. In an intimate parade that I hope they will remember and will inspire them through their careers.

Once we recovered from the Falklands it really was time to get properly stuck into leave and to try and absorb every bit of Vitamin D we could. Remember, the Company had only seen winter weather since the end of summer 2020, some twelve months ago!

With leave behind us we have already switched our focus to Op SHADER 14 and the training needed to get us to the level required by December. To that end we have booked training areas, ammunition, field kitchens and the endless amount of G4 stuffs required to make sure that when we're tested, yet again, Support Company blitzes it with yet more green. That training will see us deploy to the far reaches of the UK's training estate

and continue the never-ending cycle of continuous improvement in which we seek to be the best we can be and therefore fear nothing but disgrace.

Major G C F Charles-Jones,
Officer Commanding Support
Company



3

1. Support Company in Fitzroy
2. Promotions at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Bluff Cove, Falkland Islands. LSgt Sawale, LCpl Lynch and LCpl Turner.
3. Major Charles-Jones talking with Jan and Tim Miller, long term Welsh Guards supporters.
4. Corps of Drums at the head of the Liberation Day parade in Port Stanley.



Corps of Drums

by Drum Major S Potts

2021 has been a busy year for the whole Battalion including the Corps of Drums (CoD). The Platoon began the year by completing Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) in Brecon.

This involved practising and honing their skills from individual fire and movement up to Platoon attacks by day and night. The Platoon was swiftly re-deployed to Otterburn and Thetford to support the Battalion Final Training Exercise (FTX). At short notice prior to returning to Windsor, the CoD along with the rest of Support Company were informed that they were to extend their time in Thetford by two weeks. This was so the Company could complete the Battalion MRX (Mission Rehearsal Exercise) - vital role specific training and testing for the upcoming Op SHADER deployment. Despite the last-minute change of plan, the Platoon took it in their stride and produced a sterling performance and proved their flexibility, willingness and readiness to deploy to operational theatres. On completion of the MRX we returned to Windsor, debussing from the transport and immediately received our cold weather issue for the deployment to the Falkland Islands.

With a well-deserved two weeks leave had by all, the CoD moved to RAF Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire to proceed with the two weeks mandatory isolation before flying to the Falkland Islands. As its name indicates it was indeed isolated, with strictly separated cohorts of fifteen. Timings were strict, whether that was use of the gym, the airfield for runs or mealtimes. The most aggravating part was attempting to get through to the local shop to place

your order of supplies for the coming week, especially as 60-80 people were trying to get through at the same time. This could take up to and beyond 300 attempts. With isolation nearing its end, the RAF struck again and delayed the flight by 24 hours. This meant that we had another day in paradise! The CoD's arrival in the Falkland Islands coincided with the Memorial Season, with which the Platoon soon became heavily involved. The first being the Landing Day Memorial at San Carlos where a bugler sounded Last Post and Reveille which was supported by four Drummers in Home Service Clothing to act as an Outer and Inner Guard for the Memorial Garden. That evening the CoD provided a spectacle in the Officers Mess for the Landing Day Dinner night, which was a huge success. Being a Tri-Service Mess, the audience were overwhelmed by the talent, conduct and bearing of the Drummers who were all rewarded with a beer or two in the bar afterwards.

Following this event, the demand for the CoD to support and demonstrate their skills was high, with a plethora of emails not only of thanks but also requests coming across the Company Commander's desk. A Bugler sounded the Last Post for the Army Catering Corps memorial in Fitzroy, for the Royal Signals at Mount Pleasant Peak and for the RFA Sir Gallahad memorial on the 8 Jun 21. Afterwards the CoD performed in the Town Hall, which was eagerly received by the locals, not only because



of the close ties to the Welsh Guards, but because the last Drums display was the Royal Marines some 'decades ago' as one local informed me. The CoD then led a marching contingent of 42 soldiers, sailors, and airman through the streets of Port Stanley for the Liberation Day parade on 14 June.

The pattern of life throughout the tour was a 3-week rotation of QRF (Quick Reaction Force), patrols and training. QRF provided the security of the Mount Pleasant Complex, with 3 teams rotating through 30 minutes, 2 and 6 hour's notice to move. Patrols had the opportunity to visit a multitude of locations across the Islands. These included Seal Lion Island, San Carlos and Walker Creek. Whilst conducting patrols and low-level training, the Platoon was also able to assist landowners with any tasks they may have in order to build and develop relationships. Training consisted of vital development and honing of Infantry skills. Whilst the CoD is currently the Assault Pioneer Platoon, the Platoon conducted the Mortar and Machine Gun cadres concurrently, enabling us not only to learn new skills and become quadruple qualified (Drummers, Assault Pioneers, Machine Gunners and Mortarman), but to become

an even larger asset to the Battalion and the Brigade.

FIRIC has been an enjoyable and productive experience for the CoD. It was an honour and a privilege to be so heavily involved in the memorial season in a place so steeped with Welsh Guards history and sacrifice. The training opportunities for the CoD have been excellent and every man has benefited. Learning and improving skills, learning about themselves and pushing their limits, through the gruelling Exercise CAPE BAYONET on top of Mount Tumbledown and Mount Harriet. However, it has not been all work and no play. There have been opportunities for the Platoon to get out to do some adventurous training and whale watching. Whale watching was by far the favourite. Elements of the CoD were fortunate enough to witness a full humpback whale breach - not more than fifty metres away - an experience they will be sure not to forget.

The CoD are looking forward to the remainder of 2021 and beyond, continuing to develop their new skills and put them into practice during live firing range packages. The Platoon is also keen to deploy on Op SHADER when the opportunity arises.

Machine Guns Platoon

by Lieutenant S P Burfiend - Officer Commanding

The Machine Gun Platoon have been flat out this year, which has tested their adaptability and skillset outside of the 'normal' job role parameters.

At the end of 2020 the Platoon was fortunate enough to find some time before COVID-19 really kicked in to conduct their Machine Guns cadre. This allowed the Platoon to be passed as current and competent on the GPMG in the SF role. The cadre consisted of multiple live firing range days and plenty of time spent carrying the heavy kit around a wintery Salisbury Plain.

Christmas was another busy period with the Platoon's focus switching to the national COVID-19 effort on Op RESCRIPT. Despite the subtle differences between a COVID-19 testing swab and a GPMG and the difficulty that some East Londoners had in understanding some of the Platoon's strong Welsh accents, the Platoon shone whilst working at the testing sites, with the Welsh charm and character certainly playing its part in delivering a great public service.

The Guns played their traditional role in the Battalion-level exercise at Otterburn. Braving the elements to provide the lead assault group with enough fire support for the successful break-in on any number of objectives. After a quick re-cock back at Combermere Barracks, job roles switched once again to preparations for the Op SHADER Mission readiness Exercise in Thetford. The job specification for Op SHADER is heavily revolved around vehicle moves and providing protection for VIPs. Once

again, a dramatic shift away from the conventional role associated with the Guns. The Platoon performed fantastically throughout the exercise and certainly used their newfound confidence in mixing with the public during Op RESCRIPT to benefit them during some of the more fractious public order serials.

The end of the year saw the Guns go full circle, and they found themselves back green soldiering as a Sustained Fire gun line. However, this time it was 8,000 miles south in the Falkland Islands whilst on FIRIC. The Falklands provides a great opportunity to hone our skills as a Platoon whilst also being an invaluable place to discover and highlight junior Guardsmen and their potential as Junior Non-Commissioned Officers. After intensive training during the deployment we have been able to book a large majority of the Platoon for promotional courses upon our return.



Mortar Platoon

by Captain S A Ward, Officer Commanding

The Mortar Platoon has gone from strength to strength in this incredibly busy year. The end of 2020 saw more COVID-19 testing at Mobile Testing Units around London and the Southeast under Op RESCRIPT, the Army's response to bolstering the nation's test and trace system.

This culminated in a final call out to Dover on Christmas Day with less than 12 hours' notice on Christmas Eve to test the backlog of truck drivers building up due to Brexit complications. The Platoon took this unfortunately-timed deployment incredibly well and contributed a large part in resolving the issue so quickly – their efficiency and good humour shining through.

The New Year saw Capt Minihan move on to become the Regimental Signals Officer and new Gdsm joined the Platoon from The Prince of Wales's Company and Number 2 Company. As our duties shifted from COVID-19 to conventional training and ranges, the Platoon honed their skills on Salisbury Plain and Brecon, firing a generous amount of allocated ammunition, meaning the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Mortar Platoon fire is probably the best trained in the British Army this year.

After conventional training we re-rolled to Mission Specific Training for Op SHADER in Thetford. Again, the Platoon did extremely well and took the news that the exercise was extended from two to four weeks, taking us right up to deployment to the Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands gave good opportunity for the Platoon to conduct more training and deploy on patrols around the Islands. Unfortunately, we could not conduct anymore live firing but we look forward to more opportunities on our return to the UK after some well-deserved leave in what has been a truly hectic year.

5. A gunner from the Machine Gun Platoon provides fire support for an assaulting platoon in the Battalion's battlecamp in Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland.



Opening of the Sixth Sennedd Cymru

6-12 *Members of Support Company involved front and centre in the ceremonial parade for the opening of the Sixth Sennedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament) in Cardiff on Thursday 14th October 2021 in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall.*



HEADQUARTER COMPANY

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

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------|
| Lt Col | Livesey | Sgt | Davies 83 | LSgt | Pickersgill-Jones | Gdsm | Clarke 49 |
| Maj | Spencer-Smith | Sgt | Frowen | LSgt | Tsorme REME | Gdsm | Collins 09 |
| Maj | Pridmore | Sgt | Morgan 65 | LSgt | Watts RLC | Gdsm | Doyle |
| Maj | Campbell | Sgt | Morgan 44 | Cpl | Taylor REME | Gdsm | Edwards 60 |
| Capt | Clarke W | Sgt | Pienaar | Cpl | Mallaney REME | Gdsm | Emanuel |
| Capt | Campbell-Schofield | Sgt | Soko | LCpl | Butler 99 | Gdsm | Evans 16 |
| Capt | Minihan | Sgt | Stallard | LCpl | Francis | Gdsm | Faulkner |
| Capt | Clarke O | Sgt | Cardin AGC (SPS) | LCpl | George | Gdsm | Fitzgibbon |
| Capt | Brown SG | Sgt | Evans 09 AGC (SPS) | LCpl | Jones 73 | Gdsm | Hughes 61 |
| Capt | Griffiths 96 | Sgt | Limbu 41 RLC | LCpl | Kell RLC | Gdsm | MacLauchlin |
| Capt | Parkinson | Sgt | Pell RAMC | LCpl | Lewis 39 | Gdsm | Roberts 300 |
| Capt | Parry | Sgt | Rai 20 RLC | LCpl | Rowe | Gdsm | Thomas 500 |
| Capt | Nightingale RACHD | Sgt | Richardson AGC (SPS) | LCpl | Rowlands-Bell | Gdsm | Williams 93 |
| Capt | Williams AGC (SPS) | Sgt | Thompson REME | LCpl | Sullivan | Gdsm | Williams 07 |
| Capt | Blair COLDM GDS | Sgt | Young QARANC | LCpl | Tucker | Gdsm | Williams 64 |
| 2Lt | Flaherty AGC (SPS) | LSgt | Bishop | LCpl | Bromley-Morris RLC | Gdsm | Williams 02 |
| WO1 | Cope | LSgt | Coy | LCpl | Boult RAMC | Cfn | Davies 45 REME |
| WO2 | Peters | LSgt | Horrell | LCpl | Clarke 67 AGC (SPS) | Cfn | Durrant REME |
| WO2 | Heath | LSgt | Howells 27 | LCpl | Grants RLC | Cfn | Hill REME |
| WO2 | Wilks | LSgt | Howells 28 | LCpl | Gurung RAMC | Cfn | Sleven REME |
| WO2 | Johnson | LSgt | Lucas | LCpl | Leach REME | Cfn | Thomas 10 REME |
| WO2 | Hughes 39 | LSgt | Lewis 51 | LCpl | McCarthy REME | Pte | Gurley RLC |
| WO2 | Green | LSgt | Martin | LCpl | Messam-Green RAMC | Pte | Owusu AGC (SPS) |
| WO2 | Scarf | LSgt | May | LCpl | Morgan 52 RAMC | Pte | Tanner RLC |
| WO2 | Thomas 90 | LSgt | Mottram | LCpl | Rai 64 REME | Pte | Usiagwu RLC |
| WO2 | Carlin REME | LSgt | Nuku | LCpl | Rogers 91 RAMC | Pte | Wade AGC (SPS) |
| WO2 | Moffatt RLC | LSgt | Patel 10 | LCpl | Regan RAMC | Pte | Harrower RLC |
| WO2 | Cofie AGC (SPS) | LSgt | Purvis | LCpl | Reynolds AGC (SPS) | | |
| CSgt | Small | LSgt | Putty | LCpl | Thomas 10 REME | | |
| CSgt | Crew | LSgt | Rana 99 | Gdsm | Flipping | | |
| CSgt | Cunningham | LSgt | Stevens | Gdsm | Herbert | | |
| CSgt | Davies 83 | LSgt | Stirling | Gdsm | Jones 11 | | |
| CSgt | Evans 588 | LSgt | Williams 60 | Gdsm | Lamond | | |
| CSgt | Fuller | LSgt | Clowes | Gdsm | Mitchell | | |
| CSgt | Green | LSgt | Jones 89 | Gdsm | Murphy | | |
| SSgt | Foody RLC | LSgt | Jones 78 | Gdsm | Parry 23 | | |
| SSgt | Hammond RAPTC | LSgt | Muteti | Gdsm | Adekoya | | |
| SSgt | Kittle REME | LSgt | Bowler AGC (SPS) | Gdsm | Arnold | | |
| SSgt | Nukutabu AGC (SPS) | LSgt | McKay REME | Gdsm | Asamoah | | |
| Sgt | Clowes | LSgt | Phombo AGC (SPS) | Gdsm | Boswell | | |



1

It has been a few years since I had to write one of these, my last article was back in 2016, before I left the Battalion to go to Staff College - I'm not sure all that education worked as my writing skills don't seem to have improved (and just for the record this is not a re-show for poor performance)!

I returned to the Battalion having spent 11 months in Afghanistan working with the Afghan Officer Academy and found the Company in great spirits, they had been flat out, as usual, supporting all of the Battalion outputs and keeping themselves up to speed in their own unique skills. Headquarter Company is a mix of Welsh Guards and Specialists, we have eight different Capbadges covering eleven trades, all of which need to remain qualified, but more importantly soldiers first.

The challenge for our company is no-one makes the chefs an

"egg banjo" when they need to go on the range or we don't have members of another company driving us to the start point for a fitness test and I am yet to see a Gdsm fix an engine when the LAD needs to do its navigation training. These specialists have to balance their trade and find the time to pass all of their mandated military skills and support the rest of the Bn with the daily real life support issues of keeping the camp running, clothing being exchanged, ammo booked and weapons working - they truly are the backbone of the battalion.



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We have had much change in the Company, more farewells are in the department articles, but we have said goodbye to 'Milly' Butler who left as OC to go to Staff College, also the Welfare Officer, Capt John Byrne, the MTO, Capt Rob Beckett and WO2 Hughes 39, who has moved to the Recruiting Warrant Officer role. But we have gained a new Regimental Sergeant Major, Drill Sergeant and Company Sergeant Major...even our Padre changed!

Fortunately, this churn has not affected the pace at which the Company operates, the residual knowledge held by even the most junior soldier allows the smooth transition of personalities.

They remain agile, professional and full of enthusiasm, they are the first into every Camp, Training Area and Range complex, to set up the



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mundane details that make all our life's that little more comfortable. They are then the last out to make sure everything is handed over, in good order, and ensuring our reputation for excellence is maintained. It is complex and testing but each of the men and women I command have really made a difference and I thank them all for their loyalty and commitment.

1. Who is this Youngster OC
HQ Coy
- 2-3. BG HQ CAST
4. Bn 2IC Relaxing



Quartermaster Maintenance Department by Warrant Officer Class 2 (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant) Peters

The Department has had a very busy period over the last year, from continuing to support and guide the Battalion through the COVID pandemic to supporting a number of exercises and commitments around the country and overseas.

Back in August 20, the Maint Department started planning for Battle Camp which was conducted in Otterburn, Northumberland, in November 20. WO2 Peters RQMS(M), Sgt Lucas and LSgt Muteti started to shape the G4 support for the Battalion, while the Quartermaster Major Campbell was kind enough to allow us to use his conference room, making sure he remained well-supplied with brews. Together, the team executed the road move to Otterburn - no mean feat with the Battalion planning to operate so far from home and away from our normal exercise areas in the south. The exercise was a huge success and enabled the Quartermasters Department to stretch itself at every level

by delivering G4 support in the form of equipment and clothing from the four corners of the country. This was enabled through establishing several G4 exchange points plotted around the country, which was managed by LSgt Stevens commanding G4 rear (Windsor) from the south with LSgt Horrell deploying from Otterburn to ensure G4 timelines were maintained throughout our deployment.

On Christmas Eve 2020, elements of the Battalion on standby for Op RESCRIPT were activated. G4 Duty personnel, WO2 Peters RQMS(M) and Master Stitch, WO2 Wilks, arrived in camp at 0600 hrs on Christmas morning to ensure that The Prince of Wales's

Company where issued all their Operational kit for the task.

February 21 saw the end to Public Duties for the Battalion and the handover of bearskins and capes to the Coldstream Guards. This exchange was led by LSgt Horrell, who conducted a smooth handover by supporting the Coldstream Guards home service clothing department.

In early March 21, members of the Department (WO2 Peters, Lucas, LSgt Muteti, LSgt Patel, and Gdsm Hughes) deployed to Castlemartin to take over the camp, ready for the Battalion's live firing package. We also oversaw a tented city built by Support Company which had to be used for accommodation for exercising troops.

Halfway through the Castlemartin training package, the Quartermasters Department divided itself between Castlemartin and Bodney Camp, Thetford, in order to prepare for MST (Mission Specific Training) Op SHADER. This was to establish Bodney camp, including the added morale of providing posh showers! The Department

also took part in the MRX (Mission Rehearsal Exercise), as well as running the best brew and chat location for the Battalion.

On 23 July 21, a small team from the Department (LSgt Stevens and Gdsm Hughes) deployed to Dartmoor to establish the camp ahead of the Battalion's Ex DRAGON'S TAIL. The Department supported RLS and the G4 teams within the Companies while LSgt Muteti and LSgt Patel led with the ammunition support. The department performed well, utilizing the same model executed in Otterburn late last year, proving the success of the G4 blueprint learnt and delivered the previous year.

The Department currently has the following personnel deployed on Op SHADER: Major Campbell (Erbil), Sgt Lucas, LSgt Putty, Gdsm Arnold (Kuwait), and LSgt Horrell in Cyprus.

5. *QM Department stood still just long enough for a photograph*

Quartermaster's Technical Department

by Captain J Brown, Scots Guards

The Quartermaster's Technical Department along with the Maintenance Department have continued to ensure that all G4 requirements and support for the Battalion on what has been a very busy period.

The biggest G4 support demands were during the preparations for a Battalion Battle Exercise that deployed to Otterburn in November 2020.

This tested the G4 to the full with demands and vehicles coming in to the Battalion. However it aided what was a very successful exercise ensuring the Battalion completed all their training objectives. This helped in the preparation for The Prince of Wales's Company being ready for rotation one for Op SHADER in Iraq.

January 2021 saw a movement of personnel within the Technical department with Capt Bowen handing over the QM(T) appointment to Capt Brown Scots Guards. We also saw RQMS(T) Cope moving to prepare to take over as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Battalion with DSgt Heath stepping in and taking over the RQMS(T) role.

In February 2021 the Quartermasters Department successfully passed the LSARI (Logistic Support and Assurance Inspection) which helped the Quartermasters Department transition smoothly from London District to 11 Brigade. This ensured that all G4 accounts were at the highest standard and ready for a busy period for the Battalion leading up to more exercises and deployments.

The Quartermasters department at short notice set up Combermere Bks as

a COVID-19 testing site for all military and civilian personnel. In addition, the department coordinated and supported the provision of all necessary equipment to the companies that deployed to NHS national testing stations.

In March of this year the department supported and deployed on the Bn MRX in Thetford. This included the logistical management of getting spares for the Battalion's green fleet vehicles and parts for the weapons that would be used on the exercise. The provision of all stationery, expense, ET stores and any further stores that were required were successfully managed and implemented in a timely fashion. On completion of this exercise the Quartermaster's Department was recognised for all its efforts and each member was awarded a Commanding Officers Coin.

Shortly after the exercise in Thetford, WO2 Heath, SSgt Foody and LSgt Rana, were tasked to assist Support Company with overseeing freight management in line with policy and procedure. This was to aid preparation for Op FIRIC in the Falklands where Support Company were allocated as the Roulement Infantry Company continuing the defence of the Falkland Islands. Alongside this WO2 Heath, SSgt Foody and LSgt Rana also helped oversee The Prince of Wales's Company freight management to get their stores ready to be sent

to Iraq for rotation 1 of Op SHADER. SSgt Foody assisted 11 Brigade with dangerous goods being sent to Kenya and then deployed to Zambia to oversee the closure of the antipoaching exercise in Zambia - Op CORDED.

The last push before a well-earned summer leave period saw the department use the experience of its members to prepare and supply all loan pool equipment, expense, and Covid-19 equipment. The continued support of the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) saw the provision of fully fit and serviceable vehicles and weapons for all exercises including the FTX in Oakhampton. After another successful exercise at Oakhampton the Quartermasters Department supported Number 2 Company and the attached elements prepare for the second rotation of Op SHADER.

On our return from summer leave we have started preparation for the LEA (Land Equipment Audit) inspection and are preparing the final requirements for Number 2 Company going out to Iraq.



6

Communication Information Systems (CIS) Platoon

by Captain TS Minihan, Regimental Signals Officer

Once again, the Signals Platoon have had an exceptionally busy year, providing CIS support to the Battalion on both exercise and operations.

In Nov 20, the platoon deployed to Otterburn, as part of Ex DRAGON'S FURY. This saw our signallers battle the elements as they provided voice to the battle group over HF and VHF. Many a cold night was spent in the back of an FFR (Fitted for Radio Land Rover) as the platoon manned rebroadcasting stations on the far reaches of the training area.

In the New Year, the platoon deployed again on Ex SHADER TEMPEST, a readiness exercise ahead

of Op SHADER 13. This was a great success for the Battalion and the signallers excelled themselves once again both in Main and with the sub-units.

The New Year saw the departure of Capt George Elletson as the Regimental Signals Officer. Capt Elletson has led the Signals Platoon with tremendous enthusiasm and skill over the past two years. He has now taken up a post as SO3 Anti-Poaching with 11 Brigade and we wish him well for the future. As one stalwart of the platoon

departs, another has arrived. Sgt Stallard has made a permanent transfer to 1WG from the Royal Corps of Signals, having spent the past two years with the Battalion. He was formally welcomed to the Battalion on the day he deployed on Op SHADER and looks well at ease adorned by a silver leek.

Op SHADER has brought about a host of opportunities for the platoon. A detachment, led by Sgt Stallard, deployed to Cyprus in May and have delivered integral J4 support to the Quartermaster's department. A second detachment, commanded by Cpl Mason, is in Erbil, northern Iraq, providing J6 support to The Prince of Wales's Company as they carry out their role as the UK Mobility Company, Kurdistan.

Congratulations must go

to LSgts Howells and Brace who were promoted this summer and now enter the WO and Sgts' Mess. LSgt Brace endured 14 weeks at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon without being allowed to leave under COVID-19 restrictions. He completed the Section Commanders Battle Course with an exceptional report, testament to the resolve and commitment of the Welsh Guardsman.

The end of 2021 will see another departure, as CSgt Justin Fuller completes 22 years of service with the Welsh Guards. CSgt Fuller has been a mainstay of the Signals Platoon for most of his career, providing continuity, unrivalled knowledge, and gusto in everything he does. He will be missed, and we extend him our best wishes for civilian life.



Light Aid Detachment (LAD)

by Warrant Officer Class 2 CJ Carlin, Artificer
Quarter Master Sergeant

The period covered by this magazine has been extremely busy for the LAD supporting the Battalion in all tasks, Exercises and Operations.

In order to provide adequate Equipment Support (ES), for this period there have been a series of additional equipment training requirements that has seen timelines stretched to their maximum. In all circumstances the LAD has continued to pride itself on the high level of ES provided to the Battalion and that all training delivery and deployments have gone ahead unhindered by G4 issues.

Below are some accounts from LAD members who have supported the Battalion.

UK Commitments. Camp routine during this last year has been especially active considering the global pandemic. With tours and deployments still going ahead, supporting them

from the UK doesn't stop either.

Throughout this year, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards have deployed on MRX, Op SHADER, FIRIC and multiple Battle Camps. Being attached as REME, supporting all these deployments is challenging. Maintaining equipment for these continuous exercise/deployments can be an arduous task but very rewarding.

Pre deployment training has been an integral part of the year for the Welsh Guards and a personal favourite of mine. Being able to complete this training and looking to deploy later this year gives a real purpose to the job. The training gives a different experience to the attached arms from their day-to-day job. Whether it be a pistol range or a CQB

shoot, taking part in this training is a welcome change from the daily equipment maintenance that we usually carry out.

Also due to the deployment ahead, the LAD has been able to widen their engineering knowledge with tour specific courses such as the CAV (Civilian Armoured Vehicle) maintainer course or the Non-service pattern light weapons course. Having this training along with PDT for me personally I think makes for a very proficient and capable REME soldier who can deploy and deliver effective ES on Ops and overseas exercises. LSgt McKay

Op SHADER. After enduring a mandatory period of isolation at QFAC (Quarantine Facility) RAF Wittering and 36hrs of travelling, members of the LAD finally arrived into JOB (Joint Operating Base) ZORBASH located in Erbil Air Base (EAB). 4 days of the mandatory RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration) package followed consisting of ranges, actions on, medical training, J2 briefs

and Civilian Armoured Vehicle (CAV) drills to name but a few before we finally managed to begin our HOTO of the LAD with 1SG.

Accounts were checked, inspection & local registers scrutinised before bidding farewell to members of 1SG LAD. In the week that followed, I conducted an MEI (Mandatory Equipment Inspection) of all weapons, MODACS (Ministry of Defence Accountable Controlled Stores) and Ancillaries held by 1WG to ensure there was no damage caused by freight into country as well as inspecting the equipment permanently assigned to Theatre. LCpl McCarthy had to quickly get up to speed with Mil and Civ CAV fault diagnosis and repair. During the initial weeks, particular emphasis was placed on ensuring relations with the Civ CAV contract manager and local spares procurement representative were reinforced. This has enabled the LAD to ensure Civ CAVs requiring repair or specific maintenance would be done and handed back to us in short order. The Civ CAV have been a vital asset



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in Theatre due to the length of time it takes to receive spares for the Mil CAV using the spares procurement system.

With Sgt Thompson finally arriving in Theatre, an extensive amount of staff work has been done by him and myself re-writing pertinent chapters of the Op SHADER Equipment Care Directive and Equipment Support Technical Instructions (ESTI).

Moving forward, we are preparing for the arrival of 16 new Mil CAV from Joint Operations Support Unit Cyprus to replace the ageing fleet currently in theatre. Concurrently, we are crossing the I's and dotting the T's in preparation for LEA in Sep 21. SSgt Kittle

Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company. During my time in the Falkland

Islands, I have found it to be very memorable and it has provided me with experience and knowledge that I could not practice elsewhere. Being one of the senior tradesmen to deploy the responsibilities given to me were much greater than in barracks. Upon arrival, we noticed it was extremely cold and windy which we had to get used to rapidly, given that our repair facility had been taken from us. This was later resolved, and a repair facility was provided so we didn't have to work outside as much as previously.

We started working the following day after we had landed. We noticed our key issue whilst being out here was not been able to get hold of demands quick enough. However, we performed very well with 3 Vehicle Mechanics and 1 Armourer as we managed

to run the Roulement Infantry Company without any hesitation. We also took part in Ex CAPE BAYONET as enemy. We camped up at Mount Tumbledown and Mount Harriot and actually enjoyed the change from working in the workshop. The Battalion also provided funding for us to go on trips such as;

- Battlefield tour where we were taken to some exact location of conflict during 1982.
- Boat trip, where we saw a variety of sea animals such as Whales, Dolphins and sea lions.
- Volunteer point. This is the one of the few locations where thousands of penguins come to find some food and shelter.

Overall, as a team we have enjoyed this deployment

it has developed or engineering abilities and knowledge and it has also been good to embed fully within a Coy and see how they operate whilst deployed. LCpl Rai

In all and extremely busy but productive period that has seen great growth amongst the LAD as a whole. Looking forward we now prepare for the next rotations and new personnel being posted in who we will need to train in preparation to deploy.

6. *LCpl Tucker of the CIS platoon attached to Battalion Headquarters for ex DRAGON FURY, providing the Commanding Officer with comms in the field.*
7. *LAD Working in all Weather*
8. *This is how you workshop*
9. *This is how you workshop*
10. *No this is how you workshop*
11. *The A Team*



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14

Training Wing

by Captain John Parkinson, Training Officer

The period covered by this magazine has been extremely busy for the LAD supporting the Battalion in all tasks, Exercises and Operations.

Return from lockdown.

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.

Screening Cadres.

The Screening Cadre is designed to give students, and their Chain of Command (CoC), an understanding of their suitability prior to attending the HDPGCC Tac course and HDPGCC pre-courses. At the end of each cadre, students are given individual feedback on their performance and a report is sent to their Chain of Command. 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.

Battle Camp.

In preparation for Op SHADER 14 Mission Specific Training (MST), members of Number 2 and 3 Company deployed to Okehampton Training Area to conduct Platoon and Company level training. The newly appointed Company Commander (Maj Alex Major) of Number 2 Company used this opportunity to see his Company operate at the Platoon level, prior to leading them on a Company

attack which was planned and delivered by the Training Wing and Battalion Headquarters.

After a short Adventurous Training period, the Training Wing delivered a patrols competition for six 12-man multiples. Day one saw the multiples conduct a seven and a half-hour patrol around the hills of Dartmoor. Along the way there were several tasks for the multiples to complete. These ranged from a 1.5 Km 'heavy carry' to a complex scenario which involved a mine strike, mass casualties, communications and marking and preparing for a helicopter evacuation.

Day two of the Patrol Competition saw the multiples conduct a 9km speed march, (multiple best effort), which finished with an assault course. On completion of the physical event, the junior members of the multiple were put through numerous command tasks. The winning team came from Number 3 Company, but they were pushed closely throughout by Number 2 Company. At the time of writing this the Battalion is set to conduct MST in Nov with the LFTT (Live Fire Tactical Training) planned shortly afterwards.

11. Gas Gas Gas
12. Orders Group
13. Battlecamp Training
14. If it ain't raining it ain't training



Catering Department

by Warrant Officer Class 2 P Moffat, Regimental Catering Warrant Officer

Over the last 12 months the department started enjoying life again after the restrictions of COVID-19, we were once again able to deploy and showcase our skills both in and out of barracks.

Ex DRAGON's FURY in Otterburn saw the whole Battalion deployed in the field, supported by the catering department. The Chefs delivered outstanding results in cold, wet and miserable conditions ensuring that the companies were well nourished, regardless of what the training team threw at them. All members of the team were rewarded by the Commanding Officer receiving his coin for the 'winter term' 2020. The team also supported the Battalion on their Pre-Deployment training in Thetford.

The department continue to support not only the HQs (LONDIST and 11 Brigade) but the wider catering Career Employment Group with deployments to, the Falkland Islands (Sgt Davis and LCpl Mujungu), Op CORDED, (Zambia) (LCpl Pun) who supported the Irish Guards on their Anti-Poaching tour, LSgt Watts and Pte Baker supported the isolation facility in Linton-on-Ouse (Quarantine Facility) for all service personnel deploying overseas and Sgt Limbu, LSgt Rai and Pte Gurley (only 3 weeks out of training) deployed in

support of Support Company on Op FIRIC. All this whilst continuing to support the Grenadier Guards on Op TEMPERER and ensuring the Contractor back in Combermere Barracks had the required chefs to fulfil the contract. The team even managed to support the Army Cadet Force Buckinghamshire on their annual camp at short notice with Sodexo pulling out.

What an absolute outstanding year for the catering department with deployments and more to come next year already supporting Special Forces on Ex Chameleon, 2 Rifles on Askari Storm, DSEI (Defence Security & Equipment International) for Army Headquarters, LONDIST with their Health fair, Cambrian Patrol, LONDIST on Ex Cockney Gibraltar and a final MRX for 2 Company before Op SHADER 14.

1. Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher presenting all members of the Catering Platoon with a Commanding Officers coin in recognition of their outstanding work and commitment to the Battalion.



THE OFFICERS' MESS



1

Taking over the Officers' Mess that was not only solvent, but with zero debtors, appears to be a first for the Welsh Guards and was a most welcome surprise. Unfortunately, the impact of Social Distancing meant we could not take advantage of this situation and throw a big party, so I resigned myself to focusing on infrastructure and ensuring the quality of food remained to a high standard.

Having taken over Combermere Barracks from the Household Cavalry, we needed to make our mark in Windsor and two days after our arrival, we held a cocktail party for the great and good of the local area. As a result, the young officers were tasked in turning the empty shell of the Mess into our home overnight and while tremendously commendable,

it did mean that our furniture and paintings were arranged at pace and needed some refinement. Therefore, with time very much on my side, the Mess Committee and I set about moving pictures and furniture from their hasty positions to more appropriate locations. Storerooms and the mystery boxes held within were ransacked, revealing a panoply of paintings, prints, books, lamps, and other Mess-like paraphernalia. We were also lucky enough to receive a donation of furniture from one of our Trustees, Mr Tony Cooper, the items added some much-needed comfort to our more spartan rooms, making it feel like the home from home we were after.

Thus far all the work we had undertaken was well within the normal bailiwick

of a Direct Entry officer, unfortunately to add the finishing touches I had to dig into the hitherto dark and mysterious world of contracts, much to the Quartermaster's consternation. Realising I would have to seek him out and ask for some money, I donned my body armour, helmet and gum-shield then went to Andy's Office. As with all Quartermaster's Offices, this is no standard office, it is palatial. Sofas adorned with blue-red-blue silk, pillows of duck down destined for the Commanding Officer's room, (but somehow never made it), and Welsh Guards cyphers everywhere you look. Finally in the inner sanctum of the LE lair, I set about asking for my wish list.

Rather than trying to explain it, I showed Andy the two prints of a painting by Rex

Whistler in 1943 of what the Officers' Mess actually looked like, and what it could look like – the resemblance to the 2020 Officers' Mess is uncanny. He understood my intent and by some miracle, the chimney was cleaned and certified, dimmer switches added to reduce the floodlight-esque chandeliers and curtains hung on every window. We now have an anteroom the Officers can relax in of an evening with a log crackling in the fireplace, and the lights dimmed to provide just enough light to read about the 'Girls in Pearls' in the latest Country Life. This atmosphere is immeasurably enhanced by the addition of a grand piano, with 2Lt Rob Cross happily tickling the ivories to entertain his fellows.

With the Mess now as

comfortable as the Guards Club, all sights turned to the quality of the food. It had been rather hit and miss of late, but this was to change as the RCMO, Andy Griffiths stepped into the breach and put himself in the line of fire between 'h-angry' Officers and the messing contract. After getting to grips with the details of the Aramark contract, change was afoot, the menu revamped and the Mess happy once again. With restrictions lifted, plans are underway to breathe new life into the building with some parties. We have already managed a Ladies Dinner Night and the Commanding Officer's dining out and we are looking forward to entertaining the WO and Sgts Mess towards the end of the year. With luck, we will finally manage to host an Officers' Mess ball before the year is out.

Despite the challenges of the past 12 months and progress made in all areas, it is safe to say that the future of the Mess is secure, and we are back on track for a fun-packed year ahead.

In closing, the entire mess membership would like to express their gratitude to the late Colonel David Lewis (RIP) and Mrs Sue Lewis for the very generous legacy donation given to the Mess in Colonel David's memory.



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1. Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher's dining out.
2. Post Dinner drinks.
3. The final few.



THE WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS



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The past twelve months have been very busy and demanding for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After a successful Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) package in Thetford we then saw elements of the Sergeants' Mess deploy on Op SHADER across Iraq, Kuwait and Cyprus. This saw all The Prince of Wales's Company Mess Members deploying under WO2 Company Sergeant Major Davies 96 for a six-month period to Erbil. This also saw the Regimental Sergeant Major being part of a mobile training team at the 1st Military Academy in Baghdad along with members of the Scots Guards delivering an Instructors Development Course.

In addition to this we saw all our Support Company Mess Members deploy to the Falkland Islands as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) for 12 weeks with the poignant moment being that they were present for the 39th anniversary of the Falkland Islands conflict. CSgt Pheasey and members of the Company conducted a charity march from Mount Pleasant Airport to Port Stanley covering 56km. This was a great effort for all involved in testing weather conditions.

WO2 (Recruiting Warrant Officer) Hughes did a great job in organising and running the Battalion pace sticking competition which

saw Number 2 Company take the top prize and Sgt Frowen winning 'Best Sticker'. Company Sergeant Major McEvoy then took a Battalion team to the World Championships at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst which saw us come 3rd overall and Company Sergeant Major McEvoy winning 'Best Driver' at the event.

As we come out of the Coronavirus pandemic and restrictions are slowly lifted, we have been able to say goodbye and celebrate the career of those coming to the end of their service. This has seen Capt Parry 19 (former RSM), WO2 Green, CSgt Bick, CSgt Fuller, Sgt

Duffy and Sgt Evans 07 being dined out by the Mess. In addition to this and following tradition we have also dined out Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher as the Commanding Officer and Major Campbell as the Quartermaster. All will be hugely missed, and we wish them all the best for the future.

Also, as a mess in conjunction with the Officers' Mess, we held a charity evening in order to raise money for Sgt Hillier's two young sons. Sgt Hillier tragically died in March of this year at Castlemartin Ranges and at the time the mess members were unable to say a proper goodbye to him due the restrictions in place. The Charity night



allowed us to do this as well as raise a considerable amount of money which will be used to support his sons as they reach adulthood. As the Regimental Sergeant Major, I was extremely proud and moved to see the effort and unbelievable generosity which took place in order to make the evening a success and fitting for such an unbelievable soldier and friend to us all.

The mess has also kindly been used for functions by the Welsh Guards Association, London Branch and Household Cavalry Thanksgiving Service. As we see out this year, we look forward to the 71st Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Club dinner and then the Christmas Ball. It will be first time since 2019 that we would be able to host either event. Both events give us the opportunity to catch up with many old friends and thank all the wives, husbands and partners for their continued support to the mess.

During the last few months, we have said farewell to the following Seniors as they have been posted out: WO2 Lewis (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant at the Army Training Regiment Winchester), WO2 Walton (Company Sergeant Major at Guards Training Company) and WO2 McEvoy (Company Sergeant Major at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst).

The Mess seniors are: WO1 (RSM) Cope, WO2 (RQMS M) Peters, WO2 (RQMS T) Heath, WO2 (DSgt) Johnson, WO2 (Master Tailor) Wilks, WO2 (RWO) Hughes, WO2 (RCWO) Moffat, WO2 (ASM) Carlin, WO2 (RAWO) Cofie, WO2 (CSMIM) Green, WO2 (CSMIM) Scarf, WO2 (CSM) Davies 96, WO2 (CSM) Greaves, WO2 (CSM) Evans 31, WO2 Thomas 90 (CSM), WO2 (CSM) Cunningham and WO2 (MorWO) Deren.

Promotions: WO2 Greaves (CSM No 2 Coy), WO2 Thomas 90 (CSM HQ Coy) and WO2 (MorWO) Deren.

1. Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher receiving his presentation from the Regimental Sergeant Major during his dining out by the Sergeants' Mess.
2. Dining out of CSgt Bick, CSgt Fuller, Sgt Duffy and Sgt Evans 07.
3. LSgt Jones 88 and LSgt Moriarty
4. Regimental Sergeant Major observing No 2 Coy on their Coy Attack on Ex DRAGONS TAIL.
5. LSgt Jones 88 attacking the Assault Course.
6. Sgt Stallard R Signals had been attached to the Welsh Guards since 2019 and in May 21 decided to transfer to the Welsh Guards. Captain Griffiths presents him with his Welsh Guards beret and sash.





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| | | | | | |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|----------|
| Maj | Hallatt | LSgt | Gurney | LCpl | Miles |
| W02 | McGowan | LSgt | Lockwood | LCpl | Oyeniran |
| W02 | Grimwood | LSgt | Lovell | LCpl | Philp |
| CSgt | Holt | LSgt | Mason | LCpl | Ramplin |
| CSgt | Hunter | LSgt | Shellard | Musn | Bucknell |
| CSgt | Mercer | LSgt | Shepherd | Musn | Coleman |
| CSgt | Smout | LSgt | Wilcox | Musn | Graham |
| Sgt | Barnett | LCpl | Armstrong | Musn | Herman |
| Sgt | Clark | LCpl | Austwick | Musn | Howard |
| Sgt | Compson | LCpl | Coetzer | Musn | Milne |
| Sgt | Lightfoot | LCpl | Cook | Musn | Musto |
| Sgt | Milward | LCpl | Dann | Musn | Smith |
| Sgt | Noble | LCpl | Elder | Musn | Stowell |
| LSgt | Cole | LCpl | Hirst | Musn | Williams |
| LSgt | Ellen | LCpl | Howard | | |



2

Band of the Welsh Guards

By Lance Corporal A Hirst

As the country embraces the transition back into a more familiar way of life, so do the Band of the Welsh Guards; diving back into public duties and our role at the forefront of state ceremonial engagements.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic the Band of the Welsh Guards have been supporting Op RESCRIPT wherever possible - Op RESCRIPT is the code name for the British military operation to help tackle the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom. 2021 has been no different with a quarter of the band supporting testing at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. "The experience at Royal Hospital Chelsea was inspiring, to get to know the Chelsea pensioners and

contribute to keeping them safe. Out of work hours I was taught to play bowls by a Chelsea Pensioner." reflects Musn James Graham "I won't forget the walks I took around the historic grounds and taking in the stories from their time in the army was really special".

When HRH The Duke of Edinburgh passed away in April the Household Division honoured his long and committed life as the royal consort. LCpl Elizabeth Libby and LSgt Maria Lacey

supported the Band of the Scots Guards during HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's Ceremonial Royal Funeral at Windsor Castle on Saturday 17th April. Both members have since been posted; LCpl Libby to British Army Band Sandhurst and LSgt Lacey to the Army Training Regiment Winchester respectively meaning this was one of the final key ceremonial events for both as part of the Household Division.

Meanwhile the remainder of the band were equally hard at work in the recording studio. An intense period of rehearsals led to the band capturing world class recordings of CSgt Andrew Mercer performing Tom Davoren's Variations on Calon Lan for Solo Trombone, and LSgt Stephen Shepherd performing Eric Coates' Saxo-Rhapsody. The first of two recording sessions this year.

More recently the band has been recording original music written for symphonic wind band which commemorates the legacy and closure of The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Reduced in size the Massed Bands of the Household Division prepared for the Queen's Birthday Parade at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow. Unfortunately this meant many members of the band missed out on the opportunity to Troop the Colour. Performing in his first Queen's Birthday Parade LCpl Ed Austwick was new to the Band of the Welsh Guards at the start of the pandemic. Having received one of only 20 tickets to watch the Scots Guards Troop their colour in front of Her Majesty The Queen, LCpl Austwick's partner Hannah was witnessing the massed bands for the first



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time, "I didn't know the piece of music the band were playing, but the sound the massed bands made as they came through the gates into Windsor Castle was incredible. It made me really proud of Ed (LCpl Austwick), it was truly amazing!"

In July we saw the return of red tunics and bearskin caps to Horse Guards Parade in this year's Military Musical Spectacular, The Sword & The Crown. The Massed Bands of the Household Division put on a phenomenal performance. During three nights of musical excellence and military precision, the parade celebrated all things British. A team of arrangers from the Household Division Bands collaborated to produce a first-class arrangement of music from the James Bond films which included solos from some of the finest performers in the division.

Colonel Victoria Reid OBE, Colonel Royal Corps of Army Music (RCAM) & Commandant Royal Military School of Music stepped into the role in 2018. Having been told it would be

"a nine to five". Three and a half years later, what quickly became a labour of love, resulted in lots of positive changes being injected into the Corps by Col Reid. As her tenure came to an end, the Band of the Welsh Guards paid her the respect she had not only commanded but earned by performing a fanfare written by Major Craig Hallatt in her honour. The fanfare team took her on a musical journey through her time with RCAM. Maj Hallatt presented Col Reid with the score and passed on the gratitude of all those she served during her time as Col RCAM.

Travel has been a stunted element of life in military music during the pandemic, so the band were delighted when the opportunity to travel to Germany came around in August. Following a long coach journey the band performed at the 75th birthday celebration of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, within the pristine grounds of the Düsseldorf racecourse. The band were at the forefront of the ceremony, providing music for the arrival of Chancellor Angela Merkel.



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Keeping with the subject of travel the band recently began to partake in Adventurous Training again with LCpl Matthew Howard taking the British Army Band Colchester on a Hill Walking expedition in Cornwall and LSgt Tiffany Ellen and LCpl Emma Dann completing the Dive Leader Course in Cyprus.

In September the band had the honour of demonstrating the UK's solidarity with our US Allies, 20 years on from the events of 9/11. During the changing of the guard ceremony at Windsor Castle, the band played a selection of American music and the US National Anthem. A fine performance from the band, retired Director of Music Lt Colonel Stuart Watts remarked "I much enjoyed the whole performance, it got me reminiscing about my luck in having had that band".

Sadly over the recent months we have had to say goodbye to a good number of beloved colleagues as they either move on from Army life or take on a new career path within the military.

The Band of the Welsh Guards extends its best wishes to Major Stuart Halliday as he takes up his new post as the Director of Music with the Band of the Coldstream Guards. Major Halliday was assigned to the Band of the Welsh Guards in July 2019 and has continued to direct the band through this unprecedented period, leading operationally, and conducting on a number of successful CD and Regimental recordings.

We also bid a fond farewell to Colour Sergeant Christopher Blue. CSgt Blue has served in the band for over 7 years as one of our saxophonists, completing tours of Canada, Jordan, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Germany and India. We wish him every success as he takes up his new post within the Household Division Bands Headquarters.

Bass Trombonist Sgt Lee Fomes has also taken up a career change within the army. Sgt Fomes spent 9 years in the band and has recently played a pivotal role in G4 administration as part of the Household Division pandemic relief efforts.

Finally we say farewell and 'bon voyage' to Musician Jack Finney as he undergoes his transfer into the Royal Navy Police.

Back in July 2021 the Band of the Welsh Guards were delighted to welcome Director of Music, Major Craig Hallatt. Maj Hallatt joined the Army in Sept 1985. After qualifying to be a Bandmaster in 2000, he saw subsequent tours at the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division and The Life Guards. Major Hallatt was commissioned to become the SO3 Recruiting for the Corps of Army Music in 2007 following which he became Director of Music of the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. In September 2011, Major Hallatt was appointed as the last Director of Music of The Royal Artillery Woolwich Band and saw their departure from Woolwich after 252 years. He was deployed on operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Herrick 19. After a short tour as Officer Commanding Training and Development, Major Hallatt was appointed to be the Director of Music at the Band of the Household Cavalry. In September 2018 Maj Hallatt became the Chief Instructor at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

We also saw the arrival of Bandmaster WO2 Michael McGowan. In 2006 he moved to the UK from his native New Zealand to join the Royal Air Force where he gained a position with the Central Band of the RAF. Following his time in the RAF, his career took a slight change in direction and he joined the Royal Corps of Army Music with the intention of becoming a Bandmaster. He graduated from the Music Direction Course at the end of 2017. In 2018 he was appointed as the Bandmaster of the Band of The Parachute



Regiment. July 2020 saw WO2 McGowan assigned to the Household Division as Bandmaster of the Band of the Irish Guards. Whilst Covid-19 restrictions had an impact on large-scale performances, his involvement in projects delivering remote musical training and recording activity provided significant musical output in challenging times. He was selected for promotion to WO2 at the end of 2020 and was assigned into his new rank as the Bandmaster of the Band of the Welsh Guards this year.

Yet more arrivals came this year, seeing CSgt Andrew Hunter bringing his years of experience to the band. CSgt Hunter joined the Army in October 2004. A trained Drum Major, former Initial Trade Instructor and all round fantastic musician CSgt Hunters experience within Army Music is a greatly appreciated asset as he joins the bands Trombone Section.

Our Final welcome extends to Sergeants Liam Compson

and Peter Noble. As a multi-instrumentalist Sgt Compson has also worked as a singer and guitarist in the Adjutant General's Corps Band and the Royal Artillery Band contemporary groups. On the military side of life, he has served as a top cover gunner in Afghanistan with 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment on Op Herrick 11 as well as two musical tours on Op Herrick 18 and 19. Most recently he has been a phase one instructor at the Army Training Regiment Winchester and has just finished instructing at the Royal Military School of Music, training RCAM's Initial Trade Trainees.

In a similar vein, Sgt Noble joins us following a role as a phase one instructor at Army Training Regiment Pirbright. Previously a member of the Band of the Scots Guards, it is fantastic to have Sgt Noble back where he belongs in the Household Division Bands!

Having had a challenging yet musically rewarding year the

Band of the Welsh Guards look forward with excitement to playing a central role in Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year in 2022. Cymru Am Byth!

1. Major Craig Hallatt, Director of Music, presents Colonel Victoria Reid OBE with a mounted and framed fanfare written in her honour.
2. Whilst the Band marches back from Buckingham Palace, the brass quintet entertains the residents of Soho just a few miles away at their annual fete.
3. CSgt Andrew Mercer astonished the audience with his luscious trombone playing.
4. The Massed Bands of the Household Division return to Horse Guards Parade in style.
5. Musn Hazel Howard administers a Covid Test to a resident of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.



DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS as at 1 January 2022

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Colonel-in-Chief
Colonel of the Regiment

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

Her Majesty The Queen
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
KG KT GCB OM AK QSO PC ADC
Colonel G R Harris DSO OBE
Colonel (Retd) T C S Bonas
Captain E W D Andersen
Major (Retd) M E Browne BEM
Major C Hallatt BA(Mus) LRSM ALCM

1st BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel JD Livesey
Major TC Spencer-Smith
Major CEB Starkey COLDM GDS
Major AL Major
Major JM Young
Major D Pridmore
Major GCF Charles-Jones
Major R Sixsmith IG
Captain WD Clarke
Captain TR Campbell-Schofield
Captain TS Minihan
Captain OA Clarke
Captain J Brown SG
Captain J Blair COLDM GDS
Captain J Parkinson
Captain M Parry
Captain SA Ward
Captain LMF Vincenzini
Captain J Wilkinson
Captain OMF Powell
Captain G Davidson
Captain M Nightingale RACHD
Captain D Williams AGC
Lieutenant S Burfiend
Lieutenant T Haynes
Lieutenant JJD Phillips
Lieutenant CG Clarke
Second Lieutenant FWP Syms
Second Lieutenant T Brown
Second Lieutenant RMJ Cross
Second Lieutenant GEC Cadogan
Second Lieutenant FTA Babbs
Second Lieutenant W Jones
Second Lieutenant W Moss
Second Lieutenant W Comaish
Second Lieutenant R Flaherty AGC

Commanding Officer
Second-in-Command
Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Officer Commanding Support Company
Quartermaster
Adjutant
Operations Officer
Regimental Signals Officer
Intelligence Officer
Technical Quartermaster
Motor Transport Officer
Regimental Careers Management Officer
Unit Welfare Officer
Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Officer Commanding Anti-Tank Platoon
Second-in-Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Second-in-Command Number Two Company
Second-in-Command Number Three Company
Battalion Padre
Regimental Administration Officer
Officer Commanding Machine Gun Platoon
Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Platoon Commanders Battle Course
Platoon Commanders Battle Course
AGC Detachment Commander



EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL
 Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE
 Brigadier GAJ Macintosh CBE
 Colonel GR Harris DSO OBE
 Colonel BPN Ramsay OBE
 Colonel GCGR Stone LVO
 Colonel DWN Bevan MVO
 Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent MBE
 Lieutenant Colonel ML Lewis
 Lieutenant Colonel JD Salusbury
 Lieutenant Colonel TA Smith
 Lieutenant Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher
 Lieutenant Colonel TJ Badham
 Major AJ Salusbury
 Major E Mathieson
 Major CJP Davies
 Major CSN Fenton
 Major CHL Beare
 Major AJH Dunlop
 Major BJ Figgures-Wilson
 Major ER Emlyn-Williams
 Major AW Budge
 Major JP Marsden
 Major JO Dinwiddie-Choat
 Major A Campbell
 Major C Taylor
 Major JR Farmelo
 Captain D Luther-Davies
 Captain AJN Smith
 Captain OFA Alsop
 Captain JP Gill
 Captain TWJ Evans
 Captain PDE Razzall
 Captain CWA Ross
 Captain JJ Jones
 Captain E Griffiths
 Captain SG Bowen
 Lieutenant J Anscombe-Bell

Former CGS, CDS and Gold Stick
 UK Military Representative, NATO HQ, Belgium
 Senior British Officer, Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine
 RCDS
 AD Training, HQ Army
 SO1 Tri Svc Ceremonial Pol & Plans Main Building
 Commander Op CABRIT
 MNC NE J5 SO Plans Land Szczecin, Poland
 SO1 Plans HQ 3 Div
 SO1 Gulf & Commitments Int Policy & Strategy, MOD
 Op NEWCOMBE, Mali/ SO1 EU1 NATO HQ (from Feb 22)
 Head of Centre of Army Leadership
 SO1 Doctrine 6, ACSC, Shrivenham
 MA to Senior British Mil Rep, US Central Command
 SO2 Foot Guards, APC Glasgow
 Academy Adjutant, RMA Sandhurst
 DComd, SO, UK Space Command, RAF High Wycombe
 SO2 Plans HQ/ UK Div, Army Staff (London)
 SO2 G7 Coll Trg, HQ US Army Forces Comd, Fort Bragg, USA
 OC No 3 Coy, 1 IG
 XO J2 Division, PJHQ
 Resettlement/Terminal Leave
 Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land)
 Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land)
 OC HQ Coy 1GREN GDS
 LEOC Instr RMAS
 Resettlement/Terminal Leave
 SO3 ISTAR, HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade, Colchester
 Adjutant, ATR Grantham
 MOD
 SO3 Plans AS, 11 Bde
 SO3 F Ops B, HQ 12 Armd Inf Bde
 SO3 J5, 77 Bde
 Resettlement Leave
 ACI, RMA Sandhurst
 2IC, W Company, AFC Harrogate
 G4, Op CABRIT
 Terminal Leave

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, CATTERICK

Lieutenant WO de R Richardson
 Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson

Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company
 Platoon Commander, Guards Training Company

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF

DISTRIBUTION OF WARRANT OFFICERS AND BATTALION STAFF AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2022

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|
| Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant | 25079695 | W02 | RW Parry |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|

REGIMENTAL BAND

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----|------------|
| Band Master | 30003457 | W02 | M McGowan |
| Band Sergeant Major | 24899542 | W02 | N Grimwood |

1ST BATTALION

| | | | |
|--|----------|------|--------------|
| Regimental Sergeant Major | 25102725 | W01 | DP Cope |
| Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Main) | 25088682 | W02 | S Peters |
| Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech) | 25122844 | W02 | RJ Heath |
| Drill Sergeant | 25157883 | W02 | RJ Johnson |
| Recruiting Warrant Officer | 25124239 | W02 | DT Hughes |
| CSM The Prince of Wales's Company | 25136196 | W02 | M Davies |
| CSM Number 2 Company | 25173650 | W02 | CL Greaves |
| CSM Number 3 Company | 25176931 | W02 | DLR Evans |
| CSM Headquarter Company | 25100290 | W02 | J Thomas |
| CSM Support Company | 25189789 | W02 | K Cunningham |
| Company Sergeant Major In Musketry | 25085915 | W02 | CD Scarf |
| Master Tailor | 25095800 | W02 | LC Wilks |
| Mortar Warrant Officer | 25144996 | W02 | P Deren |
| Drum Major | 25225970 | CSgt | S Potts |

ATTACHED ARMS

| | | | |
|---|----------|-----|-------------------|
| 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 Cofie AGC(SPS) |

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 | DJ Davies |
| Cadet Training Centre Frimley RSM | 25105675 | W01 | J Owen |
| Royal Military Academy Sandhurst RQMS | 25036627 | W01 | G Williams |
| Army Training Regiment Winchester RQMS | 25142829 | W02 | DR Lewis |
| Infantry Battle School Chief Instructor | | | |
| Dismounted Battle Craft | 25102911 | W02 | RS Young |
| Infantry Battle School Junior Division | 25114097 | W02 | M Jefferies |
| Sergeant Major | | | |
| Royal Military Academy Sandhurst CSM | 25188733 | W02 | J McEvoy |
| Guards Company ITC CSM | 25171950 | W02 | D Walton |



HONOURS AND AWARDS 2021

COMPANION OF THE MOST HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH (CB)

Major General RJÆ Stanford MBE

LIEUTENANT OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER (LVO)

Lieutenant Colonel GCGR Stone

ROYAL VICTORIAN MEDAL (RVM)

Messenger Sergeant Major John Rhys Davies (formerly 24125128) The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (MSM)

Captain ME Parry 1st Battalion

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

25100290 Colour Sergeant J Thomas Op TORAL, Afghanistan

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 25188733 Warrant Officer Class 2 J McEvoy | 1st Battalion |
| 25225970 Drum Major S Potts | 1st Battalion |
| 25212666 Colour Sergeant S Marsh | 1st Battalion |
| 25200727 Sergeant B Thompson - REME att | 1st Battalion |
| 25145196 Lance Sergeant M Devine | 1st Battalion |
| 25224060 Lance Sergeant J Williams | 1st Battalion |

CLASP TO LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Major CA Taylor Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

JOINT COMMANDER Op TORAL COMMENDATION

24772390 Acting Lieutenant Colonel D Pridmore Op TORAL, Afghanistan

GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING 1ST (UNITED KINGDOM) DIVISION COMMENDATION

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 25124239 Warrant Officer Class 2 D Hughes | 1st Battalion |
| 25135065 Sergeant C Morgan | 1st Battalion |

GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING LONDON DISTRICT COMMENDATION

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 30042725 Colour Sergeant PM Small | 1st Battalion |
| 30017782 Staff Sergeant D Hammond - RAPTC att | 1st Battalion |

ACCUMULATED CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL (ACSM)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Captain A L Griffiths | 1st Battalion |
| 25129588 Colour Sergeant C Evans | 1st Battalion |



TRAINING, EXERCISES AND DEPLOYMENTS



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3

Exercise DRAGON'S FURY, Otterburn

by Lieutenant JJD Phillips, Platoon Commander

Far from the deployment to Kenya that had been the original pre-COVID plan, summer 2020 for The Prince of Wales's Company consisted instead of working from home and running Mobile Testing Units as part of the UK Government's response to COVID-19 (Op RESCRIPT).

It was therefore a welcome challenge to refresh our green soldiering skills in preparation for Ex DRAGON'S FURY, an 11-day battlegroup level exercise in Otterburn. Time was not on our side but, taking this in our stride, the Jam Boys set to work with multiple trips to Brecon. This gave us an opportunity to finesse low level field skills that would be put to the test over the coming weeks.

By the middle of November, it was time to replace the hills of Brecon for Northumberland. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the COVID-19 isolations, the Jam Boys were somewhat thinner on the ground than we would have liked and this was particularly true of the number of Non-Commissioned Officers at our disposal. Fortunately, their numbers were bolstered by a platoon from Number 2 Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards who had recently returned from a long stint of both dry and live training in Sennybridge. This left The Prince of Wales's Company with 2 platoons. We were still under normal fighting strength, but with more than enough manpower to push on.

It was on a cold and wet

afternoon that the Jam Boys, as the lead company, arrived at the airstrip in the south of the Otterburn training area after the long journey from Windsor. After a short period of battle preparation, we stepped off the following morning at the head of the Battalion to conduct the first clearance moving north. This was a particularly slow advance-to-contact through kilometres of dense forest. With the terrain proving almost as great an adversary as the enemy, the assistance of the Sniper Platoon in overwatch - able to pre-warn of upcoming threats - was greatly appreciated. At the end of a long and tiring day, the Jam Boys identified and secured a harbour area, providing a block between Battlegroup HQ on the airfield and the enemy who continued to operate to the north.

The second full day was once again cold and wet. It was fast becoming apparent that this was the norm in Otterburn. The Jam Boys were to conduct a forward passage of lines with Number 2 Company. This would allow them to become the lead element, from where they could further force the enemy back and seize control of a critical bridge. We followed



Number 2 Company north on to the more open and sparse ground providing a reserve force throughout their attack. However, we were not required. Once the enemy on the crossing had been cleared, it was down to The Prince of Wales's Company to echelon through and clear along the valley, soon to be labelled Jam Boys Valley, that the enemy were using to withdraw. Meanwhile, the Mortar CSgt and the Machine Gun Platoon were providing organic fire support, allowing us to keep pushing along the challenging valley bottom. Following the successful clearance, the Company once again harboured up for the night, sending out standing patrols to give early warning of any enemy movement.

To rebalance the Battlegroup the Jam Boys were sent west to provide security and a block on the exposed flank. After a weighty tab over some of the higher features in Otterburn the Company moved into a period of routine. This period included a successful platoon ambush, some continued harbour

security and numerous clearance patrols before reconditioning prior to subsequent tasking from the Commanding Officer.

Continuing our clearance north, the Jam Boys' final independent operation as a Company was to assault a main enemy position. Due to the strategic position of the defensive location, the Company inserted under the cover of darkness across challenging terrain. We were able to lead into a forming up position by members of Number 2 Company who had conducted an earlier route recce. On H-hour, 1 Platoon launched and cleared three enemy machine gun positions situated on the high ground with fire support being provided by the Machine Gun Platoon. This allowed 1 Platoon to provide overwatch for 3 Platoon to clear the valley bottom that led up to the main enemy position, a complex of farm buildings.

The enemy, commanded by Captain Luca Vincenzini, launched their reserve in a flanking attack onto 1 Platoon



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using the dead ground. Fortunately for the Jam Boys, it didn't take long for 1 Platoon to spot the move. We quickly reacted by switching focus to clear the new threat, allowing 3 Platoon to launch onto the farm and complete a successful Company effort.

Having occupied the farm buildings, the Jam Boys set up a defensive block to hold the ground we had taken from the enemy. More standing patrols were sent out, dominating the high features. These patrols withstood howling winds and torrential rain with little in the way of shelter. A trip flare was set-off by enemy badgers who were unperturbed! These efforts allowed the remainder of the Battlegroup to push forwards to our Company position, in preparation for the final attack.

The final Battlegroup attack started in the early hours of the morning. The Battalion stepped off complete down a steep-sided valley towards the main enemy position. This time, Number 2 Company took the lead, launching onto a large complex of occupied buildings. This was a quick success, but the enemy countered with a flanking manoeuvre, providing space for their forces to flee towards the international boundary to the northwest.

Supported by the Machine Gun Platoon, The Prince of Wales's Company set off in pursuit. Then followed a number of closely coordinated echeloned Company attacks, with the Rifle Companies pushing through the enemy positions, assisted by all supporting elements of the Battlegroup. The attack culminated in a final push up a narrow valley. With the Recce Platoon

having fallen under the command of the Prince of Wales's Company for this last effort, each of the three Platoons drove forwards until General Luigi Aquaviva (Captain Vincenzini) had been captured and all his enemy forces destroyed.

All-in-all this was a challenging exercise for 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and an excellent opportunity for a Platoon Commander. As a light role infantry battalion, November in the hills of Yorkshire is an environment we all like to think we are capable of operating in, but the reality of an austere uninterrupted 11 days exposure is always one that focuses the minds of all, young and old. It is an exercise that developed us all tactically and one that people will look back at, from across the whole Battalion, as an overall success; the honing of our core skills being the biggest triumph.

1. CSgt Marsh and Gdsm Major take stock after an attack.
2. Gdsm Suleman observes from cover.
3. LCpl Roberts offers up an option in an O Group with his Platoon Commander.
4. 2Lt Felix Syms conducts an O Group with his Section Commanders.
5. Sgt Rutledge advancing to the battle.
6. A sharpshooter marks his target.
7. Atrocious Weather leads to Glorious sunsets on Ex DRAGON's FURY
8. Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher, Maj Spencer-Smith and Capt Evans on the final position of Ex DRAGON's FURY



Op SHADER MRX (Mission Rehearsal Exercise) The Prince of Wales's Company in Thetford

by Second Lieutenant CG Clarke, Platoon Commander

Following a testing week honing their conventional warfighting in Castlemartin, The Prince of Wales's Company packed their kit and deployed to Bodney Camp, Thetford to begin a four-week training package in preparation for their deployment on Op SHADER.

The four-week package was divided into four phases. After settling into the relative luxury of Bodney Camp, preparations began for a Company live range. For many of the junior Guardsmen involved, and the author, this was the longest and most complex live range that they had taken part in. The range tested all ranks in a challenging advance to contact with a variety of targetry. From small buildings to wooded areas, the Company fought through numerous enemy positions to launch a final assault on a trench system with the help of the Machine Gun Platoon. 2 Platoon's rapid advance through bayonet and grenade positions in the middle of the trench system was unfortunately halted by an American aircraft landing

on the range. Nevertheless, faced with increasingly difficult communications and fatigue, the Company had completed the offensive phase and moved north to defend a patrol base. Facing targets at ranges of 50m to 600m, Platoon by Platoon, the Company fought off the enemy at night under dwindling illumination. This forced Guardsmen to rely on their night vision and lasers in order to engage and indicate targets to their Platoon.

A well-needed weekend of administration followed before the Battalion swapped their live magazines for blank magazines. The Final Training Exercise tested the Battalion in both kinetic and non-kinetic operations. As Headquarters planned and executed simultaneously,





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the Companies settled into a steady rhythm; executing and returning to camp to receive and deliver orders for the next action. A suspected arms cache provided The Prince of Wales's Company, including its newly qualified search team, the opportunity to conduct a thorough clearance and search of the village. With some gentle nudging from the Company Commander, the team completed their search of the village in good time. No shots were fired, the arms cache was found, and two villagers were arrested. However, things did not remain this quiet for long.

Having established that the insurgents were operating in our area of responsibility, the Battalion went on the offensive. Number 2 Company were tasked to raid the enemy in the night with the Jam Boys forming the reserve. As the raiding force made

their way through difficult terrain, the Company faced a long night securing the assembly area. After nearly twelve hours on the ground, Number 2 Company made their way back through The Prince of Wales's Company with the Battalion arriving back in camp just before sunrise to prepare for their final action; a village defence.

The Prince of Wales's Company deployed merely ten hours later to prepare defences for the enemy's advance. A quiet night of sentry and clearance patrols followed, before intelligence reports suggested that the enemy were on their way. 1 and 2 Platoon conducted several anti-personnel and anti-armour ambushes with a detachment from the Anti-Tanks Platoon at two key junctions. Whilst on patrol, the village came under sustained attack. Quick thinking and

rapid action prevented the village from being overrun and all casualties were evacuated. Stop was called and the Company took some well needed rest before the final two phases.

The final two weeks comprised of a training package followed by a test Mission Rehearsal Exercise, aimed at replicating life on tour. Medical training with amputee actors, Civilian Armoured Vehicle (CAV) contact drills and Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear (CBRN) decontamination lanes were all included before being tested the following week. The Company then deployed to a camp in the south of Thetford, that would become Erbil for a week.

As the sun grew stronger in Norfolk, so too did the threat facing The Prince of

Wales's Company. Patrols faced scenarios to test their training; from small arms fire to crashed helicopters. As patrols continued to leave camp out into 'Erbil', the threat to those remaining in camp rose. This meant that leaving the accommodation for a cigarette meant donning body armour, helmet, and indeed respirator towards the end of the week. Drones flying over camp and indirect fire tested the Company's ability to treat casualties and clear the camp. The Prince of Wales's Company continued to perform, with the Guardsmen enjoying the opportunity to operate out of CAV and crucially not live in a harbour area. The CBRN decontamination lane was the much-anticipated final challenge. A complex task that required concentration in the hardest of conditions by all involved. Undressing someone in a methodical way becomes

physically and mentally taxing when wearing CBRN suit, even in a mild twenty degrees. Nevertheless, the decontamination team conducted a textbook lane, ending the Company's time in Thetford on a high.

This marked the end of a high tempo and lengthy time away for the men of The Prince of Wales's Company. The performance of the Guardsmen throughout was all that a Platoon Commander could wish for and has placed the Company in a strong position to deploy overseas in June.



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1. Lt F Syms looking a little too comfortable during stretcher carriage lessons
2. Maintaining composure in a public order situation is essential
3. LSgt Okeke teaches the undressing drill
4. LCpl Viavalevu enjoys his time in reserve
5. WO2 (CSM) Davies and Sgt Hiscock take a condor moment
6. Welsh Guardsmen deal with casualties following a Road Traffic Incident
7. Guardsmen are required to operate as normal in a CBRN environment



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The Prince of Wales's Company Christmas Deployment

by Major C E B Starkey, Coldstream Guards,
Company Commander

As with many people across the United Kingdom, The Prince of Wales's Company, experienced an alternative Christmas celebration in 2020.

The vast majority of the Company, supported by elements of the Mortar Platoon, spent Christmas Day and the few days after on the M20, COVID testing haulage drivers to enable them to cross the English Channel and help Kent Police and Council clear the miles of backlog.

Having spent the final few weeks in work completing a busy period of infantry training in windy Otterburn and live firing in snowy Brecon The Prince of Wales's Company departed Windsor to enjoy some well received stand down with their families. However, as a unit placed on standby for possible tasking over the Christmas period there was

always a chance we would get called back.

Unfortunately for those who were 'on the list', Christmas preparation was tarnished on Christmas Eve with a phone call from the Battalion Second-in-Command, informing us that we needed to return to Windsor and deploy on Christmas morning to Dover. For those who live in North Wales it was a real case of move now. This is not the news that anyone wants to share with their family whilst preparing the Christmas stuffing...

0700hrs on Christmas morning was not a discovery of 'Santa has been', but one of probably even better news;

everyone we needed for the task had made their way, rather sadly for everyone and their families, successfully back to Combermere Barracks in Windsor. No mean feat on a weekday, but over Christmas a really brilliant effort from everyone involved.

The task directed The Prince of Wales's Company Group to deploy to Manston, just west of Ramsgate, on Christmas morning to conduct some initial training. This was primarily focused on how to conduct the Lateral Flow COVID-19 test; a simple NHS test that involves the painful experience of choking on an earbud and waiting 30 minutes for the result to be displayed.

Whilst the clearance of the runway at Manston, a picture of which the reader may have seen in the papers, sat with the Royal Welsh and Irish Guards. The Prince of Wales's Company were sent further south to the M20. The M20 was shut from Junction 9 all the way to just south of Maidstone with two lanes of haulage traffic nose to tail; one lane awaiting COVID testing to hop on the ferry from Dover and the other stacked up to join the Channel Tunnel train.

The Prince of Wales's Company sat under the control of 36 Engineer Regiment and worked alongside 70 Field Squadron with testing on the M20, before being bolstered by another infantry company from the Royal Welsh. In this context the performance of the Welsh Guardsmen was truly second to none. It was estimated that The Prince of Wales's Company alone managed to complete in the region of 4,700 tests in a 48hr period in challenging

conditions that included the wind and rain from Storm Bella. The revised mechanism used by the team was extremely efficient aided by the ability of the Guardsmen to break down the problems associated with language barriers very well. As well as enabling the M20 to be cleared, almost more importantly it enabled drivers from across Europe to 'move on' having spent, in some cases, in the region of 6 days sat on the hard shoulder of the M20.

Throughout the period that The Prince of Wales's Company were in Dover the Commanding Officer remained in close contact with the Company Commander, gathering feedback and ensuring that any support required from back in Windsor was in place. This included the welcome news that the Drapers' Company had very kindly provided some funds to support welfare activity which was very gratefully received.

The Prince of Wales's Company remained on standby to support any further tasks over the New Year. We then, however, switched our training focus on preparing to deploy overseas in the summer months. This meant we were very busy up until Easter 2021.

1. *Guardsmen deliver tests to a group of lorry drivers. The tests could give a result in 30 minutes.*
2. *Some lorry drivers spent nearly a week stranded due to the diplomatic impasse that emerged when French authorities closed the border on Sunday in an attempt to stop the spread of the new coronavirus variant discovered in the UK.*



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The Prince of Wales's Company in Erbil, Iraq

By Major C E B Starkey Coldstream Guards,
Company Commander

Op SHADER is a task that the Welsh Guards find themselves on for 12 months.

However, as is often the case, The Prince of Wales's Company has been leading the way and have been first out of the door. The initial elements of the Company arrived in Erbil Airbase (EAB) on 1 Jun 21 after a period of Covid quarantine in a rather uninspiring camp near Crowborough. The Prince of Wales's Company took over from Right Flank, Scots Guards as the United Kingdom Mobility Company (Kurdistan) (UKMC(K)).

The Prince of Wales's Company have quickly made themselves at home in the UK camp on EAB; a small footprint, but ours. The temperature was a shock to the system, increasing from a barmy 20-degrees in the UK (a good day) to double that in theatre. Whilst we have not arrived with all the Jam Boys it remains our intent to rotate

everyone through Erbil before we head home just before Christmas.

We operate across the whole of the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI), North of the Kurdish Coordination Line (KCL), primarily enabling the movement of key advisors who focus on helping the Peshmerga continue their fight against Daesh. This movement is conducted using Civilian Armoured Vehicles (CAVs) driven and commanded by Welsh Guardsmen. It comes with an opportunity to see a quite spectacular part of the world and engage with some of the Kurds, who are very friendly and show an incredibly high level of hospitality.

Erbil city is the capital of the KRI and has a staggeringly large population of around 1.5 million. Its greatest claim

on historical significance is that it dates back to the 5th millennium BC, making it amongst the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the world. Despite this, Erbil is a vibrant and expanding place. The amount of construction surrounding the ancient Citadel as the city sprawls out towards the desert is extraordinary. As well as providing mobility support in and around Erbil city a number of patrols move far further afield, extending across the KRI, giving members of the Company an opportunity to see some fantastic scenery; strangely very different to the ground we covered in Thetford on our Mission Specific Training. Longer journeys have taken us into the mountains, past enormous peaks, vast lakes and dried riverbeds, through large towns and small villages, and out to some fascinating locations to provide assistance to our Coalition partners.

For most of the junior members of the Company this is their first experience

of an operational tour. The nature of the battles we face are somewhat different to what the more senior members might have experienced on early tours in Afghanistan, but they still exist. There are inevitable issues surrounding different approaches across the coalition, but all are extremely well managed by everyone, even the Company Sergeant Major.

Members of the Company are participating in many of the base-wide activities that include fun (but extremely hot) runs and other sporting competitions. The 4th of July came with fascinating US-led activities in celebration of American Independence Day, all a welcome break from some of the Covid restrictions.

Job Zorbash, where the UKMC(K) are based also provides accommodation for a few other military units supporting Op SHADER. The Prince of Wales's Company are extremely well supported by a number of key enablers. Examples of these are



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the Royal Engineers who work tirelessly to ensure we have both power and air-conditioning; Royal Logistic Corps that provide key contractual support; the attached Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who do a fantastic job of keeping the CAVs on the road and a number of attached medical personnel providing us with medical support.

The newly promoted Company Second-in-Command, Capt Joe Wilkinson, leads on the vast majority of operational planning and the three multiple commanders (Lt James Phillips, Lt Felix Syms and Sgt Hiscock) deliver the daily tasks. Everyone is well supported by the Company Quartermaster Sergeant, CSgt Marsh, who works extremely hard with LSgt Collins, his Second-in-Command, to keep us well equipped. We rarely go wanting and despite a real hiccup when we first arrived the food from the DFAC (Dining Facility) is improving considerably. The tented gym - whilst tight for space, hot and a little dusty - works well and is heavily used, with a large number of the Company embracing their inner- Arnie.

The past few weeks have seen numerous visitors moving through ZORBASH, including saying our farewells to the Commanding Officer who will have moved on by the time we return to Windsor. Currently there are a number of Royal Engineers visiting us and getting their hands dirty, giving the place a face-lift. There are a significant number of infrastructure changes due to come in soon, meaning ZORBASH will be handed over to Number 2 Company, 1 WG hopefully in a better place.

Between now and Christmas there is going to be plenty of change here in ZORBASH and across Iraq, from the planned Iraqi elections in October to a dramatic drop in temperature. Concurrently to this there will be a significant change in faces as the Jam Boys rotate through as many Guardsmen as we can, helping to share the experience and capitalise on the development opportunity that an operational deployment offers to young soldiers. Everyone in theatre send their regards and love to our friends and family whom we leave behind. We are looking forward to spending Christmas with them all, rather than haulage drivers on the M20 like last year.



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1. Members of POWs Coy in front of the US DUSTOFF Medevac helicopter after completing some ground training.
2. Promotion of LCpl Mason to LSgt by Col Davis (COMBRITFOR).
3. Gdsm Howarth, Byron, Davies 12 and Jones 30.
4. Gdsm Jones 30, LCpl Mclean and Gdsm Hill in front of Sulaymaniyah.
5. LSgt Okeke finishing strongly on an organised US 5km run.
6. Another hot PT session.
7. Gdsm Salmon, Hill and Howarth at the 1st SFC ammo compound.
8. Gdsm Salmon, Howard and Underhill pictured at PUK leader Talabani's residence.
9. Gdsm Williams 45 at the M4 Warehouse in front of a Peshmerga Humvee.
10. LSgts Lucas and Lovell in front of Sulaymaniyah.
11. LCpl Mclean, Gdsm Jones 30, Weldon, Underhill, Salmon pictured with Peshmerga soldiers of the 80s Commando Battalion.





Op SHADER – Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

by Captain TWJ Evans, SO3 J3 O&D HQ BRITFOR (Jun-Aug 21)

The Battalion's commitment to Op SHADER from June 2021 to June 2022 includes a small team of eight personnel based in Camp Arifjan, a US-led camp, in Kuwait.

Camp Arifjan is the home of British Forces Headquarters (HQ BRITFOR) for Op SHADER Land, as well as the wider operational headquarters for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR), the US-led overarching operation for counter-Daesh activities.

Our commitment in Kuwait is to HQ BRITFOR and in the form of two staff officers, SO3 Operations & Deployments and SO3 J1, a J1 NCO, J4 NCO and a team of four drivers who extremely ably transport British personnel around the camp and wider Kuwait. These roles are, and will continue to be, rotated every 3-4 months during the Bn's year-long commitment to ensure we provide as many Guardsmen with the opportunity as possible.

Camp Arifjan is home to 5,000+ personnel, predominantly American, but from a host of nations all operating in Iraq, Kuwait

and the wider Middle East. The facilities are of the highest standard, with large gyms, high quality 'DFACs' or cookhouses, a range of shops, cafes and restaurants – it's all very comfortable! This is not to say that the pace of life is leisurely; the HQ operates on long hours for 7 days a week to support British personnel deployed across the Joint Operational Area. Principally this includes overseeing and supporting the company based in Erbil and the array of staff officers and supporting personnel based in Baghdad.

The work we carried out was varied as a team and ranged from coordinating the deployment of an engineer team to theatre at short notice, the overhaul of the reporting on British personnel, modernising and improving the tracking and maintenance of kit and equipment and battling the treacherous motorways



of Kuwait on a daily basis (the use of mobile phones whilst driving is particularly fashionable). The team did the Battalion proud and our reputation is extremely strong.

During my time in Camp Arifjan we have been fortunate to build a strong bond with the other British personnel (around 50 in total – mostly working in HQ OIR), as well as our American, French and other cousins. We play touch rugby three nights a week, battling the 40+ degree heat to sidestep, out run and out-wit our opponents – LSgt Putty, a semi-professional rugby player, was largely responsible for our success, ably supported by Sgt Lucas

whose quick feet bely his advanced years.

We would like to thank those we worked with in HQ BRITFOR for a fantastic experience and wish our brothers the best of luck on their deployments to Camp Arifjan during the Battalion's commitment.

1. *Headquarters British Forces Op SHADER (Land), August 2021.*
2. *The first rotation of eight 1WG personnel working in Kuwait.*
3. *Flying in the back of a C-130 Hercules, the mode of transport into Kuwait.*



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Op SHADER - Cyprus Reception Centre

by Sergeant DW Stallard - Cyprus Reception Centre (CRC) Manager

When 1st Battalion Welsh Guards embarked upon its 12-month commitment to Op SHADER, many job opportunities arose across the broader Middle East.

One of those opportunities is the Cyprus Reception Centre (CRC) located within RAF Akrotiri in the Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus. Acting as the gateway to the Middle East, this small team consists of six personnel ranging from Sergeant to Guardsman. They are tasked to provide accommodation, Real Life Support (RLS) and welfare facilities for transiting troops to and from the broader Middle East on strategic operations protecting the UK's interests. Although an Op SHADER mission, these personnel are tasked to support numerous broader Middle East operations such

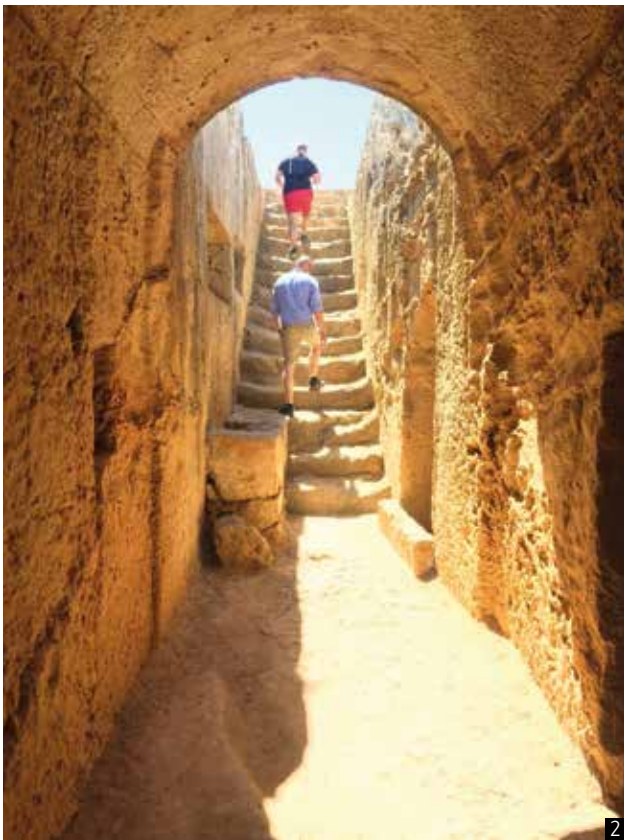
as Op KIPION, Op CATTALO and Op PITTING. This everchanging environment requires mental robustness and personal skills to link with tri-service personnel. The rank range that we deal with is broad and can be from Senior Aircraftsmen up to Brigadier.

Roles for Non-Commissioned Officers within the CRC included the flight co-ordinator, for which liaison skills are imperative. This individual is responsible for 24-hour flight tracking, scheduling and passenger manifesting for troops on their way in and out of

theatre. This job is vital to Op SHADER and all missions covering the broader Middle East, evaluating, and controlling passengers' accommodation needs and providing vital up-to-date information in a fluid operational environment. The CRC Non-Commissioned Officer would also deliver the initial reception brief highlighting latest COVID policy, unpopular CRC rules and vital safety information to as many as 70 personnel, all whilst interacting with high-ranking officers from each of the Tri-Services. Working with Tri-Service partners and operational airframes and timelines creates a dynamic environment that only the most mentally robust Non-Commissioned Officer can manage. Relations are pivotal in the ability to communicate clearly and effectively, something the Welsh Guards prides itself upon. The younger members of the

team are entrusted to work independently within the RLS role. Their tasks include providing meal forecasting (collection and delivery); the upkeep, cleanliness and security of all 15 rooms within the CRC main building; MT representation; operational welfare needs; G4 administration; and the replenishing of bedding all whilst interacting with high-ranking officers from across the Armed Forces. The environment demands a self-motivated, well-disciplined Guardsman who is often the focal point to represent the Battalion.

One of the many personalities to transit through the CRC was COMBRITFOR Colonel Mark Davis who awarded LCpl Rowlands-Bell with the Commander British Forces coin, one of only thirteen coins to ever be awarded. This award cemented the hard work LCpl Rowlands-Bell and all the team within the



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CRC achieved in their time deployed on Op SHADER.

The CRC is located within the RAF station Akrotiri, Cyprus. It was vital that the team exploit the resources available during down time and periods of rest. One of these opportunities was to visit local cultural and historic landmarks. Cyprus has a rich heritage and many historic areas of interest and one of these is the 12th Century Kolossi Castle. This is a former Crusader stronghold which held great strategic importance in the Middle Ages. With notable historic value this castle had many owners from 13th Century noblemen to elements of the Knights Templar. Another important area of significance is the ancient amphitheatre and surrounding city of Kourion. The original settlements and findings here date back to the Neolithic period, but

with its heavy Roman and early Christian influence this site's main attraction is its grand amphitheatre. With many attractions this vast area of historical significance provided numerous opportunities to view ancient ruins covering many periods of occupation.

Our time within the CRC on Op SHADER has proven challenging and has given us a vital insight into the intricate workings of all levels of deployed personnel. Our work has covered ten points of presence and the many dynamic operations on which the British Armed Forces are deployed. Ad hoc tasks are common and the small team from the Welsh Guards have relished the opportunity to provide vital assistance to all troops in transit who pass through Cyprus.



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1. LSgt Horrell exploring the ruins of the ancient city of Kourion.
2. The Cyprus Reception Centre (CRC) team and the Op SHADER QM department.
3. The Cyprus Reception Centre (CRC) team at Kourion Ancient Amphitheatre.
4. COMBRITFOR Coin.

Op TURUS - A Welsh Guardsman in Nigeria with the British Military Advisory Training Team West Africa (BMATT WA)

by Colour Sergeant Rees - Anti-Tanks Platoon

In Jan 21 five Drummers from the Corps of Drums Platoon and I conducted Mission Specific Training to deploy to Maiduguri in North East Nigeria as a Liaison Support Team and Force Protection Multiple.

The team consisted of a Force Protection Commander (myself), an Air Liaison Officer from the RAF Regiment, a vehicle mechanic and a Combat Medic. They were tested on live vehicle contact drills, mass casualty drills and conducted a final exercise in Thetford. The small team impressed the instructors at the Mission Training and Mobilization Centre (MTMC) and was awarded green on all the training objectives, rendering them ready and fit to deploy. Unfortunately - for various reasons, I ended up being the only member of the Welsh Guards to deploy on what has been an incredibly rewarding tour.

Nigeria's ongoing battle with a bitter insurgency and ongoing state corruption threaten the stability and political integrity of Africa's most populous state. Since 2011, Boko Haram - one of the largest Islamist militant groups in Africa - has conducted terrorist attacks on religious and political groups, local security forces, and indiscriminately attacks civilians in busy markets and villages. The kidnapping of over two hundred girls from their school in April 2014 drew the attention of Great Britain and other international actors to the ongoing threat from Boko Haram and the government's inability to contain it.

The British mission statement

for Op TURUS is to influence and train the operational capability and capacity of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and Multi-National Joint Task Force in order to counter violent extremist organisation activity in the North East of Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin area and contribute to Her Majesty's Government's policy goals and objectives. In 2018, the UK expanded its provision of equipment and training, having trained 30,000 Nigerian military personnel since 2015.

After a peak in Boko Haram-related violence in 2014 and 2015, the number of casualties attributed to the group fell dramatically. The Nigerian military - with assistance from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger - has pushed Boko Haram out of several provinces in North Eastern Nigeria, but the group retains control over some settlements and pockets of territory and continues to launch lethal suicide attacks and kidnap innocent Nigerians - these tend to be mostly women and children.

I deployed to Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria as the CQMS for BMATT WA - we were stationed in a small village that had small villa type apartments with a centralised swimming pool - not your average British Army deployment accommodation! The small BMATT team was tri-service and was comprised





of eleven officers (including the Colonel in command of BMATT) and four other ranks. As the CQMS I was the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer for BMATT working closely with the Deputy Chief of Staff and was responsible for all life support administration for the day-to-day living in Abuja and the Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) deploying to Nigeria. These teams were spread out across Nigeria and I administered all the land, sea and air programmes.

I was not only responsible for British Defence personnel. I was also responsible for eleven locally employed civilians, Nigerian drivers and ten Nigerian cleaners whom I had to manage daily. One problem that I quickly found out is that Nigerian timings are not the same as UK timings - if a Nigerian says they will be there in 20 minutes, you can multiply that by three! However, I quickly built up a rapport with the drivers and brought them back to a prompter UK time scale - hopefully they will continue

this in the future. Along with the cleaners and drivers I was also overseeing the fleet coordinator and the Motor Transport manager - a married couple. Both husband and wife have worked for the British for the last decade. Their knowledge and experience were invaluable. If there was something you needed and they could not get it, then Nigeria did not have it.

I also had to look after the fleet of vehicles that the team owned. This included ten soft-skinned Toyota Highlanders and nine Civilian Armoured Vehicles (CAVs) meaning I was in command of vehicle allocation. Obviously, I gave myself and the Colonel the best two vehicles (perks of the job). Abuja, being the capital city, was rich compared to some of the other locations. However, I soon found out that you are either rich here or poor - one or the other, there is no in between. When travelling around the city one would get stopped by children and adults trying

to sell anything from a facemask to those legitimate Rolex watches only costing £10 - bargain.

When stopped at traffic lights a lot of teenagers with bottles filled with water, washing up liquid and a squeegee would try and clean your car windscreen. However, every time the window cleaners used to spray the window to clean it, the automatic wiper blades would initiate and knock the sponge out of their hands. Let's just say I was never the favourite at these locations. Driving in Nigeria can also be very challenging. Many civilians do not believe that a red light means stop or even think that you need headlights for driving at night. This is true even on motorways. There was no such thing as an MOT and if the wheels turned it was good to go, even if the vehicle had no brakes. Another shocking sight was civilians riding motorcycles wearing a bucket as a helmet and roller-skate elbow and knee pads.

During the deployment, BMATT was preparing to move from a temporary to a permanent Headquarters. This move was my bag and my task was to ensure that the correct equipment was in place and that the health and safety in the new Headquarters was up to standard before it was occupied. Once complete we received a visit from the Minister Armed Forces - James Heapey MP - to officially open the new Headquarters.

Overall, I found the experience to be an incredibly fulfilling one with a broad range of new experiences and lessons learned. I would recommend a tour to Nigeria to anyone given the opportunity. During the deployment I handed over the role of Drum Major and on my return will be taking up the appointment of Anti-Tanks Second-in-Command.

1. CSgt Rees presenting the Welsh Guards plaque to the Comd Offr of the Nigerian 177 Guards Battalion.
2. CSgt Rees receiving a gift from the Adjutant of 117 Guards Battalion.
3. Boko Haram drew worldwide condemnation after it perpetrated a mass kidnapping of more than 275 girls from a boarding school in Chibok in Borno state in April 2014, which generated an increase in offers of international assistance to Nigeria as the country attempted to quell Boko Haram's acts of terror.
4. A Nigerian Army patrol. The conventional success of the Multi-National Joint Task Force in 2015 drove Boko Haram back into remote enclaves, where it reverted to a pattern of terrorist attacks that increasingly targeted Muslim civilians.



Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) April to Aug 2021 - Support Company

by Captain S A Ward, Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon

The Falkland Islands is a place that a lot of the older hands in Support Company know well.

Some individuals in the Machine Gun and Mortar Platoons are on their fourth deployment to the South Atlantic. The ability to take advantage of the expansive training areas to fire heavy weapons usually restricted in the UK, Battalion Headquarters usually deploys them southwards to train when there is an opportunity. The Assault Pioneers and the Corps of Drums are new to the tasking but have quickly written themselves into local folklore with virtuoso performances in bearskin and tunics on the drums and flutes, whilst volunteers from 2 R IRISH and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment made up the rest of our numbers to add a bit of flavour to our Welsh Gaelicness.

As for me, dear readers, this is my second time in the

Falklands, having deployed as the Company Second-in-Command for Number 2 Company in 2019. Life moves slowly in the South Atlantic, and not much has changed in the past two years. Penguins are still running away from errant Guardsmen trying to get a good selfie; the Globe in Stanley still offers the finest and most remote regional British night clubbing experience outside the UK; the wind still cuts through any amount of warm clothing you wear and the WiFi is still painfully slow. One of the few areas the South Atlantic is world-leading is their response to COVID-19, which is conspicuously absent on these Islands. We have enjoyed enviable freedoms such as not having to wear masks, socially distance or worry about the disease that has been the scourge of the

UK and the rest of the world.

With the freedom to live life like we did in the good old days before COVID-19, Support Company has made the most of their time in the South Atlantic. Determined to enjoy the last of the so called "good weather" before winter truly dug its claws in, the majority of the Company managed to go on whale-watching trips, sea kayaking, rock climbing and paddle boarding in their first weeks here. Highlights included seeing hunting penguins, dolphins playing and chasing kayaks and a breaching Humpback Whale soaring out of the water not 50 metres away from the whale watching boat.

The fun times over, the Company focussed on the serious business of patrolling the Falkland Islands, conducting Platoon training and providing a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) for the Mount Pleasant Complex (MPC). Unfortunately, due to various reasons, we have not been able to conduct much live firing but have had the chance to complete

most of our support weapon Cadre training – using the opportunity to triple qualify most of the Corps of Drums as mortar numbers and machine gunners, an impressive feat for this already highly specialised Platoon. Patrols are undoubtedly the highlight of routine work here, and we have had our men keeping the far-flung corners of these Islands safe – patrolling amongst penguins, sea lions, elephant seals and a kaleidoscope of other incredible wildlife whilst seeing the sights of the Islands in general.

We have been deployed over what the locals call "Memorial Season" and were lucky enough to be able to participate in the memorial of the 39th anniversary of the sinking of the RFA Sir Galahad in Fitzroy, among others. A poignant and moving occasion where we were able to pay our respects to our fallen forefathers who sadly perished in Bluff Cove. The Fitzroy locals once again hosted the Welsh Guards in the village hall afterwards for an impressive lunchtime spread, and the Company dutifully sang them the National Anthem (Welsh of course) before the Corps of Drums wowed them with a fine display of music and drummery. Memorial Season has given us the opportunity to attend Battlefield Tours of Mt Harriet, Goose Green, Bluff Cove, amongst others, and it is a real privilege to have been here for the anniversaries of such famous battles and, of course, Liberation Day.

Our final exercise, Ex CAPE BAYONET, was a true masterpiece of Armed Forces integration. Welsh Guardsmen conducted an "engines-on" tactical disembarkation



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off the back of an A400 aeroplane straight into contact in the defence of MPC before extracting a VIP to HMS Forth, the resident naval patrol vessel here. They then conducted a beach landing North of Stanley and then advanced West to take Mt Tumbledown and Mt Harriet back from the hands of the enemy. Heady stuff for the fine fighting men of Support Company – proving their effectiveness and versatility before switching back to non-conventional operations on our return to the UK for Op SHADER in Iraq.



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As we now handover to the Coldstream Guards, we know that our hard work will be continued by our Blue Red Blue brethren, and that the Falkland Islands will be safe until the Welsh Guards are deployed once more as the FIRIC.



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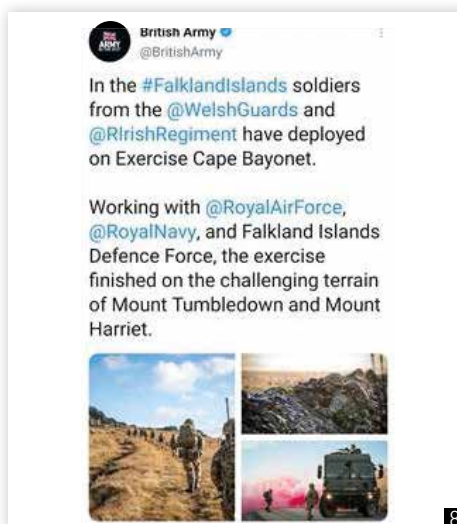
Many thanks must be given to all the locals that have supported us whilst we have been down here, as well as all members of Support Company, attached or integral, who have performed brilliantly on this deployment.

Nac Ofna Ond Gwarth

Fear Nothing but Disgrace



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1. Landing Day Dinner Night.
2. Support Company with the Scouts in Fitzroy.
3. A patrol is shadowed by the ever-present Cara-cara bird.
4. The Inner Guard at San Carlos for the Landing Day memorial
5. A Support Company patrol on Sealion Island.
6. Dmr Brain at the entrance to the San Carlos Military Cemetery.
7. Support Company in the Falkland Island Community School.
8. Army Twitter coverage of Ex CAPE BAYONET.



Ex TANZANIAN RISE

by Lieutenant R M J Cross, 4 Platoon Commander

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro is no strange feat for Welsh Guards personnel.

Indeed, the mountain has been visited by members of the Battalion both past and present with relative frequency over the past decade. Guardsman Stewart Harris, Captain (Retd) Terry Fade and Captain Jonny Leonard, to name but a few, have all summited the mountain and raised money for fantastic causes in the process.

In July, whilst posted to BATUK (British Army Training Unit Kenya) as part of the Training Wing team working on Ex ASKARI STORM, I was fortunate enough to have the time available to hop across the border to Tanzania. Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest peak in Africa and the world's tallest freestanding mountain. Its

stature is legendary and despite its accessibility for relatively novice climbers and it remains a challenging and very memorable climb.

The greatest unknown, and risk to success in my eyes, was how the altitude would challenge me. Altitude sickness is a seemingly random threat that can affect anyone regardless of their fitness. It was a factor that I wanted to mitigate as far as possible. Having been fortunate enough to have been at 2000m for a month prior to the ascent, I was certainly better placed for success than some of my other counterparts on the mountain. However, staying hydrated and well-fed would be key in counteracting any adverse effects.

I was to walk the 6-day Machame route, one of a number of varying routes up the mountain. My guide, a legal requirement, was Benjamin, a quietly spoken Tanzanian who had climbed the mountain more times than he could count. Accompanying us were four porters, another integral part of the Kilimanjaro experience. Tourism provides valuable employment to these incredible people. It was hard not to watch with wide-eyed amazement as they sped, laden with bags often balanced on their heads, up and down the mountain with agility and balance. I had a feeling of inadequacy on more than one occasion as they glided past, often with only flip flops or well-worn sandals on their feet.

The walk itself is steady for the first four days, allowing individuals to acclimatise at different stages. Walking through lush rain forest, day

one was a 10.5km climb up to Machame camp at 2980m. From days two to four, we moved out of the rainforest and into heath and moorland before climbing into what is known locally as 'alpine desert'. We hiked between 10-15km each day, climbing high and sleeping low. The terrain above 3000m is largely barren, although the magnificent Giant Groundsel plants, common on the mountain, could be found next to water sources. The absence of the usual conveyor belt of tourists was a blessing and due to global Covid restrictions, I was fortunate to experience the mountain in relative solitude.

We reached Barafu – or 'ice' in Swahili - camp in the early afternoon on the fourth day. This was the base camp from which we would make the final ascent to Uhuru peak. Leaving our tents at 0200, we moved under headtorch light and the mesmerising light of the milky way. The temperature was quickly below freezing and our water had to sipped with regularity to stop it from solidifying. We moved into the so-called 'arctic zone' at 5000m, landscape which was a combination of rock and ice. It was hard not to feel over-awed by the majesty of our surroundings despite the biting wind.

Just after 0700, we reached the summit at 5895m and caught the last of the sunrise above the clouds. After obligatory photographs, we retraced our steps back down to Barafu camp for breakfast, my heart and lungs grateful for the drop in altitude. From there it was down through the cloud to Mweka camp at 3100m before finishing the trip at Mweka gate the following day.

The hike was a useful lesson in resourcefulness. Tanzanians and Kenyans are remarkable in their ability to make the most of what they have. Nothing ever goes to waste in their communities. Additionally, the way in which each team of porters worked reminded me of the importance of roles and responsibilities within our own organisation at every level. Whether they were in charge of setting up the tents, cooking the food or refilling water, each individual had their niche and played their part with aplomb each day. Their company was invaluable.

I have gained valuable experience of hiking at altitude, and with adventure training and overseas travel

opening up again, I hope to utilise that to the benefit of the Battalion in the future.

1. *The Author at the entrance to Kilimanjaro National Park.*
2. *Looking out to the peak from Machame camp (2980m).*
3. *Sunset behind Mount Meru from Shira camp (3840m).*
4. *The climb was characterised by majestic scenery.*
5. *The author with his guide, Benjamin, at Uhuru peak (5895m).*
6. *The Welsh Guards is no stranger to Mt Kilimanjaro. A Kenya deployment is a fantastic chance to take advantage of the opportunity to climb it.*



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Op CORDED 8 - Lusaka, Zambia

by Lieutenant TRP Haynes, 11 Brigade Liaison Officer

Op CORDED is the operation name for the British military anti-poaching operation to help tackle the ongoing illegal wildlife trade in sub-Saharan Africa.



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I flew to Zambia in late June as Op CORDED 7 drew to a close. Only half of the troops remained in country awaiting recovery of the freight back to the UK. This window lent itself as an opportune moment for a thorough handover conducted with the outgoing 11X LO (11 Brigade Liaison Officer), Lt J Hayden 11G. It helped somewhat that James was already a good friend from Platoon Commanders Division, so we could get straight into the detail of what lay ahead.

Once the CORDED 7 personnel had departed Zambia, I was left to my own devices until CORDED 8 personnel arrived in September. Some local introductions had already taken place, however I had enough to keep me busy over the summer months. Gradually I got around town and met key players in the Countering Illegal Wildlife Trade (CIWT) sphere and more broadly in conservation. This diverse community was certainly intriguing with a prominent number with prior military service. I had the pleasure of meeting with many of our Zambian partners from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), the National Anti-Poaching Task Force (NAPTF) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Such meetings turned out to be great fun and particularly memorable, characterised by a certain Zambian sense of humour and hospitality.

Early on I travelled 5 hours west over to Iteshi Tezhi to visit a Special Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU) very much akin to the camp that Op CORDED 8 troops would inhabit in September. This camp was a joint venture between the DNPW and Game Rangers International (GRI). It was

an invaluable visit as I was able to recognise the considerable limitations that DNPW deal with and also the indispensable private contributions made by NGOs such as GRI who enable DNPW to operate more effectively.

Beyond these introductions and early meetings, I was afforded generous periods of time to enjoy much of what Zambia has to offer. I enjoyed a number of Game Drives, made all the more memorable with the superb guides who were able to explain any aspect of the wildlife in fascinating detail. The highlight during this time however must be four-day canoe safari I undertook with a guide called CB and his porter named Hagrid. During this adventure we saw more game than you could dream of, far more than in a vehicle or on foot, and we had particularly close encounters with elephants, hippos and crocodiles. CB had learnt that I was in the Army and I think he presumed this gave him license to be a little more daring than usual, suffice to say that he did just that and I was totally convinced that it was game over on more than one occasion with some fairly hefty beasts, both on the islands where we slept and in the water around us.

Back in Lusaka, Zambian elections quickly approached in mid-August with a mix of hushed optimism and widespread concern over a possible rise of civil unrest and targeted violence leading ultimately to a political crisis. The British High Commission had been following the events leading up to these elections with a close interest and deployed 8 teams on election day across the country to carry out election monitoring.

For this task they requested support in running an Ops Room from the High Commission in Lusaka. This was a fascinating period, allowing me to experience first-hand how the High Commission go about their business and how they interact with the Zambian government. Fortunately, minimal violence took place on election day and none of the High Commission teams found themselves in harm's way. A tense period ensued while votes were counted and mysteriously, all internet services were blocked for a 24-hour period. Over the weekend it became increasingly clear that the opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema was pulling away with a firm majority. A week later Mr Hichilema was inaugurated as the 7th President of the Republic of Zambia.

After a 10-day delay resulting from Op PITTING in Kabul, the Op CORDED 8 troops arrived in late September having completed Pre-Employment Training in Kenya for the past month. The following day we drove for four hours down to Hook Bridge Camp (HBC) in Kafue National Park (KNP). KNP is Zambia's largest park and is often compared to Wales as a reference for size. Op CORDED 8 troops will spend a total of 9 weeks at HBC, which will include 2 weeks of RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration). Medical rehearsals and local KLE (Key Leader Engagement) feature as essential aspects of the RSOI package with local SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) delivering briefs on dangerous game and counter poaching techniques as employed during the Rhodesian Bush War.

The Opening Ceremony recently took place with the Op CORDED 8 troops now set to deliver two training packages. A Counter Poaching Operators (CPO) course and the Conservation Data Analysis Course (CDAC) lasting 6 and 4 weeks respectively. The CPO course brings an array of infanteering skills to a training audience with varied levels of experience in counter poaching. The CDAC is more focused on J2 processes, with the aim of harnessing the huge deposits of the information that those in attendance have accrued through years of experience in this field. In addition to the above, Op CORDED 8 troops will deploy in KNP on live joint counter poaching patrols with DNPW personnel.

Concurrent to Op CORDED 8 the UK Defence Attaché to Harare, covering also Zambia, Botswana and Malawi requested that I attend a tabletop crisis exercise being run at the embassy there. This was my first time to Zimbabwe and Harare proved to be a particularly beautiful city. The crisis exercise was most interesting, entailing a triple crisis of Covid-19, political violence and a cyclone. During this exercise I was tasked with providing injects in the role of JFHQ (Joint Force Headquarters) in support of the Embassy's response to this evolving crisis scenario.

Whilst I still have many weeks left as the Liaison Officer for Op CORDED 8, I can say with confidence that this has been the highlight of my career to date. A deployment filled with opportunity and adventure; CORDED has proven to be a fascinating task to be involved with. To make a tangible contribution

toward CIWT in Africa has been very special and there are strong aspirations for the British Army to continue providing value and effect in this context. If anyone has the opportunity to take part in any CIWT activities, be that Op CORDED or otherwise, I would strongly recommend that they jump at the chance. The fact I am returning for Op CORDED 9 as the Company Second-in-Command demonstrates how much I have enjoyed my time in Zambia.

1. *Outgoing 11X LO Lt J Hayden and author overseeing Op CORDED 7 freight recovery, Lusaka Int Airport.*
2. *Guards cigarettes, Lusaka.*
3. *A bull in very close proximity to our canoe, Lower Zambezi.*
4. *A medium sized crocodile posing for this photograph, Lower Zambezi.*
5. *Author completes 75km MTB race from Lusaka, Lower Zambezi.*
6. *Op CORDED 8 Opening Ceremony, Kafue National Park*





Guards Training Company, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick

by Lieutenant W Richardson, Welsh Guards, Platoon Commander and Lieutenant T Haines-Henderson, Welsh Guards Platoon Commander

Guards training Company has been exceptionally busy over the past year; with the continuation of platoons starting at 48 men due to the sterling efforts of the Army and Welsh Guards recruiting teams, and the backlog of those wanting to join stemming from the closing down of ITC because of coronavirus.

The Platoon staff have adapted well and have come up with new creative ways of training with new social distancing restrictions.

The Nature of the pandemic has caused changes to the Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC), namely Trainee Guardsmen missing out on an insightful visit to

London District and an educational trip to the National Arboretum. To ensure Catterick is not forgotten, Major General Ghika has visited multiple times to reassure recruits and permanent staff as they are unable to visit him in London District. Despite changes in the training programme, Company Headquarters and

all training teams have been working hard to ensure that recruits leaving ITC are competent and professional Guardsmen. Key training outputs are still being met under the watchful eye of the Company Commander Major Danny Morrell CG, who took command in September 2020 from Major Alex Budge WG.

The evolution of training in the 'new normal' has not hampered the Company's innovation, the Combat Infantryman's Course in split into two phases, Phase 1 Basic Training which follows the same syllabus across all Arms in the Army (12 weeks) and phase 2 is Initial Trade Training (ITT) which focuses on Close Combat Skills (16 weeks). The new CIC 21 has just been introduced at the beginning of the year and will see training that better reflects the operational training outputs that Guardsmen

will be subject to at their Battalions. CIC 21 include more lesson using NLAW's as well as Pistol ACMT. The Guards relationship with the Commonwealth is still strong, with many recruits from Africa and the Pacific Islands starting training. The new system of 'Agnostic Loading', which looks to have Guardsmen going to regiments that will firstly suit their personality, but also direct manpower in the Household Division.

Recruits going through training have had to deal with being gated to camp throughout the basic and advanced phases, with only a short break between the two. These recruits going through training have formed strong bonds and it has induced strong regimental ethos's among the cohorts. The cancellations of parents visiting, and the possibility of a weekend off has meant



that the welfare team headed up by LSgt Rowlands WG have had to think on their feet in order to maintain moral amongst the recruits and permanent staff alike. The welfare system has been instrumental in ensuring that platoons have been passing out in good order.

Providing a strong guiding hand at the Guards Training Company is a dedicated cohort of instructors with a strong Welsh Guards presence. Lieutenant Tom Haines-Henderson took over from Captain George Davidson to join Lieutenant Billy Richardson in the 'Guards Cottage' and make up the Platoon Commanders. Colour Sergeant (CSgt) Christopher Greaves is currently employed as the training CSgt and is key to the success and the quality of recruits passing out of Guards Company. He is due to be taking over Number 2 Company CSM later in the year and we wish him the best of luck, but he will be sorely missed from Guards Company. Sergeant Braithwaite and Sergeant Small lead up a great group of non-commissioned officers all of whom are pushing for promotion and performing selflessly and professionally maintaining Guards Company's good name within ITC

Unlike promotion courses, the conduct of adventurous training has been prevented at times by Coronavirus. The recruits have been able to undertake hill walking and climbing at Halton training camp in Lancashire, which gives them a useful insight into what the field army can offer them after they pass out of training. Plans for Exercise ATLAS BAYONET, a School of Infantry sponsored mountaineering expedition

to the Atlas Mountains and Sailing trip around Scotland are hopefully still going ahead.

Looking forward to seeing out the remainder of 2021 before the new Combat Infantryman's Course 21 kicks off in the New Year. This refined course will continue to deliver first class Guardsman to the battalions across the Household Division.

1. Sgt Braithwaite and LSgt Ward Pass out 13 Welsh Guardsmen in June 21
2. 5 Welsh Guardsmen from Guards 17 conducting CBRN training on defence ex in Thetford.
3. The Weather doesn't stop training at ITC. Guards 17 conducting the RFT in Feb 21
4. What is the bayonet for? Kill Kill Kill. TGdsm Ashford WG, conducting Bayonet Lesson 2
5. Lt Haines-Henderson leading 21 Platoon off the square with the Welsh Guards Band accompanying him.



Welsh Guards at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Major C J P Davies, Academy Adjutant

The Sandhurst experience has finally returned to something that people would recognise from before 2020.

As one would expect, many of the traditional activities associated with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst have been absent over the last year and a half: no boxing nights; no indoor chapel services; no opportunity for the

Officer Cadets to leave the Academy during term time, apart from for exercise; few dinner nights and no social events outside of a platoon bubble; no sports outside of the platoon bubble; no Commissioning Ball and so on. Those Officer Cadets who

have commissioned over the course of the last year have had to demonstrate much greater resilience, determination and humour in the face of adversity than those who have trained at Sandhurst under normal circumstances. As one Officer Cadet said towards the end of the summer term – 'the only occasions I have driven out of the Academy in the last year, outside of exercises, have been at the end of term!' I am sure many reading this would agree that 14 weeks locked into camp,

to ensure that Covid does not spread and derail training, is not an experience one would want to have.

Since the Officer Cadets and staff were all vaccinated towards the end of the summer term, we have been able to resume most activities and the change in atmosphere for the better has been very noticeable. Individuals can leave on the weekend, once training is over, sport has resumed and anyone visiting would not notice anything different to previous years. The final exercise for the Senior Term has returned to Germany after a break of a year and a half. In September, we welcomed Lord Hague to speak to the Intermediate Term on his reflections on leadership; it was the first large-scale event he had done in 18 months and the first in-person talk by an external speaker at the Academy for the same time period. We hope he is the first of many.

We have been fortunate to also host some other high-profile visitors over the last year; the Secretary of State for Defence visited the Senior Term's Final Exercise in March, spending the night on a cot bed on the training area in Sennybridge



before watching the dawn attack and speaking to the Officer Cadets at the beret ceremony. In the summer, the Sovereign's Representative was the Prime Minister, who spent a large part of the day at the Academy and was clearly very interested in talking to the Officer Cadets.

There has been a steady inflow and outflow of Welsh Guards personnel at the Academy. In March, Major Austen Salusbury handed over the reigns of Academy Adjutant and headed off to Tampa, Florida as the Military Assistant to the Senior British Military Adviser. Colour Sergeant Green finished his two years at the Academy by commissioning his Platoon in the summer. Colour Sergeant Jayne will commission a platoon in December. In September we welcomed Company Sergeant Major McEvoy from the Battalion; he has started as a Company Sergeant Major in the Junior Term. Major Carl Taylor has arrived from the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land) at Shrivenham to be an instructor on the Late Entry Officer Course. Major James Marsden left in the summer after two years as a Platoon Commander and Assistant Chief Instructor to head to the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land). Captain Jeffrey Jones has been the Chief Instructor for the short courses and Warrant Officer Class 1 Gareth Williams is the New College Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. For a small Regiment, we are well represented at the Academy and it is reassuring to see that we are able to keep providing good quality instructors across the rank range.



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1. Officer Cadet Brown receives the Sword of Honour from Gen Sir Patrick Sanders, December 2020.
2. Capt James Marsden and Colour Sergeant Green with Officer Cadets Jones and Babbs at the end of Exercise Dynamic Victory, July 2021.
3. Major Carl Taylor has recently started as an instructor on the Late Entry Officer Course.

4. Major Christopher Davies on parade with the Prime Minister at the Summer Term Sovereign's Parade.
 5. Officer Cadet Freddie Babbs receives the Queen's Medal on the Commandant's Parade, August 2021.
- Photo's 1, 4 & 5 courtesy of Mike Smith LBIPP, Academy Photographer



Cayman Islands Short Term Training Team (STTT)

by Captain L M F Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

The second iteration of its kind saw WO2 Wilks and Capt Vincenzini deploy as part of a 14 strong team to deliver Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) training to the newly formed Cayman Islands Regiment (CIR).

After numerous virtual planning conferences, the team finally met for the first time at Brize Norton in late January. Unfortunately, aircraft problems meant several days' worth of delays and a stay at the infamous Gateway Hotel in Brize. Plane food for breakfast, lunch and dinner lacked a little variety and when we got the green light to fly, we were raring to get out there. Following a quick stopover in Maine we finally reached our destination, Grand Cayman.

The team were whisked through the airport and quickly loaded onto the transport to the quarantine hotel, our home for the next few weeks. Due to the extremely low number of COVID cases on the Island, the team had to undergo 16 days of isolation and numerous tests before being released. As everyone has learnt over the last 18

months, PT and daily quizzes over Zoom are the recipe to isolation success but even so, the team emerged a little bleary eyed and craving some company.

After a quick familiarisation with the Cayman Islands Regiment permanent staff and the locations we were going to be using, the course started the next day. The package was based on the basic training that all recruits go through, turning civilians into disciplined soldiers through an intense but structured programme. With daily 5am starts and numerous drill lessons, the recruits soon began to adapt to their new unfamiliar world and the strong characters within the group began to stand out. Further to standard teaching of kit husbandry, drill, navigation and med, the programme focused specifically on the skills and knowledge they

would require for HADR. These included the creation of drainage ditches, the use of ropes and pulleys to move heavy objects and the use of technical equipment such as generators and chainsaws.

At the end of the two weeks, the training package culminated in a two-day final exercise designed to simulate the scenarios they would face on the island in the aftermath of a large tropical storm. The team were fortunate enough to have the support of the local emergency services whose participation in the exercise added a huge amount of realism. The recruits were faced with numerous different scenarios including search and rescue patrols and casualty extraction from rubble. The recruits worked extremely hard and all of them passed the exercise, qualifying them to join the CIR.

In true Household Division fashion there needed to be a parade to finish things off and the final few days were rehearsing for it. The Governor and Premier were both in attendance and the parade was broadcast across the Island. With plenty of ceremonial experience within the training team, it was a huge success and a proud moment for all the recruits and their families. A reception afterwards allowed the training team the chance to say farewell to the recruits and permanent staff before a day of R and R. This gave the team a chance to explore the incredible island before making the long journey home.

1. WO2 Wilks and the author at the Governor's Residence.
2. A recruit being tested on Basic Life Support.
3. The recruits are taught how to use a generator by one of the STTT instructors.



BattleCamp in Oakhampton – Number Two Company on the Tors

by Second Lieutenant GECD Cadogan, Platoon Commander

After a busy summer of pre-deployment preparation for Op SHADER, Number Two Company switched fire to conventional warfighting on the rocky tors of Oakhampton.

Battle Camp was broken down into three distinct phases. Firstly, four days of platoon training culminating in a company attack, this lead nicely into phase two which was a short one-day adventurous training package and finally finishing with a two-day patrol's competition pitting multiples against one another.

Dartmoor has a history as a formidable training area and one familiar to the Royal Marines. On first sight, those that had been to the Falkland's recalled an uncanny resemblance with the rolling grass Moreland's topped with rocky features referred to as "Tors". The highest of these is Yes Tor which towers above the military camp at 619 meters. The first camp was established in 1875 and it has trained troops from the Normandy campaign to the Suez crisis. Nestled up on the moors high above the town, Oakhampton camp is surrounded by paddocks full of tiny Dartmoor ponies and small strips of woodland to protect it from the wind. The recent repairs to many of the camps roofs are still visible since the last storm. This was

a sign of things to come.

On the first day, the company moved tactically to Oakmont farm, where a company harbour was established in what is the only woodblock on the entire area. This would be a staging post for the remainder of this phase of the exercise. It must be noted that the local farmer was extremely hospitable and allowed us to utilise his spare barns.

Getting back to basics, the first two days were used for section attacks but with a twist. The large boulder fields and cliff obstacles of Higher and West Mill Tor's formed natural defences for the enemy providing a new type of complex terrain to deal with both physically and tactically. With each section running through at least 2 hasty attacks, the platoons peeled out and conducted hill assault training. This was formative learning, from top to bottom, with work on points from sky lining to difficulty communication caused by the high winds on such exposed hills. Storm Evert hit that first night with very high winds and although no trees fell, a



couple a bashas were seen going astray. The third day concluded the platoon training with a deliberate attack onto New Bridge. This left a 12-hour planning cycle for a coy attack five kilometres south of the harbour on the ominously named, Hangingstone Hill.

The enemy commander 2Lt Cameron Clarke, had free reign and he sighted his platoon on the northern slope overlooking obvious approaches from west to north. With clear killing areas sighted and open ground to cover, Major Alex Major identified an alternative axis of attack to the east, but the route would need proving with a tight timeline. Man of the hour, LSgt Roberts volunteered for the task and with his section and utilising a small five-hour window proved the routes workability and that the company could still achieve H hour. The die cast, the company stepped off in the dark in good order.

Squelching over boggy ground, wading rivers and clambering through tall grass, LSgt Roberts lead the company like clockwork into a stop short appropriately called Wild Tor Well. Tucked into the damp banks of a stream, the company saw the dawn break as a rece

group pressed forward to observe the enemy position. With the main defence position out of sight, a lone sentry screen was ranged in at 700m, skylined on the looming Hangingstone Hill. With eyes on, the bleak ground sloped up sharply however 6 Platoon, under 2Lt Brown, we're up to it. Under the cover of mortar fire and to the alarm of the lone sentry 6 Platoon advanced rapidly. Out of range, the sentry beckoned wildly to the remainder of the positions to reinforce him however by the time the enemy reacted, 6 Platoon were at the base of the convex slope and climbing fast. Breaking into the position momentum slowed as casualties mounted, but a foothold was gained, and the remainder flooded into the breach. Under covering fire, Major Alex Major ordered 5 Platoon to launch and roll up the enemy's flank. Assaulting across the slope, enemy positions would appear all of a sudden and a complex battle ensued with LSgts fighting individual battles.

Position by position we fought and finally the hill fell two hours later, and the company found itself orientated south ready to face further threats. During the 're-org' an intelligence report which came through

suggested significant enemy forces to the south and withdrawal was actioned. Pulled off the ground with vehicles 5 Platoon moved first, however 6 Platoon was forced to mount an effective rear-guard action, aided by the guns of Sgt Forde's gun group and safely extracted.

As the company recovered to camp, the last thing anyone damp from exercise wanted to think about was the "exciting" surfing day organised. Fortunately, a good night's sleep and good weather changed all that. With surf boards thrust into their hands with minimal training, the same initiative which saw success on the Tors blossomed on the rolling 6 feet waves of Croyde Bay. Direction was firm, everyone must have "fun" and this was achieved.

Salty and refreshed, the Company re-cocked for the final push. The training team had organised a two-day patrols competition. This began with a tactical phase testing multiples through attacks, casualty and EOD lanes. The second day involved a 6-mile weighted run into an assault course finishing with Guardsman led command tasks. This was a great opportunity for commissioned and non-commissioned officers to take a step back and observe the potential leaders of the future. Wrapping up with the results in, Number 3 Company won the day, however encouraging signs were seen from Number 2 Company with far more junior soldiers snapping at their heels.

1. *LSgt Roberts receiving radio orders while on the move.*
2. *Number 5 Platoon and its sections captured in 35mm film on Higher Tor.*



Op CROSSWAYS

by Lance Sergeant Sandison, Number 3 Company

completed the Sniper Section Commanders course at the Specialist Weapon School in Warminster earlier this year.

This allowed me to bid for place on OP CROSSWAYS on a Marksmanship Short Term Training Team (STTT) which took place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in August.

The STTT tasking group were required to train approximately 26 Royal Saudi Land Force soldiers in Marksmanship and Sniper skills. The task involved a 2-week training package to enhance the soldier's marksmanship and sniper skills, however due to Covid-19 we were required to isolate for 8 days and then required a further 4 days to recce any areas we were using. Overall, the trip lasted 26 days.

Personnel forming the STTT comprised of; Captain Roberti, 3 SCOTS, Cpl Limbu from 3 PARA, both who had extensive experience in sniping, and myself. A small permanent team were stationed in KSA (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) ranging from Lt Col to Sgt to organise the STTT tasks being conducted in

various parts of KSA. Also in KSA at the time was ex Welsh Guardsman, Major Thompson, who left in 1996.

Once we had completed our isolation in Riyadh, we were flown south to Bisha where we were greeted by the Educational and Training Services team that is permanently stationed in KSA. We travelled to the 'Military City' in Khamis Muchait, where the training was to be executed in a RSLF (Royal Saudi Land Forces) base. The small apartment accommodation, comprised of a living area, bathroom, and bedroom and food at the base was some form of chicken and rice meal for breakfast, lunch, and dinner! Towards the end of the trip we were delighted to be treated to chips! Khamis is located in the middle of a desert surrounded by mountains and rocky terrain and being at 2000m above sea level this became very noticeable whilst conducting any sort of PT.

Before we began the course,

we were fortunate enough to be provided with the opportunity to visit the city of Khamis and we visited a local area called Al Habala also known as the 'hanging city' which is situated around 2500m above sea level. Here was a 500m sky ride to a small village where we experienced the local culture and learnt that it had originally been inhabited by a local tribal community known as "flower men". We sampled local cuisine and coffee and had local traditions, such as dancing, displayed to us.

Temperatures reached around 33c during the day and 17c at night which was notably cooler than the often-unbearable 48c we were exposed to during our time in isolation in Riyadh.

The Sniper Wing classrooms and Sniper showroom had pictures and equipment to be utilised by their sniper platoons. We were introduced to the Saudi Sniper Wing Sergeant who oversaw training to the snipers in the RSLF and we also had the use of a small training area which allowed us to undertake sniper skills such as observation, stalking etc. The ranges were located approximately a one-hour drive away and



provided us with the perfect conditions to exercise and fine-tune our sniping skills.

Whilst we spent time in KSA we also visited the ancient village of Rijal Almaa which is claimed to be the first inhabited village, where we experienced more native foods and traditions. Near to Rijal Almaa was a mountain range 3200m above sea level where the locals socialise with their families and friends and participate in picnics. Whilst we were walking around, Ahmed, our translator, informed us that it was part of the culture to welcome and offer the experience to guests to taste their traditional dishes.

We attended the opening ceremony on the Sunday where we were addressed by the RSLF Commanders along with the students. We were thanked for our presence and training. The commanders were delighted that the British Army and Royal Saudi Land Forces were working together and after the ceremony we were given the opportunity to meet the students and start to build a rapport with them, we needed to determine the level of experience they had before we started their training.

Each student had different

levels of experience, it ranged from 3 years to 15 and. Some had recent operational experience and had travelled from all over the country to attend the course. The students had been trained by the Sniper Wing Sergeant previously, which provided them with a good foundation for their sniper journey. However, the personal kit and equipment they had was very minimal compared to what we are supplied with so we had to provide lessons on what they ideally should have and how they could make it. We were fortunate to have the 3 interpreters as the level of English among the students was minimal.

On the Monday we commenced the STTT package. Sniping has a lot of theory in it when teaching, however we found that the students understood easier if we used a more practical approach. Many lessons were conducted in the small training area on the base for the first week. Our training time was limited between 0800 – 1200 and so we had to utilise the time we had to provide as much knowledge as possible.

Our training included basic marksmanship and lessons on using their weapon which was the Coyote

7.62mm sniper rifle. We also introduced them to some of the sniper skills we undertake in the British Army, such as observation, judging distance and stalking. Considering this was the first time the students had received our format of training they absorbed the skills and exceeded in the practical lessons (even though during the stalk we had managed to catch the same pair three times!).

The second week was conducted on the range where we started the marksmanship section of the course. It was advantageous to us that they had similar steel targets and Advanced Small Arms Targeting System (ASATS) card that we use back in the UK. Initially we started on the shorter ranges (300-500m) and advanced to the longer ranges (600-900m) where we split the students into pairs to teach them teamwork and communication skills.

Part of the training required the students to practise shooting from tripods which took some persistence as this was their first time they had used them. The students were doing well on the shorter ranges but struggled more at longer ranges due to the capability of the rifle and firer. They didn't appear confident with judging the wind and accounting for it when dialling it into their scopes and I believe this was due to their minimal data on the ASATS with different wind directions and strengths.

From this observation as a team, we taught them the way we judge the wind strength and direction, which was successful.

After the extensive 3-day shooting package the team commented that there was a tremendous improvement in the students skillset.

For the final day we organised an exercise for the morning, the students were required to conduct a theory based on the knowledge they had gained in the first week and we then moved onto a Kim's game, mobile observation stand and ended with a shooting competition which was like the ACMT (Annual Combat Marksmanship Test) we use.

During the exercise the commander of the RSLF base visited to witness the training and see what the students had achieved during the course. He appeared pleased on how well they had progressed and again thanked us for training his soldiers.

The final day of the course was the closing ceremony where we were presented with a plaque and were thanked for our professional efforts. The top student was presented with a prize and certificates were given to the remainder of the students for passing the course.

Overall, my experience in KSA was very good and I enjoyed it thoroughly. It is something I will remember and take on lessons learnt about working with other forces. It is a tasking I will happily put my name forward for again and would recommend others to take the opportunity should it arise - they will not be disappointed.

1. *Range Day for the Sniper Pairs.*
2. *Sniper Theory lesson in Khamis*



Command Sergeant Major Kabul

by Warrant Officer Class 2 J Thomas 90,
Company Sergeant Major Headquarter
Company

Having completed my two-year posting at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Company Quarter Master Sergeant, I had the urge to have one final adventure in Afghanistan, so a few weeks of training with the team at MRTC (Mission Ready Training Centre) Chillwell and I was off on my fifth and final tour of Afghanistan, where I would be assuming the position of Command Sergeant Major within the Ministry of Interior (MOI) working within a 2* Command.

Having isolated at Shrivenham QFAC (Quarantine Facility) for a period of 2 weeks we deployed into theatre in Sept 20 and began a six-month tour, with an End of Tour (EOT) in March 21. The Ministry of Interior was a multi-national command headed up by a 2* UK Major General. Fantastic to work with multinational troops learning various skills from a variety of spectrums including the US police service to various multinational Intelligence agencies. During my time at HKIA (Hamid Karzai International Airport) we experienced an increase in the threat, which made the retrograde procedure even more difficult. Retrograde in UK speak, is to close down, a mountain of a task when you have accumulated 20 years of kit and equipment over various patrol bases.

During my time in HKIA I created and implemented a robust training programme within the MOI which included IDF Drills, Mass Casualty drills, Close Protection interoperability, foreign weapons training, and Multi-national Ranges, which were all supported by the UK NSE (National Support Element). These drills were well received by all personnel within the MOI and we rapidly became a well-trained team. Putting this training in place and maintaining a high standard of the drills saw me awarded the US Meritorious Service Medal, this medal being awarded in lieu of the Bronze Star medal for meritorious achievement in a designated combat theatre, a proud moment for sure.

After being in theatre for a month I was given the honour of planning

and conducting the HKIA service of Remembrance. A very poignant afternoon, as this would be the UK's final act of Remembrance in Afghanistan. Having completed four previous tours (three on Op HERRICK and one on Op TORAL) I had experienced numerous losses, including my closest of friends. To have this opportunity to pay homage to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice was a true honour and I certainly hope I did them proud.

COVID had a massive effect within Kabul, with robust testing being conducted weekly. All R&R was stopped and this was a real test for the teams. The face-to-face interaction had to be halted outside the wire and various online meetings were conducted. This proved difficult to start with as the Tech there was always faulty, however with enthusiasm and drive we achieved our aim and "business" continued unabated.

Overall, a very different tour to what I had been used to in the past, several hurdles to jump over from COVID to Close Down, but all approached with a Guardsman's attitude which saw me complete a very successful seven-month deployment.

1. Presentation of the US Meritorious Service Medal by Maj Gen EA Murchison DSO MBE Royal Marines.
2. Remembrance Day



Six months in Estonia – Op CABRIT

by Major C J P Davies

After starting my military career during a period where ‘going on tour’ meant sun, sand and austerity, I was not entirely sure what to make of being told that I would be ‘on tour’ for six months in Estonia as the SO2 J5.

Clearly it would be different to my previous experiences, but I hadn’t quite appreciated how much so; more 1970s Berlin than Lawrence of Arabia.

Estonia is home to a NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup (eFP BG), one of four such armoured Battlegroups across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Their presence in these countries followed the Russian annexation of the Crimea in 2014. The UK is the framework nation for the Estonian BG, supplemented in alternate years by either a Danish Company or a French Squadron. Canada, Germany and the USA form the core of the Battlegroups in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland respectively. In

addition to the Battlegroup, the UK also provides a small HQ, co-located with the Estonian Defence Force Joint Headquarters in the capital, Tallinn. This HQ, commanded by a Full Colonel (currently Col Dai Bevan), oversees eFP Estonia BG activity as well as other UK land and air activity in the region. The eFP responsibility also includes a UK Squadron or Company attached to the US Battlegroup in Poland.

The role is constantly evolving so changes in tasks and responsibilities are already likely to have taken place since I left in January 2021. My specific role involved planning for UK involvement in the annual cycle of large exercises in the Baltic region, identifying

opportunities for multi-national co-operation and co-ordinating the contributing parties. This could range from planning conferences in Vilnius for multi-national exercises in Lithuania, to liaising with the US 82nd airborne to plan how to get Army Air Corps helicopters and their support out to the region despite the difficulty of travelling across Europe during Covid. On a day-to-day basis, I was engaging with a wide variety of different organisations, from the Estonian Defence Force to the UK’s Land Operations Command to British Defence Attaches across the Baltic States to our Danish partners and US colleagues located alongside us as well as the various eFP Battlegroups.

The UK contingent in Tallinn was fortunate to be co-located with the Estonian Joint HQ as this proximity to the Estonian senior hierarchy provided a fascinating insight into their view of the defence of their country against possible Russian

aggression. The Battlegroup sits around an hour away from Tallinn, co-located with an Estonian Brigade with whom they conduct the majority of their activity. The tour for the Battlegroup provides a great opportunity for multi-national integration and for training in armoured tactical warfare.

Outside of the work environment, Estonia was a wonderful place to explore and to experience. Those in the Tallinn HQ shared blocks of flats and were able to make the most of all that Tallinn has to offer. After the initial lockdown in Estonia in early 2020 there were very few restrictions inside the country from around July to late November. Only towards Christmas did they re-introduce a lockdown and other measures. Tallinn itself is not the concrete, dreary cityscape you might associate with an ex-Soviet Bloc country, but rather is very much Scandinavian in feel with one of the most impressive medieval old towns in Europe. The people are incredibly welcoming, and all speak immaculate English, which given the complexity of the Estonian language, is a great help.

We had the opportunity while there to take part in battlefield tours, to visit some of the islands, to discover old submarine bases, to attend the ballet and many other smaller cultural events. This all made for a fascinating and very educational tour and one I would highly recommend to anyone who has the opportunity.

1. *‘From Windsor to Tallinn: catching up with Padre Matthew Dietz who left 1WG to deploy as the padre for the UK battlegroup in Estonia.’*



SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING



Polo Update

by Lieutenant O M F Powell, Number 2 Company Second-in-Command

This season has more than made up for the sporting desert that was last season. Not only were we able to practice and introduce members of the Battalion to the sport of polo but we were able to play competitive matches on multiple occasions.

The season started with an introductory session which allowed those who were interested in finding out more about the great game and gave them a chance to get on the literal - as well as figurative - horse. The first session saw Lt Leonard, Sgt Doyle, LSgt Roberts and Jones 88 (under the supervision of Maj Major) head down to Tedworth Polo Club on a Wednesday afternoon and have a knock around. From these beginnings a plan was made for the season. The Captain and Subalterns Match, Rupert Thorneloe Cup and the Adjutant General's Corps Cup were all in our sights. To give the team its best chance

of success there were a number of training sessions lined up at Tedworth Polo Club.

First on the calendar was the Captain and Subalterns Cup at Tedworth. This is a tournament that the Welsh Guards have entered into many times but for the first time the team was in the top division. We were to be against stiff competition with the likes of the Royal Yeomanry, Queen's Royal Hussars (QRH) and the Royal Artillery A team to play against. The team consisted of Lt Col Henry Llewelyn-Usher, Maj Alex Major, Capt Oliver Powell (the author) and 2Lt George Cadogan.



The tournament was split over two days. On the Saturday the Welsh Guards came up against the Artillery A team. The game was played over three chukkas and the Welsh Guards took a commanding lead from the start with 2Lt George Cadogan scoring two goals in quick succession with no reply from the Artillery. The rest of the match unfolded in the same vein with a few resurgences from the Artillery. The final score was 7 – 2 in favour of the Welsh

Guards. This qualified us for the final which would be played against the Queen's Royal Hussars the following day. This would be a much tougher team to play. They had a higher handicap and had played as a team for a number of tournaments, so they were well drilled. The match started unsurprisingly with the Queen's Royal Hussars dominating the play. They went into a two goal lead at the end of the first chukka. The rest of the match however was



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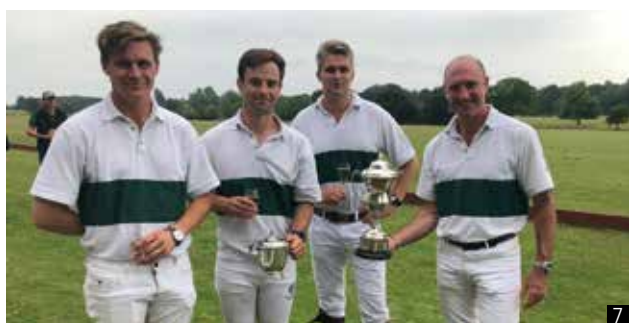
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hotly contested and when the final whistle sounded the match was drawn at four goals apiece. Sudden death penalties were to be the deciding factor in the game and unfortunately the QRH came out on top. This was taken very hard by the Welsh Guards team who feel these blows very keenly.

Next in the diary was the Rupert Thorneloe Cup played at Kirtlington Polo Club. This is a match that has been played every year since the death of Lt Col Rupert Thorneloe in 2009 and is incredibly important to us as a Battalion. In recent years the Welsh Guards have been unable to win the contest but the team this year was determined to change that. It was a wonderful day and is always well supported by the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The same team as the Captain and Subalterns took to the field and played very well gaining control from the start and maintain a hold on the match throughout. The final score was 7-5 and the losing streak was put behind us.

The third and final outing for the team was at the Adjutants General's Corps Cup played at Tedworth again. We played the Royal Yeomanry who were well practiced and had played a lot of polo over the summer. It was a competitive match and the Welsh Guards played with what the author would describe as dash and verve. It was left in no doubt amongst the spectators that the victors deserved the win with the match ending 7-3 to the Welsh Guards.

This season also saw two of the Welsh Guards team represent the Army in the Major General's Cup at the Guards Polo Club. Capt

Oliver Powell and 2Lt George Cadogan were joined by Lt Freddy Benyon and Capt Mossie Hamilton to compete in the tournament. The first match saw the newly formed team find their feet but narrowly lost by one goal to Sladmore. The second match saw the team really come together and win in extra time by one goal against the AFB polo team. Due to a complicated ranking system and based on "who beat who" the Army team made it into the final on Sunday. It was a big day with the inter-regimental final being played on the same day and the Guards Polo Club was packed with people. The Army team came up against Sladmore again but this time the team had forged a new competitive spirit and managed to carve out a win.

With the disappointment of last season this year has more than made up for it. We hope to go from strength-to-strength next year and continue to attract new players to the sport and play competitive and exciting polo. To play for the Welsh Guards polo team has been an honour that I shall not soon forget.

1. *The game demands skill, an ability to think quickly in the saddle and just a dash of courage.*
2. *The Polo Team in a more austere environment... (Left to Right) Capt Oliver Powell; 2Lt George Cadogan; Lt Col Henry Llewelyn-Usher; Maj Alex Major.*
3. *...and back in their preferred habitat.*
4. *The Army polo team at the Major General's Cup at the Guards Polo Club.*
5. *The victorious Welsh Guards team at the Thorneloe Cup.*
6. *The two teams and the Rupert Thorneloe Cup.*
7. *The Victors.*

Welsh Guards Cricket

by Lieutenant R M J Cross, 4 Platoon Commander

There is a Romanian amateur cricketer by the name of Pavel Florin who has captured the imagination of cricket fans around the world.

Blessed, not with natural talent, but with a fervent love of the game, he once said that 'cricket matches are not about losing and winning, it is about enjoying'. This is a mantra that the Guards Cricket Club very much adheres to. If we didn't, we wouldn't have much else.

The Club has welcomed a full fixture list this summer, with seven Welsh Guardsmen playing and/or match managing fixtures. Looking ahead with interest to next summer, there are aspirations to boost the prominence of cricket at the Welsh Guards. The intent is to host an internal Battalion cricket match next year as well as utilising our fantastic positioning in Windsor to make the most of the cricket nets at Eton College, who have been kind enough to agree to us using them. Work will be invested into creating a more inclusive cricketing community at Battalion and, with more frequent training, we hope that more individuals will turn out for the Guards Cricket Club in 2022.

For those new to the game, cricket is a sport that teaches individuals about patience, discipline and responsibility but uniquely framed within a team environment. It is a sport with transferrable skills to military life and whilst rugby is undeniably the pre-eminent Welsh sport, as Welsh Guard Major Maurice Turnbull proved in the 1930s, there is no reason why one cannot play both!



1. Maj Emlyn-Williams's team is all smiles despite an early season defeat v Eton College.
2. Celebrating a rare victory against the HAC.
3. Note from Editor - Major MJL Turnbull Welsh Guards. The only sportsman to play test cricket for England and rugby union for Wales. He represented Wales at hockey and squash and was Welsh Champion. He played cricket for Glamorgan between 1924-39 and was the Captain and Secretary in a tumultuous decade for the club. He was a Test Selector and captained Cambridge University. As a Major in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards he was killed instantly by a sniper's bullet during intense fighting for the French village of Montchamp after the Normandy landings in 1944. (photo credit - Wikipedia)
4. Maurice Turnbull as seen in the nets at Fenner's in 1992 (photo credit - Glamorgan Cricket Archive)





Battalion Long-Distance Running

by Colour Sergeant Marsh

Another year has passed, and another season disrupted with cancellations and postponements of the regular events that fill the Battalion's Long Distance Running calendar.

However, this year we weren't going down without a fight and members of the Battalion came up with new and innovative ways to re-create events and challenges.

One of these was by using Strava - the tracking, performance, and social network for athletes, used by millions of runners and cyclists around the world - on which the running team has its own group with over 60 runners. It has been a source of friendly competition in seeing who can accumulate the highest number of average miles.

Over 20/21 July, during the summer heat, Captain Parry (the Welfare Officer), WO1

Cope (Regimental Sergeant Major) and Sgt Parry 26 of Number 2 Company took part in a 24-hour running challenge (aka Running in Mind). This saw them run for one hour and rest for two hours across a 24-hour period to raise money for the Welsh Guards Charity. They did unbelievably well considering the temperatures they faced and they still managed to clock over 170 miles in total and raised over £900 for the charity.

Sgt Ben Davies of Number 3 Company found a gap provided by the Pandemic downtime to take running a stage further and decided to enter his first 70.3 Ironman in Staffordshire. This is also

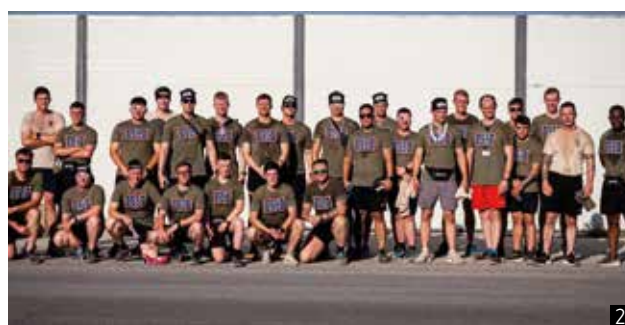
known as a Half Ironman and is one of a series of long-distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corporation. He finished with a very respectful time and will have no doubt motivated and inspired others to give it a try (excuse the pun)!

The Prince of Wales's Company was deployed to Iraq on Op SHADER at the time of writing and not long after they landed they took part in a 5km fun run put on by the American USO (United Service Organisations). This was used as a good base for acclimatization to the warm weather and to prepare for future events up to marathon distanced planned - it is covered in their Company article.

Overall 2021 has been a bit of a rollercoaster, hit and miss year with disappointment for some but yet achievement for others. The key has been to find new opportunities and think outside the box in spite of the cancellations of the traditional

events. We very much look forward to next season when we hope to all get back together to compete as a organised team in the regional cross country competitions. I hugely recommend the Running Team to all Welsh Guardsmen as a great way to keep fit and challenge yourself.

1. Sgt Davies of Number 3 Company crosses the finish line of his Ironman 70.3 in Staffordshire.
2. Sgt Parry 26, Capt M Parry, WO1 (RSM) D Cope at the completion of the 24 hour running challenge in July 2021.
3. 4th July USO (United Services Organisation) fun run conducted as Coy PT on Erbil Airbase.
4. The Run to Remember Half Marathon





The Lawson Cup

by Captain LMF Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

The Lawson Cup, also known as the Household Division Athletics Competition, has remained untouched by the Welsh Guards since 1989.

However, under the watchful eye of Staff Sergeant Hammond RAPTC, a team was handpicked with the intent on bringing back the cup at long last. With a large contingent of the Battalion deployed on Op SHADER, the athlete pool was slimmer than normal but with numerous keen volunteers, particularly Guardsmen, the team looked strong.

The competition took place at the Thames Valley Stadium, a short drive from Combermere Barracks, in early September. With clear blue skies and sunshine, the day looked promising and the Welsh Guards turned up looking the part in their new Battalion tracksuits. The events kicked off soon after arrival and the team got off to a good start, scoring consistently and staying near the top of the table. Strong performances in the morning came from WO2 Peters in the 1500m and

Gdsm Qumivutia in the Long jump.

With supporters from the Battalions slowly filtering along, the atmosphere at the venue was growing and after a fantastic BBQ lunch, the stadium was almost full. The Welsh Guards, in true family spirit had the largest contingent of supporters and the team were spurred on by their cheers. In the field, a double victory in the Javelin A and B string from the author and LCpl Leech moved us nearer the top of the table but the Coldstream Guards were still leading by some margin.

As the events continued, it wasn't long before the sprints and relays were starting. With amazing performances from Staff Sergeant Hammond in the 100m and Triple Jump and Gdsm Peacock in the 200m and 110m hurdles, it looked like the Welsh Guards were in

with a chance. Next came the 4x400m relay and a strong second place finish kept us pushing. Finally, the 4 x 100m relay. A perfect race from the team, with Hammond leading the field down the home straight, sealing the victory. Intense trepidation followed as the scores from that final event were totted up and added to the leader board. For the first time that afternoon the Welsh Guards moved to the top of the table and with no more events on the card, had finally won the Lawson Cup after 20 years.

The day was not over, and we still had The Prince of Wales's Relay and the Tug of war to come. The Prince of Wales's Relay, an unusual but thrilling event consisted of 1x400m, 2x200m, 1x800m, 2x200m and a 1x400m to finish. The relay team also had to be made up of a Field Officer (Maj Major), a Platoon Commander (the author), a Late Entry Officer (Capt Parry), a Warrant Officer (WO1 Cope), a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SSgt Hammond), a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (LSgt Roberts) and a Guardsman (Gdsm Peacock). After a confident start, the

Welsh Guards maintained 2nd place until the final 2x200m's leaving the Sergeant Major in pole position with a comfortable and composed final 400m without a whiff of the competition. Another win for the Welsh Guards and a showcase of the talent and fitness we have across the board.

Last but not least, the Tug-of-War team finished the day on a high. Predominantly made up of the solid men of Support Company and led by LCpl George, they looked formidable and had the other teams quaking in their boots. They went up against the London Central Garrison in their first round and with minimal effort they pulled them off their feet to win in under 5 seconds – an impressive sight. This got them straight through to the final where they faced the Grenadier Guards. A more evenly contested battle ensued but they were still no match for the Welsh Guards giants and victory did not take long, much to the satisfaction of the crowd.

The day finished with prize giving and the team went home with huge smiles on their faces and the supporters proud of what they had done. All in all, it was a fantastic day out and the Welsh Guards had finished taking home all the silverware on offer.

1. *The Lawson Cup Team.*
2. *The engine room of the Tug of War team.*
3. *WO1 Peters and Gdsm Johnstone battle it out in the 1500m.*
4. *Capt Parry as part of the winning team in the Prince of Wales's Relay.*
5. *DMaj Potts Keenly Watching Events unfold at the Lawson Cup.*
6. *LCpl Messam-Green Ready to Race.*
7. *SSgt Hammond Sprinting to Victory.*





Welsh Guards Association Golf Season 2021

by Steve Gelly

This year's Association golf season did not get off to a good start and we had to cancel the scheduled meeting in May due to COVID and everyone being in lockdown!

Fortunately for us things improved and we were able to start on 30th June with a meeting at Holyhead Golf Club. Some of us travelled up the day before and met up socially for a few drinks - appropriately social distanced of course! The day started with a short service of remembrance, organised by Keith Lewis, at the memorial in Penrhos Nature Reserve for David 'Dai' Williams 59, who was lost, with others, on the RFA Sir Galahad in 1982. His parents, family and friends were in attendance and the Welsh Guards collect was read by Martin Topps in Welsh and by myself in English. The last post and reveille were superbly played by Sgt Stuart Laing from Regimental Headquarters on a bugle from the Regiment dated 1915 and Edward Vaughan-Jones followed with a rousing

rendition of the National Anthem with everyone joining in. It was also an opportunity in a peaceful, beautiful setting to take a quiet moment of reflection and remember our fallen comrades from all conflicts - something we have not been able to do together for quite some time due to covid restrictions.

After the service we moved on to Holyhead Golf club, which is Mike Mowbray and Keith Lewis' home course. We had a fantastic turn out for the day with some 39 players including several serving members of the Battalion attending along with a few guests. With fine weather and the course in great condition there was some good scoring and the results for the day were as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Winner | Peter Richardson - 36 points (on count back), |
| 2ndPlace | Mark Horwood - 36 points |
| 3rd Place | Geraint Hughes - 34 points |
| Longest Drive | John Morgan |
| Nearest Pin | Mike Mowbray |
| 2's | Martyn Griffiths, John Morgan, Danny Williams (G) & John Williams (G) |



Peter also wins the Eiffion Jones Cup, which was presented to him by Mary Oliver MBE, Eiffion's partner who donated the cup to the association in Eiffion's memory some years back.

Our next meeting was at Llandrindod Wells Golf Club on 28th July 2021 again it was well attended but with the Battalion being on battle camp only one member of the Battalion, Gdsm Jacob Williams was able to attend. Some of us met up the evening before to discuss tactics for the next day and luckily at the end of the evening Martin Topps and Carl Woodward were shown by a local how to get into their hotel and were able to get a night's sleep! The course was a good challenge of golf and besides the weather throwing up its own challenges players still managed good scores and the results were as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Winner | Rob O'Rourke - 37 points |
| 2ndPlace | Steve Gelly - 34 points |
| 3rd Place | John Morgan - 33 points (on count back) |
| Longest Drive | Keith Lewis |
| Nearest Pin | Shane Pullen |
| 2's | Mike Mowbray & Martin Topps |

Tredegar Park on 25th August 2021 was our last meeting of the year and it felt fitting to return to Tredegar Park Golf Club, where we had our only meeting last year and where we were made very welcome. Again a few members met up the evening before in Newport and although the next day's golf was apparently discussed I think it was forgotten by the following morning for some reason or another! Due to most of the members of the Battalion being on leave it was up to CSgt Gareth Evans to fly the flag on behalf of the Battalion. The day also coincided with Martyn Griffiths' sixtieth birthday, and he was duly serenaded on the

first tee. The weather was a little overcast to start but improved as the day went on and the course was in good condition with some speedy greens, but scoring was still very good, and results were as follows:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Winner | Mark Horwood - 38 points (on count back) |
| 2ndPlace | Steve Gelly - 38 points |
| 3rd Place | Brad Alderman - 36 points |
| Longest Drive | Brad Alderman |
| Nearest Pin | Geraint Hughes |
| 2's | Guy Bartle-Jones, Steve Gelly, Kim Burnell, Brad Alderman & Danny Williams |

Mark Horwood also wins the John Powell Trophy and as this was the last meeting of the year it also decided the winner of the Colonel Malcom Player of the Year Trophy and the winner with the final score of 35 points giving a score of 104 points in total over three rounds and the Welsh Guards

up in the Full Net Competition.

At the time of writing the Battalion Golf Team will be holding a meeting at Birds Hill Golf Club and a dozen or so Association members are looking forward to joining in

on the day. The Welsh Guards Association has generously sponsored some of the prizes and those who are attending have been invited back to the WO & Sgt's Mess at Combermere Barracks to meet members of the battalion socially.

I'd like to thank Paul Conlon for his help again this year and for finding some great challenging courses for us to play. The Association is going from strength to strength with members returning and new faces joining us, I've even heard a rumour that Maldwyn Jones has bought a set of clubs! The Association's ethos of maintaining friendships, re-acquainting old ones, making new friends and maintaining links to our great regiment through golf is as strong as ever. Finally, we would like to thank the Welsh Guards Association Trustees for continuing to provide a subsidy to purchase the trophies for each competition.

Association Champion Golfer of 2021 is Peter Richardson who was presented with the Colonel Malcom Trophy by Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones. I was runner up with a total of 98 points and Third place was John Badham with 93 points (on count back).

A few members of the Association have also competed in the Household Division Championships which was held at The Army Golf club in Aldershot on the 6th September 2021 and this is covered by a separate report in this magazine. Congratulations are due to Geraint Hughes for winning and Martyn Griffiths as runner

1. Service at the Memorial in Penrhos Nature Reserve to 24472259 Gdsm David Williams who was killed on the RFA Sir Galahad on 8 June 1982.
2. Last Post expertly played by Sgt Stuart Laing from Regimental Headquarters.
3. The inscription on the 1915 bugle.
4. Players assembled at Holyhead Golf Club.
5. Players assembled at Llandrindod Wells Golf Club.
6. Players assembled at Tredegar Golf Club.
7. Brian Elliott with his chauffeur (aka Tony Willoughby)
8. Winner at Holyhead, Capt Peter Richardson being presented with the Eiffion Jones Cup by Mary Oliver MBE.
9. Second Place at Holyhead, Mark Horwood being presented with his trophy by Capt Tom Minihan.
10. Winner Llandrindo Wells, Rob O'Rourke being presented his trophy by Capt Peter Richardson.
11. Second place Llandrindod Wells, Steve Gelly being presented his trophy by Capt Peter Richardson
12. Winner at Tredegar Park, Mark Horwood being presented the John Powell trophy by Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones.
13. Second place at Tredegar Park, Steve Gelly (ever the bridesmaid!) presented his trophy by Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones.
14. Capt Peter Richardson receiving the Colonel Malcolm player of the year trophy for 2021 from Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones
15. L-R: Danny Williams, Rob O'Rourke, Derek Mangan, Carl Woodward
16. L-R: Kim Burnell, Paul Conlon, Les Peake, Mike Mowbray
17. L-R: John Morgan, Gdsm Jacob Williams, Martyn Griffiths 52, Ben Thomas
18. L-R: Greg Gool, CSgt Gareth Evans, Mark Horwood, John Fletcher
19. The top four in the player of the year, L-R: Ben Thomas, Capt Peter Richardson, Martyn (Birthday boy) Griffiths 52, John Morgan







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Battalion Golf Team

by Colour Sergeant G Evans

The Battalion golf team continues to grow in strength, with the sport becoming ever more popular throughout all ranks of the Battalion and new players joining the team on a weekly basis.

The Battalion golf team continues to grow in strength, with the sport becoming ever more popular throughout all ranks of the Battalion and new players joining the team on a weekly basis.

In May, CSgt Evans 488 attended the Infantry Golf Championships being held at St Anne's Old Links near Blackpool. This was a 36-hole Strokeplay and Stableford competition held on an Open qualifying golf course. The course was in fantastic condition and it was a beautiful Summers day. The competition was fought against 96 participants from across the Infantry Regular, Reserve and Veterans.

In June and August, members of the Battalion golf team travelled to Anglesey and Newport to meet up with the Welsh Guards Golf Association for their annual golf meetings at Holyhead Golf Club in North Wales and Tredegar Park Golf Club in East Wales. All members of the Battalion who attended these events had a chance to socialise with the association members before the event to share their experiences of their careers and make new friends. They also had the opportunity to play some fantastic golf courses. The Welsh Guards Association members proved to be too strong this year by taking all the prizes in these events.

In July, CSgt Evans 488 and Gdsm Thomas 500 were part of a military team who helped provide support to the 149th Open Championship being held

at Royal St George's in Kent. This was a great opportunity to see the world's best golf players up close. A great week was had by both.

CSgt Evans 488 joined members of the wider Welsh Guards Regimental golfing fraternity and members of the Association and to play and represent the Welsh Guards at the Household Division Colonel in Chief's Cup - see separate article.

At the Household Division Golf Championships (held at Arm Golf Club in Aldershot this year) Capt Vincenzini, CSgt Evans 488, LSgt Price and Gdsm Morgan 35 represented the Battalion.

With the sport growing rapidly across the Battalion and new members joining the Golf team, the Battalion will continue to play events throughout the winter months to help develop players ready for the 2022 season. The Golf team committee is also going to run an annual Welsh Guards Golf Championship in Windsor, where members of the Battalion (past and present) are invited to play and compete at a venue near Windsor.

1. CSgt Evans 488, 2 Coy at the Infantry Championships.
2. LCpl Owen 2 Coy.
3. Gdsm Morgan 35 at a Welsh Guards Association Golf meeting.
4. LCpl Wilkinson.
5. Gdsm Thomas 500 & CSgt Evans 488 at the 149th Open.
6. Gdsm Morgan 35, CSgt Evans 488, LSgt Price and Capt Vincenzini.



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Regimental Golf

by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Guy Bartle-Jones

Following a second year of COVID-19 impacted sport the Guards Golfing Society (GGS) has again managed to host its two main events: the Household Division Championships and the Colonel in Chief's Cup.

However, both events were adapted: for the Household Division Championships, traditionally known as the Spring Meeting, it ended up taking place on Monday 6th September 2021 and not at the traditional home of GGS, Worplesdon Golf Club, instead it was hosted at the Army Golf Club in Aldershot. For the Colonel in Chief's Cup, given that the early rounds could not be played in April, a repeat of last year's format was used, and the competition would again be played in a single day on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at Worplesdon Golf Household Division Championship. The Welsh Guards were well represented at the Championship with a healthy 50/50 mix of serving and past members with 10 players in all, playing in a total field of 41. The serving

members included: Capt Luca Vincenzini, CSgt Gareth Evans, LSgt Tom Price, LCpl Emma Dann and Gdsm Rhian Morgan, and the past members: Peter Richardson, Geraint Hughes, Martyn Griffiths, Steve Gelly and Robbie O'Rourke. Fielding 5 Foursomes teams, we had mixed success with our highest scoring team of Peter Richardson and LCpl Emma Dann coming 7th overall. However, in the singles Needham Cup handicap competition we took the top 3 places; in Geraint Hughes beating Martyn Griffiths and Steve Gelly into second and third place respectively, by a single stapleford point, an excellent singles result.

For 2022 Household Division Spring Meeting will return to Worplesdon on the 18th April but given the success of the

rescheduled event at the Army Golf Course the Committee of the Guards Golfing Society has agreed to host a second event in 2022 to be called the Summer Meeting at the Army Golf Course on 8th September.

Colonel in Chiefs Cup. In the run up to the Colonel in Chief's Cup the Welsh Guards team was unfortunately hit

not ideal given the challenges trying to raise one team. However, with the support of the Battalion and Capt George Davidson the Welsh Guards were able to field a second team, and the only Regiment to do so, indicating the healthy state of golf currently in the Regiment. Pairings representing the Regiment were:

| WG1 | WG2 |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Robin Malcolm Peter Richardson | Capt George Davidson Capt Luca Vincenzini |
| Geraint Hughes Steve Gelly | Charlie Ross Guy Bartle-Jones |
| Martyn Griffiths Robbie O'Rourke | CSgt Chris Rees LSgt Tom Price |

by injuries to Martin Topps and then an unanticipated operation to CSgt Gareth Evans, and they both had to withdraw, so there were some late call ups. The format to complete the competition in one day, only allowed for each Regiment to enter a single team. So, receiving a message from Col (Retd) Sean O'Dwyer that the Scots Guards had been unable to field a team and could the Welsh Guards provide a second one, was

A repeat of the format from last year with the 6 teams being split in to 2 Groups: WG1 with the Coldstream and Irish Guards, and WG2 with the Household Cavalry and the Grenadier Guards. Again, the sixsomes format proved challenging with the Irish Guards just being too strong for WG1 despite all 3 of our pairs scoring consistently around the 40-point mark. WG2 were well beaten by the Household Cavalry, with

Capt George Davidson and Capt Luca Vincenzini scoring a valiant 42 points, with 29 alone on the back 9. The Irish Guards and Household Cavalry would contest the final for the second year in a row.

With nothing to play for in the afternoon a group of us stayed on to have a fun, two match foursomes, with Capt Davidson and Peter Richardson taking on LSgt Price and Capt Ross, with myself and Geraint Hughes against Capt Vincenzini and CSgt Rees. We got back in time to see the presentation to the Irish Guards who had again beaten the Household Cavalry to retain the Cup.

Next year we should see the competition return to its normal foursome's format and it would be good to have 2 teams entered again. As ever we remain grateful for the full support that the Regimental Trustees provide.

Guards Golfing Society Committee v Serving Officers. The Guards Golfing Society continue to host a day at Worplesdon for Serving Officers with the purpose of showcasing the society, meeting the Committee Members and the benefits of signing up for an annual fee of £30. On an unseasonably warm Wednesday on the 13th October 21 (it reached 26 degrees), and after the traditional Worplesdon roast lunch, Captain George Davidson, Captain Luca Vincenzini, Capt Charlie Ross, Lt Simon Burfiend and a surprise showing from Capt Joe Dinwiddie-Choat at Home Command, were introduced to the Society. For some this was no introduction and benefiting from the generosity of the Society for lunch and a round of golf at one of Surrey's pre-eminent golf courses, the Serving Officers from all the Guards Regiments mixed in

for a round of four balls in the afternoon. Capt Vincenzini scoring the highest Stapleford points with 38 amongst the Welsh Guards officers, closely followed by Capt Ross with 37 points. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable Blue-Red-Blue golf day.

Dates for 2022 (all fixtures at Worplesdon Golf Club unless stated otherwise):

18 April 2022 Household Division Championships (Spring Meeting)

28 April 2022 Colonel-in-Chief's Cup (1st/2nd Rounds)

9/10 September 2022 Autumn Meeting at Royal St Georges

08 September 2022 Household Division Championships (Summer Meeting) at Army Golf Club

22 September 2022 Colonel-in-Chief's Cup (Semi-Finals/Final)

1. *WG1 team photo. L to R: Robbie O'Rourke, Geraint Hughes, Steve Gelly, Martyn Griffiths, Robin Malcolm, Peter Richardson.*
2. *Peter Richardson*
3. *Geraint Hughes*
4. *Steve Gelly*
5. *Martin Griffiths, Robbie O'Rourke*
6. *Capt George Davidson and Capt Luca Vincenzini.*
7. *LSgt Tom Price and CSgt Chris Rees.*
8. *Capt Charlie Ross and Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones.*
9. *Afternoon Group L-R: LSgt Tom Price, Capt Charlie Ross, Geraint Hughes, Peter Richardson, CSgt Chris Rees, Capt Luca Vincenzini.*
10. *Presentation of CinCs Cup to Irish Guards Captain, John Donaldson by Guards Golfing Society Captain Brig (Retd) Greville Bibby.*



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Welsh Guards Football Team

by Warrant Officer Class 2 Moffat, Royal Logistics Corps, Battalion Football Manager

It has been a difficult 18 months for football, with two lockdowns and all sports being sporadic throughout the year.

However, between each lockdown, the football team managed to fit in several games. This included a game against 29 Regiment RLC, away in South Cerney. The game was very closely fought with both teams going close to scoring before 1WG took the lead just minutes before half time. During the game 1WG were award two penalties; unfortunately, the first penalty was well saved by the RLC (Royal Logistics Corps) goalkeeper, with the second being blasted over the cross bar. With 20 minutes to go 29 Regiment RLC grabbed an equaliser, leading to some nervous final minutes on the clock. However, 1WG just edged the game with 8 minutes to go, winning the

game 2-1, to progress to the Quarter Finals. Football then took another hit because of the pandemic, with the Army Sports Control Board forced to cancel all competitions for the 20/21 season.

This brings us into our current season, to date, the numbers attending training across all ranks has been healthy. This has allowed the football team management to hold a week for trials (where some new talent was identified), pre-season training and a friendly against our Welsh rivals the Royal Welsh. Unfortunately, ended in a 4 - 1 defeat; however, there were more positives than negatives from the game. A week later, we entered a team into the

Infantry 6's competition where the matches were hard fought and fierce. Although a tough competition, the Battalion finished a respectable 3rd in the group and just missed out on the knockout stages of the competition, producing good wins against 1 LANCS and 4 Rifles.

Going forward, the Battalion Football Team has been entered in the Eastern Premier league and will face teams from 1 RSME (Royal School of Military Engineering), ATR Pirbright, 36 Engineers and the Irish Guards throughout the season. Due to the number of players rotating through Op SHADER and Op CORDED the management have a lot of work on their hands to maintain team cohesion throughout the season. However, all the players are dedicated, hungry and have a real desire to win the league. The Army Challenge Cup has also been drawn with the Battalion being drawn against 17 Port and Maritime

Regimental RLC in Marchwood in the second round.

Finally, a few congratulations, firstly to LSgt Williams and Gdsm Dean for being selected to represent the Infantry Football team. Gdsm Jones 30 for not only being selected to represent the Infantry Football but also selected for trials with the Army U23's squad. LCpl Davies 14, again representing the Infantry Football and being selected for the Army Men's squad. Finally, congratulations to Capt Parkinson on the appointment of the Infantry Men's manager and to Capt Blair and WO2 Wilks, who have been selected as manager and coach for the Army Men's Football team.

1. Welsh Derby - Welsh Guards vs Royal Welsh
2. Battalion Team with coaching staff
3. SSgt Hammond RAPTC closing in on goal



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Welsh Guards Enduro

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D Hughes, Recruiting Warrant Officer

As we slowly return to sporting normality events on the Enduro calendar have also started to re-appear, albeit with restrictions. Luckily, social distancing on a motorbike isn't too difficult.

The Welsh Guards team sponsored the 2021 Army Motorcycling Championships at Bagshot test track in Deepcut. The event saw 95 riders from all three Services enter a three-day event that constituted a prologue on Friday, a day of trials on Saturday and timercard Enduro to finish off on the Sunday. Prizes were awarded to the fastest riders over the three days. The Welsh Guards continue to be key leaders in the sport at an Army level. The Battalion leads in running the event and in providing pan-Army riders of all levels the opportunity to take part in the sport. WO2 Hughes had the opportunity to take Major Young (Number 3 Company Commander) through his paces on his BMW GS 1200.

With training area restrictions also lifted towards the end of summer we are looking forward to returning to riding

weekly and resuming our rider development programme which sees ten or more Welsh Guards riders training every Wednesday. The fact that we have in-house Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) coaches in Battalion gives a great insight into the sport for new riders.

Our workshop has been a great asset to the Battalion and now it is reaching out across the Household Division assisting other teams in setting up on their own. The Welsh Guards Enduro team model has been adopted by the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Irish Guards as well as the Parachute Regiment and other Line Infantry regiments. With those now in tow we have a fully supported Infantry Team with Welsh Guards participating both as riders and in managerial roles.

This year's international Six

Days Enduro competition was all set to go with the team deploying in August. WO2 Hughes was selected to represent the Army as part of the GB efforts on the international stage. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions, the Sports Control Board could not authorise the event. The Welsh Guards were bitterly disappointed, but the team hopes to compete in Europe in 2022.

With the Battalion deployed on operations and exercises around the world it is often difficult to support events. It is clear which parts of the Army are busiest with the Corps riders attending every meeting without fail. Despite the challenges in juggling operation commitments with sporting events, the Welsh Guards have had representation at every inter-Corps event throughout the year, be it riding, as Clerk of the Course or on the planning team.

Looking forward into the winter and the New Year the team will look to train locally and attend some of the Extreme Enduro rounds. This is with a view to pushing into Wales in order to assist with the Battalion's image at

home. Racing in local events while flying the Battalion's flag will help enhance our image and sell what is available to Welsh Guardsmen. The team will also look to attend an overseas sports tour in 2022 and potentially return to Spain or France.

As ever we are eternally grateful to all those that make riding possible. Along with a personal contribution from each of the participants we are fortunate to be supported financially by the Regimental Trustees and the Welsh Guards Charity. We would also like to thank our sponsors ET James, DP Brakes, Michelin and Off Road Only who are essential in making Welsh Guards Enduro a success.

1. Enduro motorcycles closely resemble motocross, or "MX" bikes (upon which they are often based). They may have special features such as oversized gas tanks, engines tuned for reliability and longevity, sump protectors, and more durable (and heavier) components.
2. An Enduro motorcycle is an off-road racing motorcycle used in Enduros, which are long-distance cross-country time trial competitions.



BikeSafe 2021

by Major J M Young, Company Commander
Number Three Company

Following an informal establishment of the 'WG Bikers' club with 23 members, there was considerable interest in the offer of further training.

Having been fortunate enough to attend two courses with the Metropolitan Police already as well as other 'advanced' training, the opportunity was seized to get something arranged.

BikeSafe is a National motorcycle initiative run by the Police, aimed at working with motorcycle riders in a relaxed environment to raise awareness of the importance and value of progressing on to accredited post-test training. BikeSafe workshops involve an observed ride with a police motorcyclist. They aim to cover; rider attitude, systematic methods, collision causation, cornering, positioning, overtaking, observation, braking, hazard perception and use of gears.

The Roads and Transport Policing Command (BikeSafe – London) agreed to run a

BikeSafe course for 1WG on 8 Sep 21. The course was hosted in camp and started with a couple of hours of briefings explaining the fundamentals of the system of motorcycle control which we would later attempt to demonstrate during the practical element of the day. Prior to departure, all bikes were checked to confirm they were road legal with a MOT (where applicable), valid Road Fund License (aka 'Road Tax') and valid insurance. The seven-man police team then took members of the Battalion in 'ones and twos' out on the roads, with a mixture of urban and rural riding.

A comment from one of the riders that 'I have been riding for 16 years and wish I had taken the course 15 years ago' was echoed by all of those on the course. A variety of bikes were ridden, including sports bikes, cruisers, adventure



bikes, and sports tourers with capacity ranging from 200cc to 1300cc. Regardless of experience levels we all gained something from the day – for which the BikeSafe team should take full credit for creating a positive learning atmosphere.

The Met BikeSafe team were extremely personable and engaged the students from the start with measured, clear advice and every member got a lot from the day. Further training sessions with the Met are planned and it is hoped all bikers in the Regiment, including those attached, will have the opportunity to attend at least one day over the

coming 12 months.

Future plans for the Bikers remain loose and relaxed but rideouts will now no doubt be characterised by safer and more progressive rides ensuring a more fulfilling experience for us all.

1. 1WG BikeSafe Initiative with the Metropolitan Police.
2. Be BikeSafe.
3. Capt Ross discussing the workshop with Metropolitan Police Mentor.

Welsh Guards Sailing

by Captain L M F Vincenzini, Anti-tank Platoon Commander

With sports back in full flow, Welsh Guards Sailing has had a busy summer, both competing in regattas and conducting offshore sailing training.

In June, 2Lt Brown, 2Lt Cadogan and LSgt Jones 88 took three crews down to the Isle of Wight to compete in the Household Division Sailing Association Seaview Regatta. The regatta spanned across two days and the crews were racing in the Seaview Mermaid keelboats. The crews, a mix of proficient sailors and complete novices, made the most of the first day to get accustomed to boats and each other. The regatta started on day two and they competed against an outfit of 14 crews from across the Household Division. They contended with light winds in the morning and some foul weather in the afternoon to secure 3rd, 4th and 6th place, a very respectable finish considering their experience.

In July, Lt Clarke led the Welsh Guards contingent of Ex Tiger Scarlet Flotilla, the Household Division flotilla. It is the second year this event has run and 2021 saw seven boats take part. The weather and wind proved perfect and the flotilla had some fantastic sailing. Starting in Gosport, the flotilla made it all the way down the coast to Weymouth, no mean feat. One of the highlights of the trip was lunch anchored in Lulworth cove.

The final sailing event, led by the author, was 5 days adventurous training on Gladeye, the Household Division yacht. Gladeye is skippered and looked after by LSgt Stevens (IG), who is a RYA instructor. This allowed a competent crew course to be run over the 5

days training. The competent crew course brings those with no sailing experience up to a standard where they are a valuable member on a yacht. They learn the basics of sailing as well as experiencing living at sea. Four sailing novices from both 2 and 3 Coy made up the remaining crew members and all passed the course with flying colours. They have now taken the first step on the journey to becoming a skipper on a yacht.

This year has seen the Welsh Guards increase its pool of sailors with complete novices both competing in regattas and earning sailing qualifications. With numbers of keen sailors growing in Battalion, next year promises to be a competitive year for Welsh Guards Sailing.

1. *LSgt Chambers, LCpl Goodwin, Gdsm Fury and Gdsm Coles on their Competent Crew Course.*
2. *The Welsh Guards at the HDSA Seaview Regatta.*
3. *Flying the Welsh Guards' Flag on Ex Tiger Scarlet Flotilla.*





Battalion Mountain Biking - Ard Rock 2021

by Sergeant Shapland

2021 has been a busy year for the Battalion in operations and recruiting and this is where Adventure Training (AT) is a key within the Army.

It's always good to give soldiers something to look forward to during busy periods of work and a weekend away doing something your passionate about does wonders for your mental health.

Sgt Shapland still serving and LSgt Biggs retired, entered the Ard rock mountain bike race in Reeth, Yorkshire on Friday 6th August 2021, both entered the epic event, 40km endurance race consisting of 7 timed stages. After 6 plus hrs of riding, Sgt Shapland came 20th out of 57 and LSgt Biggs came 30th out of 57.

Ard Rock is based near the beautiful village of Reeth in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. This is an exclusive route and one-off trails, specially designed for the weekend. Ard Rock is a renown unique adventure that takes in gnarly,

rock-strewn terrain only rideable at the event. This competition is open to anyone that is interested in MTB (Mountain Biking).

Many of the Welsh Guards mounting biking team look to this sport as a means of escaping the troubles of the world, yet some of those very troubles follow us out onto the trails. All the same, the sport of mounting biking proves to be the haven for those who embrace it as a way to blow off some steam, to reconnect with what's important and meaningful in life, to live a life that is full of richness and depth.

Or it could just be something fun we do to entertain ourselves in our free time. No matter what job we do in life we always need to make time for ourselves.





Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC)

by Lieutenant Colonel Alun Bowen

Save the Date - The next WGRRC dinner will be held on Saturday 23rd September 2023 (and not Friday 22nd September 2023 which was the original advertised date).

This will be our 20th anniversary and our 10th dinner and we expect a very high attendance, so please book early to guarantee a place and avoid disappointment. We will trial holding the dinner on a Saturday as we believe this will lessen the pressure to travel to West Wales on a busy Friday afternoon. The Stradey Park Hotel has been booked in its entirety for the weekend as we are expecting a very full house.

Chalky – the loss of our founding Chairman, Major Glyn “Chalky” White MBE was a very sad occasion, and we continue to offer our heartfelt and deepest sympathies to Chalky’s family and countless friends, he will be sorely missed by us all. The WGRRC owes Chalky a deep debt of gratitude, he was a proud member of the Regiment, with a fierce handshake and a twinkle in his eye. Hugely respected by one and all and a man of vision who laid the bedrock for what we have today. At our recent dinner our President, Jan Koops, captured Chalky’s contribution to our Regiment, ably assisted by numerous

members who recalled tales of their service with Chalky.

The WGRRC remains in really great form and is a genuine force for good. Membership remains very healthy and is increasing; despite the restrictions and concerns regarding COVID, we gathered 125 for our recent biennial dinner at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli. Due to COVID restrictions, we decided against a guest speaker, but had a fantastic good old-fashioned rugby sing-along instead, with Darrell Jones, our superb event organizer acting as compere and director of music - he did a fantastic job! Some great songs belted out by some great Welsh Guardsmen.

Like so many aspects of normal life, COVID has impacted WGRRC activity and since our last gathering at the dinner in late 2019, we have been unable to meet up. COVID has also impacted many of the small rugby clubs in Wales in communities where we actively recruit so the WGRRC Committee agreed to donate £250 each to Cardiff Saracens RFC, Llandudno RFC, Furnace

RFC and Gilfach Goch RFC in support of grass roots rugby. The Committee also eagerly agreed to donate £5,000 to the NHS through the Prince Philip Hospital, Llanelli to be used for staff respite and support to small scale projects aimed at improving conditions for staff and patients alike.

Our Vice Presidents continue to provide critical life blood into the WGRRC and we owe every last one a huge thanks. With a membership of over 400 and an average of 170 attending our dinners, we continue to gather both veterans and serving members of the Regiment together in a most positive and vibrant environment - long may it continue.

Malcom Davies stepped off from the Committee after an “extensive stag” and we wish Malcolm well and look forward to seeing him at future dinners and events.

By way of clarification - the WGRRC does not send out specific named invites for our dinners. If you are a member of the Regiment, have contributed to WG rugby in any way - player, coach, PTI, supporter, physio, rugby officer, etc - then we would dearly love to see you. We no longer stipulate that attendance is based on playing rugby as there are so many members of the Regiment

who have added value to WG rugby in so many other ways, not least those who stood on the touchline and cheered on the Battalion team, or perhaps played in a 300 Cup - and this includes those attached personnel such as PTI, REME, Clerks, Medics etc.

We look forward to seeing a record-breaking turnout for our next dinner on Saturday 23rd September 2023.

1. *A motley crew.*
2. *Arfon Williams 24 belting out Nessun dorma.*
3. *Beers all round.*
4. *Chris Kneath our loyal and trusted Treasurer presenting a cheque to Andrew Brown for Furnace RFC.*
5. *Darrell and Adrian having a cwtch as Jack sings on.*
6. *Byron Cordy singing a relaxed number.*
7. *Chris Beynon leading us in song.*
8. *Happy times 2*
9. *Darrell Jones 73 event organiser and compere plus auctioneer extraordinaire*
10. *Henry Vaughan-Jones belting out a classic.*
11. *Jan Koops remembering Chalky White.*
12. *Tom 26 with a top notch 3 Coy number.*
13. *John Davies leading the singing.*
14. *Kev Keepin and Keith Astley.*
15. *Members of Committee presenting cheque for £5,000 to Staff from Llanelli Hospital.*





BATTLEFIELD TOURS AND REMEMBRANCE

Recollections of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh Colonel Welsh Guards 1953 - 1975

By Captain PG deZulueta

On a bleak, bitterly cold February day in 1975, the Welsh Guards, both past and present, said farewell to HRH Prince Philip as Colonel of the Regiment. It was a day of conflicting emotions.

There was sadness and regret that, after 22 years as Colonel, Prince Philip was relinquishing his appointment. But there was also a sense of anticipation and excitement that The Prince of Wales, would become Colonel. Prince Philip had always made it clear that he was merely keeping the seat warm for his eldest son.

The Regiment would, once again, have a Prince of Wales as Colonel. Edward VIII, as Prince of Wales, had been the Regiment's first Colonel, an appointment he carried out with distinction from 1919 to 1937. The prince's natural empathy and compassion, borne from his experience of the Great War and the loss of many close friends, had made him a popular Colonel. Many regretted, as the prince himself did, that he was no longer able to be Colonel after his abdication.

As the youngest Regiment of Foot Guards, the Welsh Guards had always felt vulnerable.

When Prince Philip took up his appointment in 1953, the year of The Queen's coronation, the Regiment had yet to celebrate its 40th birthday. In 1920, a War Office document had recommended that the Welsh Guards should be disbanded. The report had the full support of the Colonels of the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards. It was only after the intervention of a former Major General, Sir Francis Lloyd, a Grenadier of Welsh ancestry and the prime minister, the 'Welsh wizard' Lloyd George, that the plan was scotched. The post WW2 defence review was also a cause for alarm. The appointment of Prince Philip as Colonel gave the Regiment a much-needed sense of reassurance that here was a man who would fight their corner if it ever came to that.

Nonetheless, there was a degree of suspicion, particularly amongst the old guard, on his appointment. This may have been for historical reasons, misguided comments on Prince

Philip's German ancestry, or more likely the old antipathies of inter-service rivalry as Prince Philip was an operationally tested Royal Navy officer in his own right. As a naval officer, Prince Philip entertained his own suspicions particularly when confronted with the old walruses from both world wars. The two Colonels who succeeded Edward VIII were Colonel William Murray-Thriepand DSO, a Grenadier who married a Welsh heiress; and Brigadier the Earl of Gowrie VC, a Highland Light Infantryman, who had won his VC in the Sudan. They were two of the Welsh Guards' Founding Fathers' in 1915 and like most 'converts' were fiercely protective of the Regiment's ethos.

Whatever suspicions were held on both sides, they were quickly dispelled. Prince Philip had seen his share of battle. He understood the demands of service, and he had met and worked with people from every walk of life and background. His personal experience from his own upbringing and his wartime service shaped his relationships with all ranks. He never stood on ceremony and knew that, even in the most carefully choreographed visit to the Regiment, things would go awry.

On a visit to the Battalion in 1962, the atmosphere at lunch

in the officers' mess was a little strained. The starter of smoked trout was placed before Prince Philip with the skin still on. Prince Philip looked momentarily alarmed. Seeing the Colonel's puzzled expression, Tony Leatham, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, summoned the officers' mess colour sergeant and barked, "you cannot expect His Royal Highness to eat a goldfish wearing a gas cape." Prince Philip burst into laughter.

Few people remain who can bear witness to Prince Philip's 22 years as Colonel. His Welsh Guards equerries, however, and their anecdotal recollections paint a colourful picture of Prince Philip as a man and as the Regiment's Colonel. Without exception, all the equerries felt they had grown in the job. They also grew in admiration for Prince Philip. They were all given just two pieces of advice when taking up the appointment, "first, don't worry if you're given a rocket for no apparent reason. HRH may well have been irritated by something he's seen, or met, and you're the only person he can take it out on. Secondly, and this was advice given by Sgt George Tribe, Welsh Guards, Prince Philip's valet," if you're invited to shoot at Sandringham and you're standing on his right, do not attempt any birds to your left, HRH will account for all of them."



It may be a commonplace observation that Prince Philip took a great interest in the advance and application of technology, but less apparent was his willingness to tackle those who were reluctant to embrace change. A visit to Lee Enfield in the Royal Small Arms Factory in Essex caused consternation amongst management when he told the Board how they could better use their assembly lines. The managing director was also put on the spot when challenged about the technical specifications of the new L1A1 self-loading rifle adopted by the army to replace the 303.

Prince Philip's sense of humour, often unintentional, was never far away during his engagements. After a visit to the Battalion training in Wales, Prince Philip as Chancellor of the University of Wales in Cardiff gave an address to the university's students. The students seemed a little comatose until Prince Philip said "what this country needs is brains." There was a small cheer from the students. Encouraged by this response and warming to his theme, Prince Philip went on to say, "and the more brains the better." The cheers grew louder and louder. It was only later that the university's vice-chancellor told Prince Philip

that 'Brains' was South Wales's largest brewery.

What remained in people's minds were the small gestures of kindness: the Welsh Guards wife who was upset that her beloved Jack Russell was to be flown back to the UK in a crate to begin quarantine, only for Prince Philip to offer to take the dog back in his aeroplane and hand it over to the safekeeping of the kennels in the UK; the families day arranged when Prince Philip visited the Regiment in Munster where he took part willingly, and with good grace, in all the activities, the more knockabout the better; and his memory for names and facts that showed his genuine interest in Welsh Guardsmen, their wives and families.

"He was so down to earth and easy to talk to," was a common remark from all who met him, bringing to mind Rudyard Kipling's famous poem 'If', and the line of verse, 'to walk with kings nor lose the common touch.'

Those who found themselves travelling with Prince Philip, or in his company, for any length of time always learnt something new which would challenge their world view. It was a given, because of his position, that Prince Philip



would be well informed. Few realised, however, how extraordinarily well read he was. One equerry remembers driving across London with Prince Philip who spoke about the 1956 Clean Air Act and how it would help health, the environment and people's appreciation of architecture. At the same time, Prince Philip expressed his concern about the fast growth in car ownership and travel, and how that would affect air quality in inner cities. He was a man well ahead of his time.

The extraordinary success of Welsh Guards polo owes a great deal to Prince Philip's leadership and drive. He started the Guards Polo Club in 1956 and regularly played for the Regiment with John Miller who later became the Crown Equerry, Richard Watt, father of General Sir Reddy Watt, Mervyn Fox-Pitt and Charles Guthrie, later Field Marshal Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank. Lord Guthrie would recall that if Prince Philip missed a shot, he would exclaim, "where the

hell's Guthrie?"

Prince Philip was not allowed to play in the Inter-Regimental Cup though it was suggested at one Army Polo meeting that Colonels of Regiments should be allowed to play. The cavalry regiments who dominated the game in the 50s and 60s thought this was a splendid idea until they fluffed that Prince Philip was a five goal player. The cavalry 'backed up' pretty quickly.

The Welsh Guards led by Reddy Watt, the highest goal army player since WW2, were unbeaten in the Inter-Regimental tournament in the UK between 1976 - 1991, winning the tournament every time that operations allowed them to enter the tournament.

Just seven years after Prince Philip relinquished his appointment as Colonel he was reunited with the Regiment in circumstances which visibly moved him. As Senior Colonel of The Foot Guards, he presented members of the

Battalion with their Falklands medals. Characteristically, he went out of his way to talk to those Guardsmen who had been wounded in the conflict and their families.

Our final farewell to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh took place at his funeral in Windsor Castle where the Battalion lined the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle. On May 5th, HRH The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Regiment, visited the Battalion at Combermere Barracks in Windsor where he thanked them for their role in the funeral, telling the Regiment they "did him proud." In his twenty-two years as our Colonel, Welsh Guardsmen, past and present, would simply respond that Prince Philip had done us proud.

1. *Sergeants Mess photograph during visit of HRH to the Battalion in Victoria Barracks Windsor, September 1953 the day prior to departing for the Middle East.*
2. *HRH Inspecting a Guard of Honour*
3. *HRH accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel ACW Noel MC during his visit to the Battalion in Victoria Barracks, Windsor.*
4. *St David's Day with the Battalion, Victoria Barracks, Windsor (Photo credit Rex)*
5. *Coronation visit of HRH to the Battalion in Victoria Barracks, Windsor 1953 following his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment. Front Row L-R; Lt Col AA Duncan, Lt Col Sir John Miller DSO MC, Lt Gen Sir Frederick Browning DSO, Col JC Windsor-Lewis DSO MC, HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Lt Col ACW Noel MC, Maj HMC "Cass" Jones-Mortimer, Capt N Webb-Bowen, Col DG Davies-Scourfield (photo courtesy of Major JGR Harding).*





In Memoriam

25177517 Sergeant Gavin Mark Hillier

Welsh Guards September 2003 - March 2021

Sergeant Hillier joined the British Army on 29th September 2003. After completing the Combat Infantryman's Course at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick, he arrived at RAF St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan to join 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

After only a year serving with The Prince of Wales's Company, and having impressed with his first-class soldiering ability and tactical acumen, he was selected for the Reconnaissance Platoon. In October 2004 he deployed to Iraq on Op TELIC 5 in the Brigade Surveillance Company where he performed to an exceptional standard.

In recognition of his considerable potential and growing leadership abilities, he completed the Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre and subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal in October 2005, just two years after joining the Army. Building on his reconnaissance experience, he deployed to Kosovo as Second-in-Command of a Special Operations Search Team in 2006 as part of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Task Force. Again, he was praised for his leadership and significant prowess as an Infanteer, and soon completed the Section

Commanders Battle Course in 2007, thereby promoting to Lance Sergeant.

He was not only an impressive soldier, and revered leader, but a talented instructor. His calm nature and natural empathy lent itself perfectly to an instructional environment, where junior soldiers could benefit from his already significant experience. Posted to the Infantry Training Centre as an instructor, he was a role model who inspired his Trainee Guardsmen and peers alike. This two years' experience in instruction defined his career, solidifying his reputation as a gifted mentor, coach and leader.

Having been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012, he prepared to deploy to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 16 where he served as a Team Commander as part of the Commanding Officer's Protection Group. This crucial

role required a diligent professional who was calm under pressure. His sense of humour immediately stood out in this role as he worked closely with Lieutenant Colonel DL Bossi, providing Protected Mobility in the small confines of the Husky vehicle.

His expertise in the Husky vehicle endured through his career. He had a unique depth of knowledge in how to maintain the vehicle in arduous conditions, and later completed the Driver Maintainer Instructor course. His instructional demeanour in this role brought out the best in the young drivers.

In 2015, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards transitioned from Light Infantry to Light Protected Mobility. This change required a substantial number of soldiers to be educated in driving and maintenance qualifications. Lance Sergeant Hillier was identified immediately as the best placed man to orchestrate this complex and challenging transition. He managed a substantial fleet of Foxhound, R-WMIK (Revised Weapons Mounted Installation Kit), Husky, and Ridgeback vehicles. As the Battalion was tested in its new role on Ex WESSEX STORM in 2017, he was employed as the Motor Transport Platoon Sergeant where his knowledge,

experience and pragmatic approach to problem solving literally kept the Battlegroup moving.

Returning to his roots, he was then posted back to The Prince of Wales's Company, this time as the Technical Sergeant. In this role, he deployed again to Afghanistan on Op TORAL 6 in Kabul. The heat and dust of a congested city provided significant challenges for the Foxhound vehicles, which kept him and his team extremely busy. In acknowledgement of his delivery under these circumstances, he was awarded the Commander of British Forces Afghanistan Commendation.

With a now unsurpassed level of expertise in mobility capabilities, he was rightly made the Motor Transport Colour Sergeant in 2019. When the Battalion was presented Operational Service Medals, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales awarded him the Long Service & Good Conduct medal; 15 years of distinguished service was justly accredited. He later deployed to Belize on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR in 2020 to provide mobility support to The Prince of Wales's Company.

Still working as the Motor Transport Colour Sergeant, the Coronavirus pandemic presented a significant burden which he managed deftly. The



Battalion was held at readiness for Op RESCRIPT (military support Covid-19); with uncertainty as to the required level of Military Assistance to Civil Authorities, he was responsible for organising and managing an unprecedented fleet of vehicles to react to the needs of the public.

Sergeant Gavin Hillier was a stalwart pillar of the Sergeants' Mess, and the definition of a passionate Welsh Guardsman; his commitment to the Battalion Rugby team is a testament to this. His sense of humour in adversity, unwavering commitment to professionalism, and fierce dedication to soldiering demonstrates the archetype towards which we all should aspire. All members of the Welsh Guards family, past and present, will miss him dearly.



In Memoriam Major Glyn White MBE

by Brigadier Peter Williams DL Formerly Welsh Guards

Glyn White, who died on 7th August after a brief illness at the age of 88, was the epitome of a Welsh Guardsman.

He was born in Mountain Ash in 1933, the cradle of many a rugby player, left school at the age of sixteen and became apprenticed to a blacksmith, where work at the anvil bestowed on him a crushing, if unwitting, handshake. He enlisted in the Welsh Guards in 1953, and joined the battalion in the Canal Zone, initially leaving after three years.

He re-joined in 1958 when the battalion was in the old Chelsea barracks, the start of a thirty-year career which culminated in a Quartermaster commission. After two years as a Company Sergeant Major at Sandhurst, he returned in 1975 to the Battalion as the Regimental Sergeant Major, having seen service in Canada,

Cyprus, Norway, BAOR and Northern Ireland, and was the Sergeant Major in Caterham, on the United Nations tour in Cyprus, and in Berlin. His unswerving loyalty to the Regiment and insistence on the highest standards were central not only to his leadership but to the thoughtful advice he always gave. He was an excellent shot, and throughout his life maintained an abiding passion for rugby, where he was a formidable second row forward, and a member of the Battalion's Army Cup winning team. He could have played first class rugby had he not believed that his family needed his time more. His pithy analysis in his later years of the Welsh national team for good or ill was an education in itself,

though their ears must have burned when they fell below what he expected.

In 1977 he was granted a Quartermaster commission and posted to the battalion as Transport Officer and was on the RFA Sir Galahad in the Falklands when she was set ablaze in a devastating airstrike. He was badly burned on the face and hands in his efforts to help rescue wounded from the inferno, and many felt that his bravery should have been formally recognised. He served latterly as Quartermaster of the battalion and the Guards Depot and retired in 1987. He was appointed MBE in the New Year's Honours 1988.

A convinced Christian, in retirement he devoted himself to his family, his garden and rugby. Having married Sue in Abercymboi in 1956, they celebrated sixty-five years of marriage; to her and their two sons, Michael, and Brian, we send our condolences.

His love of rugby bore remarkable fruit in the genesis of the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club which, with the motivation of Chris Beynon and the committee, over the years raised more than a quarter of a million pounds for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal. Perhaps no better example of the help it can give is that of the rather forlorn, down on his luck ex-guardsmen Glyn recognised and stopped in the street. After having a word, he immediately got the necessary funds from the Appeal for clothes, took him under his wing and saw him settled in work; a remarkable Welsh Guards Sergeant Major and a true gentleman.



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Falklands Memorial Wrexham 26th June 2021

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

Unfortunately owing to the COVID19 pandemic, once again, the traditional Falklands Service of Remembrance and Reunion 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 took place followed by the last post and we were delighted that Brigadier Rickett CBE had been able to travel to join us and lay the wreath on behalf of the Regiment.

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

After the short parade and dedication, we retired to the War Memorial Club (WMC) for refreshments and once again and as always, the club provided a superb buffet and excellent service and a memorable day was had by all.

We look forward to next year, the 40th anniversary of the conflict when hopefully things will be back to [relative] normal and we are able to put on a good show with the Regimental Band and a marching detachment from the Battalion present.

Anyone wishing to attend next year (on Saturday 25th June) is advised to book accommodation soonest as the various hotels and B&Bs in Wrexham are filling up fast.

On 5 August the Wrexham Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial was once again visited by the Airborne Forces Motorcycle Club which seems to be a regular event. Maldwyn Jones (Secretary General) and Geraint Hughes with his better half, Janet, were also in attendance. As well as meeting the Airborne Warriors they were conducting a recce for next year's Welsh Guards Ride of Respect, which is covered elsewhere in the magazine.

1. Geraint Hughes with the airborne bikers at the Wrexham Falklands Memorial.
2. Captain Chris Hopkins and Brigadier JF Rickett CBE at the Welsh Guards Falklands memorial Wrexham.
3. Maldwyn Jones, Ian Hughes, Henry Vaughan Jones, Kevin Hughes at the WMC.
4. Major Paul Moore from the Airborne Bikers at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial.
5. Maldwyn Jones and Geraint Hughes at the Falklands Memorial.
6. Standards on Parade.



A Memorial Wine for 2733448 Sgt William Doyle

by Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM Assistant Regimental Adjutant

In October 2020 Regimental Headquarters was contacted, through the Regimental Veterans Officer, by the Palazzo Tronconi vineyard in Arce, Italy concerning an artisan wine they had produced and dedicated as a tribute to the memory of Sgt William Doyle and all Welsh Guardsmen who had fought at Monte Grande, Arce in May 1944.

The label on the bottle reads:

'Our Sauvignon Blanc is dedicated To Sgt William Doyle of the Welsh Guards and all the Welsh soldiers who fell at the battle of Monte Grande in Arce in May 1944. To this day the people of our town in Arce have sombre memories of the British soldiers trading bread for wine and who were destined to die on their land.'

Born on 10th March 1911, William Doyle walked into the Abergavenny recruiting office and voluntarily enlisted into the Welsh Guards on

28th April 1932 aged 21. His trade on enlistment was given as "Engineer" and he served, mainly on ceremonial duties in London District, until he was discharged in April 1935. He was then mobilized back into the Welsh Guards on 1st December 1939. A qualified Assault Pioneer and qualified at the London District School of Tactics, he was a hugely experienced non-commissioned officer who had served in North Africa in 1943. He was promoted to [acting] Sgt on 18th January 1943 and on 11th February 1944, was part of Number 2 Company, 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards



defending the crest of Monte Cerasola and deployed in the existing [Italian] sangars which were too shallow to provide decent cover for the much taller Welsh Guardsmen.

The events are covered in Welsh Guards at War by Major LF Ellis CVO CBE DSO MC which states:

"A determined dawn attack by the Germans came in and the enemy managed to reach the crest closely followed by heavy shell fire. The main attack fell on Number 2 Company in the central position and when grenades and small arms fire failed to dislodge the enemy from the rocks in front of them Captain DPG Elliot, in command of the company, ordered a bayonet charge. He was killed leading it, but the crest was cleared

of the enemy. Sergeant William Doyle took charge till Lieutenant RG Barbour (who was with Advanced Battalion Headquarters as Intelligence Officer) came up to command the company, and then what had already happened was repeated. The enemy again attacked strongly and reached the crest; again, rifle fire and grenades failed to dislodge him; again, the company cleared the crest at the point of the bayonet and again the officer directing the charge - this time Barbour - was killed. In all twenty-two were killed and forty-nine wounded that morning, and of Number 2 Company only thirty-eight men were left; but the enemy attack had failed, the Battalion held all its positions and tails were up".

For his gallantry Sgt William





Doyle was Mentioned in Despatches, with the citation reading:

"2733448 Sjt Doyle W

This Sjt set a very high example of coolness and courage throughout the operation on 10/20 Feb 44 on CERASOLA 8604. By his powers of leadership and example he contributed largely to the way in which his Coy, in which all the officers were killed or wounded maintained their position and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.'

It was during the fighting at Monte Grande prior to the fierce battles at Monte Piccolo for which the Welsh Guards received a Battle Honour on 29th May 1944, that Sergeant William Doyle was killed in action and this is covered in Welsh Guards at War (page

150) insomuch as it records:

"Working their way through the thick foreground, the leading platoon lost direction and got too far to the left. Wireless communication failed so Major Cobbold went after them to lead them on to the true line of advance. Coming into the lane they passed a cottage and fifty yards beyond it ran into close-range fire. Major Cobbold and Guardsman CVB Groom, his servant-orderly, were killed. Farther ahead Sergeant William Doyle and several others of the platoon had also been killed, and the remainder of the platoon could get no further in face of the enemy fire."

In his book "Ensign in Italy - A Platoon Commanders story", Lieutenant Philip Brutton described the terrain as "some of the most rugged, uneven and unforgiving imaginable",

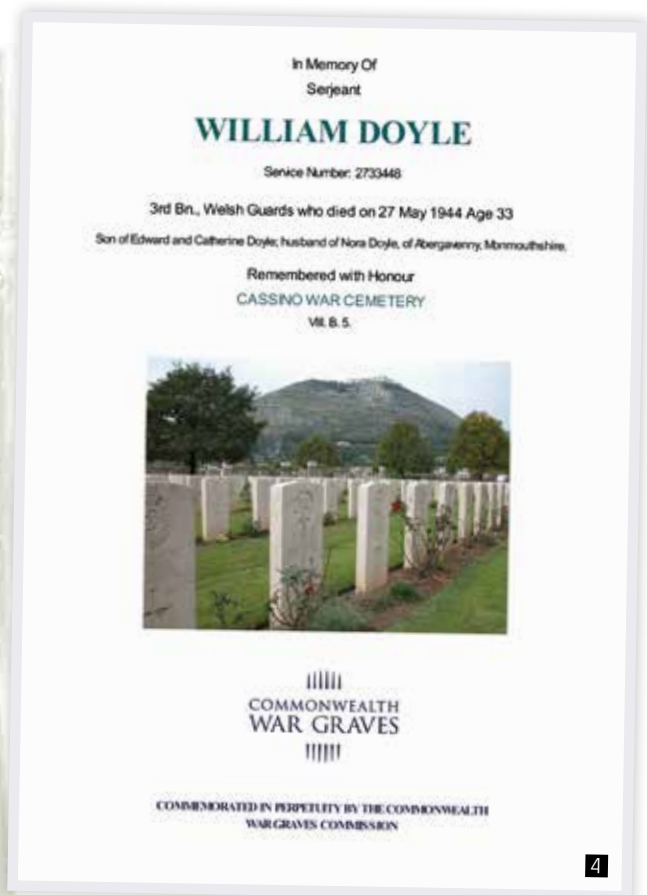
adding; "27 May - Continuing to move up Route 6 towards Arce. Being shelled. Eerie church bells ringing in no-man's land. Companies make recce in force on Monte Piccolo and Orio. No supporting fire [or smoke]. 7 men killed next to me. Several wounded. Myself very slightly in leg with shrapnel. Christopher Maude killed, in slit trench next to self. Shell hit tree and burst downwards. Mick Bankier wounded. Pip Bankier missing. Tim Hayley and Robert Cobbold killed".

We salute the memory of Sgt William Doyle and all the brave Welsh Guardsmen that died in and around Arce and we thank the people of Arce for remembering and honouring the ultimate sacrifice paid by so many Welsh Guardsmen.

1. *Members of 8 Platoon, 3 Company, 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards riding on a Sherman tank of 2nd Lothians and Border Horse, Arce 1944. Lt Philip Brutton is second from left.*
2. *Guardsmen from 3rd Battalion Welsh Guards are passed by a Sherman tank of 26th Armoured Brigade as they move forward to attack Monte Piccolo outside of Arce, Italy 28 May 1944*
3. *Doyle Wine at Monte Cassino (photo credit Cristiano Gabriele)*
4. *Of the Battle that was fought at Arce the 1st Guards Brigade received nearly three hundred casualties, of which one hundred and twelve were Welsh Guardsmen.*
5. *The author had the honour of meeting Mrs Helen Thresher, daughter of Sgt William Doyle, at her home in Abergavenny to present bottles of Doyle wine produced in memory of her Father.*

Sgt William Doyle was killed on 27th May 1944 aged just 33 years and is buried at the Cassino War Cemetery alongside his comrades from the 3rd Battalion. They are:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 99186 Maj RN Cobbold | 2738652 Gdsm R Bailey |
| 2737969 Gdsm LF Harry | 2738071 Gdsm IG Sheppard |
| 95927 Maj RL Pattinson | 2736461 Gdsm CT Baggaley |
| 2736536 Gdsm S Hantsman | 2737686 Gdsm ER Short |
| 156089 Capt DPG Elliot | 2735858 Gdsm RJ Bond |
| 2737006 Gdsm TG Impey | 2735633 Gdsm WS Smith |
| 149154 Capt CAF Maude | 2734790 Gdsm SF Carpenter |
| 2738921 Gdsm CC Jones | 2735507 Gdsm DET Smith |
| 186946 Lt RJ Barbour | 2735837 Gdsm A Cartwright |
| 770548 Gdsm W Jones | 2734529 Gdsm AS Thomas |
| 176783 Lt IP Bankier | 2734700 Gdsm JE Davies |
| 2734911 Gdsm RL Jones | 2737606 Gdsm H Waters |
| 200122 Lt TB Hayley | 2736860 Gdsm L Davies |
| 2736969 Gdsm AJ Jones | 2736450 Gdsm J Westwood |
| 2734634 LSgt WJ Bailey | 2736864 Gdsm S Edwards |
| 2735216 Gdsm C Martin | 2737396 Gdsm Weals |
| 2734389 LSgt EJ Clarke | 2737989 Gdsm JG Greenhouse |
| 2736553 Gdsm A Morgan | 2734002 Gdsm HJ Wheatstone |
| 2734819 LSgt W Finlay | 2737557 Gdsm J Greening |
| 2735964 Gdsm DH Morgan | 2734976 Gdsm GJ Williams |
| 2737556 LSgt F Goodwin | 2732807 Gdsm CVB Groom |
| 2736625 Gdsm PL Morgan | 2738409 Gdsm W Darby |
| 2732339 LSgt D Tucker | |
| 2735111 Gdsm EE Morris | |
| 2736079 LCpl T Davies | |
| 2735477 Gdsm GS Picton | |
| 2734888 LCpl GE Lee | |
| 2736423 Gdsm WJ Reed | |
| 2734736 LCpl JD Pratt | |
| 2737232 Gdsm EBS Richards | |
| 2737210 LCpl SG Williams | |
| 2736294 Gdsm DH Roberts | |
| 2737157 LCpl TE Williams | |
| 2733545 Gdsm SG Rogers | |



WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

14TH NOVEMBER 2021, WELLINGTON BARRACKS
PHOTO COLLAGE







Rex Whistler - 'Phoenix Rising from the Ashes'

by Warrant Officer Class 2 W Parry 95,
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, Regimental
Headquarters Welsh Guards

On 2nd September 1944 an armoured
battlegroup of the Welsh Guards was given
an order to capture Brussels.

They met their first serious resistance at Leuxe, well inside Belgium. Within an hour they had dealt with it and had pushed on. Mid-afternoon that same day at Halle they had their second fierce fight which lasted a few hours, again dealt with, they continued the advance into Brussels.

The battlegroup had advanced 97 miles in 14 hours which is said to be the fastest advance in history. One of the first tanks into the city was commanded by Robert Cleveland-Stevens, known in the Regiment as Bobby.

Bobby was born in London in 1919, he left Oxford University in February 1940 and joined what his father described as "the most efficient and most civilised of all Regiments". During his service Bobby had become close friends with another Welsh Guard troop

commander, a remarkable artist named Rex Whistler. A few months later, 1st July 1944, Bobby was chatting to Rex as they leaguered up after fierce fighting near Bayeux. Rex decided to walk over to chat to his troop sergeant, who was 100m away and was unfortunately killed by a mortar shell landing next to him. This was a huge personal loss to Bobby.

Bobby was himself wounded by a mortar shell in the back of his neck, fighting for the second battalion and spent the last days of the war in a hospital at Celle.

Bobby who commanded 13 Troop from his tank named "Phoenix", had a prized possession of a painting by his very good friend Rex Whistler. The painting was etched on to Bobby's gun muzzle and was entitled "Phoenix Rising from

the Ashes".

In October 2020, Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards received a box in the mail containing the gun muzzle, with a note enclosed with the following message:

Gun muzzle cover painted by Rex Whistler and given by him to his fellow serving Officer, 2nd Battalion Welsh Guards, Robert Cleveland-Stevens. Presented to the Welsh Guards in memory of her uncle, Robert Cleveland-Stevens.

By Penelope McLaughlan
October 2020

Penelope McLaughlan was the niece of Bobby Cleveland-Stevens.

It was immediately decided that such a Regimentally significant and one of a kind item needed to be restored and mounted and so I set about sourcing the necessary experts capable of helping with such a delicate project. Valentine Walsh, the fine paintings conservator who had done a lot of work on the Regimental Rex Whistler collection, informed me of

another art conservator who deals in this field, Emily O'Reilly, an accredited paper conservator, who happens to have her studio in Barry just outside Cardiff. Emily took the Rex Whistler piece and after months of research, testing and conservation work and, most importantly designs and considerations on how best to mount the muzzle for display, the gun muzzle has now finally been fully restored and conserved and mounted securely and safely in a clear perspex display case (see photo).

This personal gift from Rex to his dear friend Bobby, the 'Phoenix Rising from the Ashes' is now safely on display in its new home in the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Officers Mess at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

1. Robert Cleveland Stevens holding the muzzle cover (taken from the 2009 Regimental Magazine) -
2. View of the Muzzle cover in the new protective display case.

Welsh Guards Motorcycle Ride of Respect 2022

by Geraint & Jan Hughes

Over four days in June 2022 a Motorcycle Ride of Respect is to take place to remember the Welsh Guards and attached Arms who were lost in The Falklands Conflict in 1982.

This event is being organised by Maldwyn Jones, Neil Rice, Geraint Hughes and his wife Jan who will be riding a total distance of approximately 650 miles starting at Combermere Barracks, Windsor on the morning of Tuesday 21st June and finishing at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Wrexham on the afternoon of Friday 24th June 2022.

There are 24 memorials located in Wales, 1 in Hereford, 1 in Ross on Wye together with LCpl Christopher Thomas 03's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery. The event is being organised to demonstrate that our brothers have never been forgotten and to pay our respects at the memorials. It is intended to share the memorial events with serving and former Welsh Guards together with family members and friends of those who are being remembered.

This motorcycle ride will incorporate Remembrance, Respect and Support and early indications are that a number of Welsh Guards who served in the Conflict together

with family members will be participating in the event. A Facebook page entitled "Welsh Guards 40th Anniversary Ride of Respect 2022" has been set up outlining the planning and details of the event with periodic updates being made over the coming months prior to the event.



The Silver Baton with the names of our fallen inscribed upon it will be carried from Combermere Barracks to St Giles Church in Wrexham. Neil Rice has designed a bespoke Ride of Respect 2022 insert for the commemorative wreaths which will be laid at each location we visit.

The insert will also be available in the form of cloth and adhesive badges to commemorate the event.



The ride will commence from Combermere Barracks, Windsor on Tuesday 21st June 2022. Before heading to Wales respects will be paid at LCpl Christopher Thomas 03's grave at Brookwood Military Cemetery. In Ross on Wye there is a Memorial Bench in the town centre where Gdsm Gareth Griffiths 22 and Gdsm Colin Parsons are remembered and in the grounds of St Martin's Church in Hereford there are memorials to Special Air Service members Sgt John Arthy, Sgt Phil Jones 50 and Sgt John Hughes 41. Having paid our respects at these locations the ride will continue to overnight accommodation in the Cardiff area.

On Wednesday 22nd June 2022 the ride will commence at the Falklands Memorial in Alexandra Gardens, Cardiff where all members of the Regiment who lost their lives are remembered. During this day a further 8 locations are

to be visited starting at Barry where LCpl Ray Greg Thomas 82 is remembered inside Barry Town Hall. From Barry the next location to visit is the Cenotaph at Bridgend where Gdsm Gareth Nicholson is remembered.

The route continues to Llanharry to remember Gdsm Anthony Keeble, then onto Ynysangharad War Memorial Park at Pontypridd to pay respects to Gdsm Ian Dale, Sgt Cliff Elley, Gdsm Mark Gibby, Gdsm Brian Jasper, Gdsm Anthony Keeble and Gdsm Gareth Poole. The visit to Ynysangharad may be extended to take in the facilities within the park for lunch. A short journey to Ynysybwll follows to remember Gdsm Brian Jasper before visiting Cynon Valley Memorial Garden in Aberdare where LCpl Phillip Sweet is remembered on a Falklands Memorial Bench. The penultimate location to be visited is at Maesteg





Sgt Malcolm Wigley in the Memorial Garden near Wepre Brook. The penultimate memorial of this ride is located at the Holy Trinity Church in Rhosyllen where Gdsm Neil Hughes 11 is remembered.

We conclude our Ride of Respect at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Wrexham Town Centre and will be staying in Wrexham ahead of the 40th Anniversary Remembrance Service at St Giles Church on Saturday 25th June 2022.

This event is currently a self funded event in relation to fuel, food and accommodation costs. Anyone wishing to attend will be required to make their own arrangements for accommodation. We have a designated route to each memorial and our schedule allows for approximately 30 minutes at most locations. However, whilst we will attempt to adhere to our published programme with so many memorials to visit we are mindful that a degree of flexibility may be required.

During the course of the research into running this event we have received warm support from members of local councils, communities and churches and we are in regular communication with the South Wales Police in relation to our plans.

Nearer to the time a detailed itinerary will be published giving timings of our visits to each location which we will endeavour to post on as many social media platforms as possible.

If you wish to join us in any part of this Motorcycle Ride of Respect please contact Geraint Hughes on 07816 396614 or via email: jgh2331@gmail.com.

where Gdsm Chris Mordecai is remembered before riding to St Therese's Church in Port Talbot to pay respects at Gdsm James Weaver's memorial in the Church grounds.

St Mary's Church in the centre of Swansea is the first location we will visit on Thursday 23rd June 2022 where they have kindly agreed to open the church for us to pay our respects at the Memorial Window. We then ride to Llanelli town hall to remember LCpl Mark Thomas 75 and Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips 13 at the War Memorial in Church Street. Our next visit is to St Anne's Church at Cwmffrwd where there is a memorial plaque within the church dedicated to Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips - retired Archdeacon Roger Hughes, a former honorary chaplain to the Welsh Guards, is to join us in paying our respects.

From Cwmffrwd we head to the Cenotaph at Cardigan to remember Gdsm Michael Dunphy before riding north to Pwllheli to pay our respects to Sgt John Hughes.

Today's ride will conclude at Penrhos Country Park on the outskirts of Holyhead at the memorial to Gdsm Dai Williams 59

Our final day, Friday 24th June 2022, commences at the Cenotaph in Llanfairfechan to remember Gdsm Gareth Hughes 58. The route takes us along the North Wales coastline to the East Parade in Rhyl where Gdsm Paul Green is remembered on the Rhyl Cenotaph. We travel inland to Bodelwyddan Church near St Asaph to visit the memorial headstone for LCpl Tony Burke and then on to St Tynnog's Church at Llandyrnog

where Gdsm Peter Edwards 32 is remembered. The fifth location of the day is the Cenotaph on Wynnstay Street in Ruthin where LSgt Russell Carlyle is remembered before we ride to Connah's Quay to pay our respects to





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Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour

by Major Lyndon Davies QARANC, Battlefield Tour Project Officer

For a second year running, the Association Battlefield Tour has sadly been affected by coronavirus restrictions. With measures in place in Belgium preventing travel from the UK as well as uncertainties around travel, quarantine and so forth this end, it left little option other than to postpone this year's tour until September 2022.

This decision was made with a heavy heart but was completely justified and the right thing to do in the circumstances, in order to avoid unnecessary risks and difficulties for our Association members.

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. We can assure our commitment to run the tour in 2022 and am hugely grateful to all who have shown loyalty and understanding by requesting to transfer their deposits from this year to 2022. We already have over 40 members who wish to attend next year which is absolutely fantastic news.

The Mayor of Hechtel, Jan Dalemans who has truly become a great friend to us all has maintained contact and were it not for our inability to travel this year, he was on course to generously host our party in the VIP enclosure of the magnificent Sanicole International Airshow. He is delighted that so many members of the Welsh Guards Association have already committed to attending next year and sends his best wishes to all.

This year's annual commemorative event in

Hechtel did take place and 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 once again this year by Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE, the UK's Military Representative to NATO, Brussels, who addressed the Mayor of Hechtel and assembled audience and said:

"Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you for once again inviting me this morning. I had hoped that more Welsh Guards would join us today but COVID restrictions only allow for essential travel. However, it is my great pleasure to be here again to continue to commemorate with you this important part of our shared history."

As we come together to remember, it is equally important that we commemorate the terrible loss of life amongst the Belgian population of the town, who suffered so much during the course of the war, as well as those whose bravery was key to the liberation. Recollections from the time record many instances of locals giving the British soldiers information on the German positions but also significant civilian casualties and tending the wounded. It was very much a joint endeavour.

As we lay our wreaths for people in Hechtel and Welsh Guardsmen alike, it reminds us of the bonds our two countries share through adversity. These bonds have endured and strengthened over the years and are multiplied through our alliance in NATO, including with our former adversaries who are now our friends and allies.

Turning to what the Welsh Guards have been up to recently, COVID has been a dominant feature but the Battalion has been at the forefront of the military effort to help the National Health Service and emergency services during the pandemic.

Operationally, the Welsh Guards have deployed to Iraq to assist the campaign against insurgents there who try to destabilise the democratically elected Government of Iraq. We also have soldiers in the Falkland Islands, deterring any aggression there and we have soldiers going in and out of Africa to support anti-poaching operations.

A very special highlight for the Battalion last year was Trooping its Colour on 13 June in front of Her Majesty. Owing to COVID, this took place not at Horse Guards in London but at the Quadrangle in Windsor Castle. A smaller number of Welsh Guards returned to Windsor Castle this year for



the funeral of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. He was the Colonel of Welsh Guards from 1953 to 1975 and he will always have a special place in the memories of our Regimental family.

It has been a great privilege for me to be here today and I am grateful to the Mayor and Council for continuing to commemorate our shared endeavour in the Second World War. I hope next year we shall return with a bigger Welsh Guards contingent."

When we last attended Hechtel in September 2019, I was approached by twin brothers who were standing some distance away in the cemetery observing the commemoration event. These were the grandsons of a German soldier who had occupied Hechtel and fought in the battle of Hechtel against the Welsh Guards (see photo 3). Gerard Wuyts, who researched the history of the German occupation of Hechtel and traced those who had committed acts of war crimes, published the book 'Autumn Storm over Hechtel' which is a truly remarkable account of the events of September 1944.

Axel Schwarze, one of the brothers messaged me this year and stated that he appreciated the

friendly welcome he and his brother had received from members of the Welsh Guards Association and how much they appreciated the respectful exchange of words and information between us. He was particularly impressed by the speech delivered by Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant. Mr Schwarze recognised there were potential sensitivities from them being present at the commemoration with their grandfather's links to the Nazi's occupation of Hechtel but he was reassured by everyone's reaction to their presence how nations can now live together in peace and reconciliation with the sharing of common values.

Mr Schwarze stated that his grandfather was seriously wounded in the fighting against the Welsh Guards and was taken into British captivity as a prisoner of war. He was treated for his wounds by the British soldiers and medics and was hugely grateful that his grandfather's survival at the end of WW2 had much to do with British humanity. It's stories like these that demonstrate why we must never forget what took place in Hechtel and that the Welsh Guards were appreciated as a force for good, not only by the people of Hechtel but also



by some of its enemies and their subsequent generations. We plan to maintain contact with Mr Schwarze who is keen to share the story of his grandfather and maintain this new bond of friendship with the Welsh Guards Association.

Many of those who have attended the Association Battlefield Tour over the last 20 years in particular, will remember Jacobus Custers, or as he is affectionately known, 'Jacquo'. Jacquo has been the Master of Ceremonies for many years, easily recognisable by his dinner suit and white gloves and has the events of the day planned to perfection. This year, for the first time in 17 years, he missed the commemoration ceremony due to illness. Jacquo is a great friend to us all. We wish him well for his treatment and pray for his full recovery. He has also kept in touch and sends his best wishes to all his Welsh Guards friends.

The Association Battlefield Tour offers excellent value for money and we are grateful to the Trustees of the Regiment for offering a generous subsidy. We are always grateful to Colonel Tom Bonas, Major Martin Brown and the Regimental Quarter Master 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.

The tour has grown in number over recent years, and it is pleasing to see a new generation of Welsh Guards veterans committed to the tour, joining other Association members who have loyally supported the tour for years. 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 and make the tour the special trip that it is.

Aims of the Battlefield Tour.
The Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour aims to:

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



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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 next year's Association Battlefield Tour will run from 10th to 14th September. Any expressions of interest should be made to Branch Secretaries, to the Secretary General Mr Maldwyn Jones secretary. general.wga@gmail.com or direct to the Battlefield Tour Project Officer Maj Lyndon Davies DLDavies123@gmail.com.

The 2022 tour will include

the 78th annual liberation commemoration in Hechtel and will then focus on the Battle of the Somme staying 2 nights in Arras. Terms of Reference for the tour can be found on the Welsh Guards Charity Website at www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

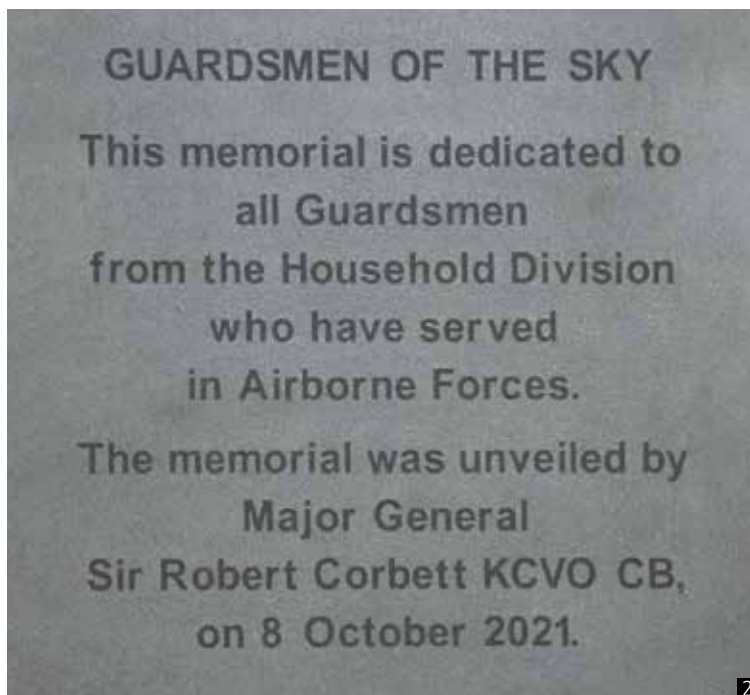
1. *Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE laying the Welsh Guards poppy wreath.*
2. *Jan Dalemans Burgemeester Hechtel-Eksel laying a floral wreath.*
3. *The Welsh Guards flag flying over the M4A2 Sherman Tank memorial in the town.*
4. *Jan Dalemans Burgemeester Hechtel-Eksel making his speech.*
5. *Awaiting the start of the Service*
6. *The German twins gathered at the tank with some of our tour party with Gerard Wuyts (Sept 19).*
7. *Jacobus Custers aka 'Jacquo', Master of Ceremonies on Parade at a previous event (Sept 19).*



6



7



Service of Dedication for the Guards Parachute Association Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum

by Major A D I Wall MBE

In the Welsh Guards Regimental Magazine 2020, an article described the plan to erect a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) to all those Guardsmen who had died when serving with Airborne and Special Forces.

At the time of writing that article, a design for the Memorial had been made, the Memorial and Landscapes Committee at the Arboretum had agreed and a site had been allocated, Charitable Status for the project was agreed by the Charities Commission, the Guards Parachute Association had been granted Gift Aid by HMRC and initial work had begun on the bronze statue and stone plinth, and fund raising had begun.

Although work on the site had begun, the completion date and the date of unveiling could not be confirmed, in view of certain delays and uncertainties caused by COVID-19. Finally

it was possible to plan the Service of Dedication for "The Guardsmen of the Sky Memorial" at the NMA to take place on the 8th October, 2021.

On that day approximately 250 attended, including members of the Guards Parachute Association, some with families, and representatives of Headquarters Household Division and Household Division Regiments, the Parachute Regiment and the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Charity, and the Special Air Service Association. Also present were members of 6th (Guards) Platoon, 3rd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment as well as the Commanding Officer and the RSM.

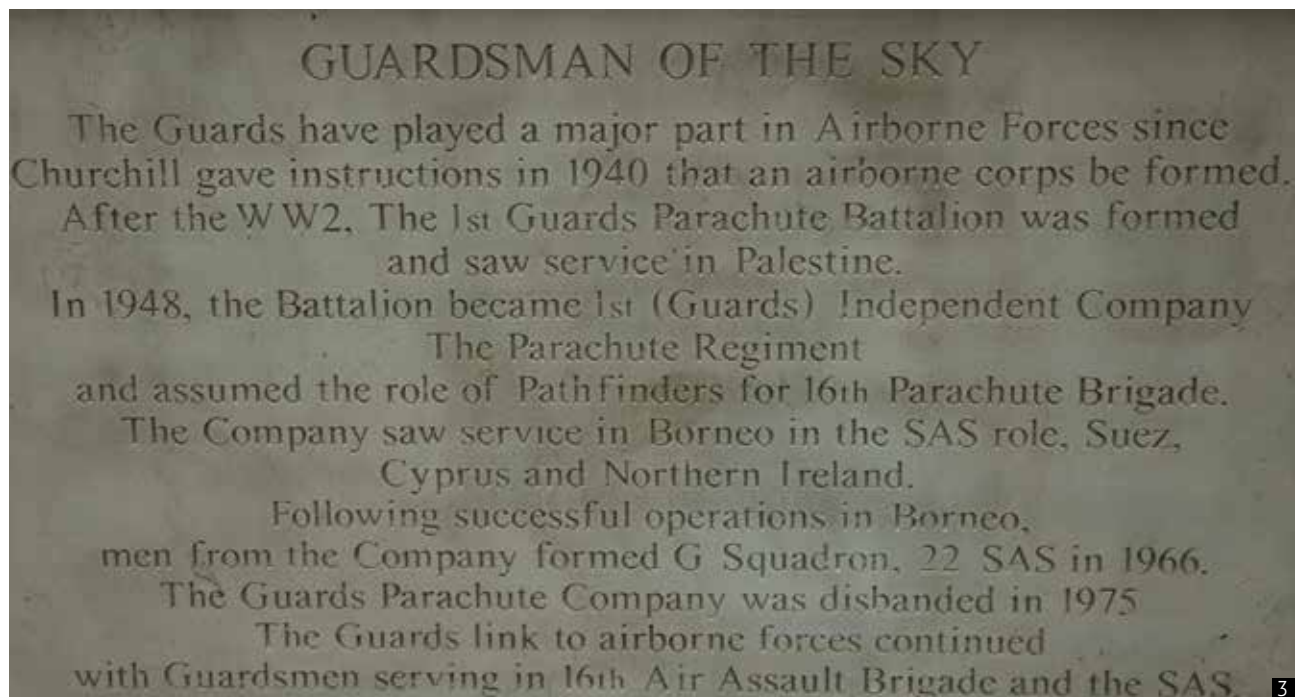
Fortunately, the day was dry and mild, which suited the ceremony held at the memorial. This began with a service led by The Reverend Canon Alan Hughes MBE TD, who had served in the Coldstream Guards and the Parachute Regiment. A detachment of the Band of the Scots Guards was present, accompanying the singing of the hymns and played Last Post and Reveille during the Act of Remembrance.

The unveiling of the Memorial was conducted by Major General Sir Robert Corbett KCVO CB, founder of the Guards Parachute Association and the last Company Commander of the Guards Parachute Company, until its disbandment in 1975. Amongst other roles, Major General Corbett had later commanded the 5th Airborne Brigade as well as London District and The Household Division.

Following the service at the site of the Memorial, attendees attended a reception in the main building of the Arboretum. During the

reception speeches were given by Major General Sir Robert Corbett and by Colonel Simon Faulkner OBE, the current President of the Guards Parachute Association, who had served as a Troop Commander in the Guards Parachute Company in its final years. As well as reading out a message from Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL, Patron of the Memorial project, who was unable to attend the ceremony, thanks were given to the organisations and individuals who had helped fund the Memorial project.

The service on the 8th October was an occasion to remember all those guardsmen who had died while serving in Airborne and Special Forces. The day was also a wonderful opportunity for individuals, both serving and veterans, to rekindle old friendships and develop new ones. It also served to recognise all those organisations and individuals that had so generously assisted in completing the Memorial project, some of whom were present for the ceremony. As



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was said by Colonel Faulkner, considerable thanks should be given to Lieutenant Colonel Jim Heycock, Chairman of the Guards Parachute Association (who began his military service in 1 WG, before joining the Guards Parachute Company and then 22 SAS), whose idea it was to erect a Memorial, and who initiated the fund raising and the ideas for the design of the memorial and statue, oversaw its construction, and planned the service of dedication. All of this required a considerable amount of coordination with a number of individuals and organisations.

Finally, if any readers of this article visit the National Memorial Arboretum, they will find the Guardsmen of the Sky Memorial located in between the Household Division Memorial and the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces Memorial.

- 1.4. Photos of the Memorial are credited to Neil Rice, the Assistant Secretary General of the Welsh Guards Association.
- 2-3. Photo of the plinth inscription is credited to Phil Evans Charity Photography.



4



1

Visit of Field Marshal Lord Guthrie and Christopher James to the Battalion

by Lieutenant T R P Haynes

The Field Marshal Lord Guthrie and Christopher James visited the Battalion at Combermere Barracks on Friday 4th December 2020. The purpose of this visit was for Lord Guthrie to unveil the new plinth that has been constructed in the Barracks.

The plinth was erected in memory of all of those Welsh Guards who have served and died in conflict and sits proudly facing the main entrance onto camp. It is inscribed with Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen' in both English and Welsh with the centrefold devoted to a large Regimental cypher. Lord Guthrie was welcomed to Combermere Barracks with a Quarter Guard

led by the Picquet Officer, Lt Haines-Henderson, with the Regimental Sergeant Major assisting with the unveiling ceremony that ensued. The guests were accompanied throughout by the Regimental Adjutant – Colonel Tom Bonas – and Captain Oscar Alsop.

Once the unveiling ceremony had been completed, the Field Marshal and Mr James retired

to the Officers Mess and before settling down to lunch it had been agreed that an informal question and answer discussion should take place in the Ante Room. Both guests had an extraordinary wealth of experience to share with the Mess having had truly remarkable careers.

Lord Guthrie commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1959 with whom he served in Libya, Germany, Aden and Northern Ireland. He later commanded Prince of Wales Company in Münster and then also the Battalion in Berlin. In 1966, he became a Troop Commander with 22 SAS and later commanded a squadron in 1968. During this time he served in Aden, Malaysia and East Africa. Later in his career he Commanded 4th Armoured

Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division and the Northern Army Group before becoming the Chief of General Staff and later Chief of Defence Staff in 1997. While he was Chief of the Defence Staff he advised the Government on the conduct of the Kosovo War.

Christopher James commissioned into the Welsh Guards in 1965 before deploying to Aden as Platoon Commander. It was in Aden that he first encountered the SAS and was inspired to successfully pass selection in 1971. He served much of his four years in the Regiment abroad, including operations in Oman against communist guerrillas. Mr James later transitioned into overseas intelligence, working for MI6 for twenty years. During this period he served in Africa,

India, the Middle East and Europe. In the 1990s he moved into private intelligence, launching a highly successful intelligence and strategic consultancy firm.

Lord Guthrie and Mr James recounted fond memories of their time at Regimental Duty in the 1960s, affirming that they had found inspiration during these early days owing to the strong ethos and sense of fraternity found at Battalion. Moreover, they added that they owed a great deal to the early influences and education they received from the Welsh Guards at the start of their respective careers. Illuminating comparisons were drawn between their experiences and life today at Battalion. The Mess relished the opportunity to hear some of their invaluable reflections that centred around issues such as leadership, guiding influences, notable previous encounters, Britain's changing role in the world and the distinctions between Britain's security and intelligence agencies.

Lord Guthrie and Mr James were most inspiring throughout with an untold abundance of knowledge to share. The two men had quite clearly formed a close bond through many years of friendship which was apparent throughout with a distinguishable rapport. The Officers' Mess is deeply grateful for their time and willingness to pass on their collective wisdom to the junior officers.

1. (Left to Right) 2Lt Felix Syms, WO1 (RSM) M Parry 19, Capt Will Clarke (Adjutant), Major Tom Spencer-Smith (Bn Second-in-Command), Capt Oscar Alsop, Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, Mr Christopher James, Col Tom Bonas (Regimental Adjutant), Lt Tom Haines-Henderson.
2. Field Marshal Lord Guthrie inspects the Quarter Guard. The Field Marshal became Chief of the General Staff (CGS) on 15 March 1994, being advanced to a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in the Queen's Birthday Honours 1994.
3. Field Marshal Lord Guthrie and Mr Christopher James in the Officers' Mess.





Visit by the Secretary of State for Defence

by Captain TS Minihan, Regimental Signals Officer

On Friday 6 November 2020, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards were visited by the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP (ex Scots Guards).

The Battalion were busily preparing for their two-week battle camp to Otterburn the following week and upon his arrival Mr Wallace commented that the pace of life in a Guards Battalion had endured since he left the Scots Guards in 1998.

Mr Wallace began his visit by spending time with Number 2 Company, giving them an overview of defence activity and explaining his department's plans to improve support for military families. This was of particular interest to LCpl Wilkinson who had recently become a father and was congratulated by Mr Wallace on this proud achievement. The Secretary of State, himself a veteran of several operational tours including to Northern Ireland, was interested to hear of Number 2 Company's recent deployment to the Falkland Islands and spent time listening to the Guardsmen recount their experiences. Finally, Mr Wallace was delighted to promote LSgt

Forde to the rank of Sergeant. There are very few members of the Armed Forces who can claim to have been promoted by the Defence Secretary.

Later that morning, the Secretary of State paid a visit to members of the Battalion conducting a planning cycle in a mock command post. The scenario saw the Welsh Guards Battle Group deployed to 'Atropia' as part of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. It was fascinating to hear Mr Wallace's perspective, not only on our steadfast defence of Atropian sovereignty, but also on the nature of the future operating environment. This conversation continued over lunch in the Officers' Mess as the Defence Secretary spoke of the strategic importance of investment in defence technology and how the Welsh Guards could potentially benefit. He also shared his thoughts on the future of public duties across the Foot Guards and remembered



vividly both the privilege and challenge of delivering these in an increasingly busy time.

There is a colourful history of relationship between the Welsh Guards and the office of the Secretary of State for Defence. The Rt Hon Lord Heseltine, Defence Secretary between 1983 and 1986, was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in June 1959 (just one month before Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie) and served a brief period of national service as a second lieutenant. He was often seen, as is Mr Wallace, wearing his Divisional tie with

great pride in the House of Commons. Mr Wallace's visit reminded us of our collective pride in the Household Division and the privilege of a former Guardsman holding the office of Secretary of State for Defence.

1. Ben Wallace MP addresses members of the Battalion.
2. The Commanding Officer and the Secretary of State for Defence.
3. Secretary of State, Ben Wallace, Ops Offr, Capt Tom Evans and The Special Political Advisor, Peter Quentin (Tom's Brother-in-Law).



Life as a Gap Year Commission Officer

by 2nd Lieutenant O Fiddes

Since the start of December 2020, I have had the honour and privilege of serving as a Gap Year Commission Officer with the Welsh Guards.

The Gap Year Commission began with the 9-week Reserve Commissioning Course at Sandhurst. This was an incredible first insight into life in the Army, particularly for someone coming from a family with no military history. Whilst it was not as demanding as the Regular Commissioning Course, it still forced me out of my comfort zone and challenged me mentally and physically in ways I could not have foreseen when I left school less than six months before.

This year I have gained an exceptional insight into what being an Officer really entails, both day-to-day in the barracks and out on exercise. I have been lucky enough to be a member of The Prince

of Wales' Company, Number Two Company and Support Company. It is with Support Company that I deployed to the Falkland Islands over the summer as part of the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC).

Following Christmas leave, I travelled to Brecon to take on the infamous Winter Brecon Course. There were countless moments when I questioned whether it was possible for it to get any colder, only for half an hour later for me to question how on earth it had got even colder! I can honestly say that it was the hardest challenge of my life so far. Whilst my time in Brecon had its struggles, looking back on it, I feel much more confident

in what I have been taught having had the opportunity to put it into practice.

Following Brecon, there was a busy period deploying on training support tasks to Brecon and Salisbury Plain. There were several live range packages and then Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) in Thetford. All of these gave me an improved insight into the responsibilities of an Officer and - in particular - a Platoon Commander.

My final three months with the Welsh Guards have been spent in the Falkland Islands. I feel immensely lucky to have been offered the opportunity to deploy. Whilst I had heard many stories of frequent winter gales and icy weather, there is no doubt that it has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I have been reading up on the history and was particularly pleased to have been on the islands on

14 Jun 21 when the Islanders commemorated Liberation Day.

I found the packing process prior to deploying a somewhat daunting task. Before deploying, I spent the mandatory two weeks in isolation and used the time to frantically pack, unsuccessfully trying to squeeze every item I could foresee being useful over the next three months into a grip bag and a Bergan. This came with the added difficulty of getting it all to weigh less than 54kg. I felt sure that 20 percent of what had I packed would not be used and there would be plenty of things that I will wish I had packed when I was out there! Both my predictions turned out to be true.

Having spoken to fellow Gap Year Commission Officers from a variety of cap-badges, I am certain that I will have had one of the more varied and interesting gap years that the Army has to offer be that through the opportunity to travel or the wide range of training experiences.

I have enjoyed the support and camaraderie of the Guardsmen and my fellow officers and have made many new friends. I will be sorry to leave the Welsh Guards in September, but university beckons. I will then have an opportunity to reflect on all that I have learnt and to decide whether I would like to commit to becoming a career officer. My time with the Welsh Guards could not have equipped me better to make that decision from an informed perspective.

1. *The author on the FIRIC tasking in the South Atlantic. It should be known by readers that for majority of his time at Battalion he was not eligible for Picquet Duty!*



1

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales bids farewell to the Welsh Guards ahead of Op SHADER

by Second Lieutenant R M J Cross, Officer Commanding 5 Platoon

Our Colonel, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, visited Combermere Barracks on 5 May 21 in his first formal engagement since the death of his father, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

It presented the opportunity for His Royal Highness to visit the Battalion ahead of its deployment to Iraq on Op SHADER. The visit was a special occasion for all involved, many of whom had lined the North and East sides of the Windsor Castle Quadrangle at HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's funeral the month prior.

Arriving at Combermere Barracks in his new Tesla, The Prince of Wales was welcomed by a Quarter Guard before being escorted by Lt Col H S Llewelyn-Usher to the foyer of the Officers' Mess. There he presented Capt Parry with the Meritorious Service Medal, and CSgt Marsh and Sgt Thompson with their Long Service and Good Conduct (LSGC) medals.

Assembled in the Officers' Mess Garden were representatives from The Prince of Wales's Company, Number 2 Company, Number 3 Company and Headquarters Company. His Royal Highness took time to speak to each Guardsman in turn, taking time to enquire about their service and their plans for the future. The Prince of Wales appeared to be delighted to be back visiting the Welsh Guards, laughing with the assembled company about the strain of carrying kit. 'It's alright when you are young,' he said ruefully, 'it's when you go past 30!'

The Queen's Green Canopy initiative has been launched

ahead of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and The Prince of Wales kindly took the time to plant a Hornbeam (*carpinus betulus*) tree in the Officers' Mess Garden. Hornbeams are native to many parts of the UK, including Wales.

Speaking to those in attendance, Prince Charles commented: "I was so enormously proud of those of you who formed part of the complement during my father's funeral recently. If I may say so, what a wonderful credit not only to the Welsh Guards but also the Household Division and all those who were on parade, for what you all did. I know my family and I were deeply moved by the way you all performed your duties. People from other countries rang me up to say that they had never seen anything quite so marvellous, so beautifully done and with such dignity and style... I know my father would have been also enormously touched because he had dreamt up this particular way he wanted it done."

The late Prince Philip, as a former Colonel of the Regiment, had been head of the Welsh Guards' Regimental family from 1953 to 1975 and this parting sentiment was very moving and personal for all present.

Before he bid the Regiment goodbye, Prince Charles



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paused to reflect at the new Welsh Guards Memorial which was unveiled by Field Marshal Lord Guthrie in December last year. The stone memorial weighs over a ton and was cut especially for the Welsh Guards from Gloddfa Ganol slate quarry in Blaenau Ffestiniog.

We look forward to welcoming His Royal Highness to Combermere Barracks again when the Battalion returns from Iraq next summer.

1. HRH The Prince of Wales meets the Quarter Guard.
2. HRH shares a joke with Sgt Thompson.
3. HRH addressing Welsh Guardsman in the Officers' Mess Garden.
4. HRH planting the Commemorative Hornbeam to mark his visit.
- 5-7. HRH chats to members of the Battalion.
8. HRH visits the memorial stone.





WELSH GUARDS CADET AFFILIATIONS

COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF)

DULWICH COLLEGE

London, SE21 7LD
Contingent Commander - Lt Jon Fox RN
School Staff Instructor - Scott Swalwell COLDM GDS
Swalwells@dulwich.org.uk

MILLFIELD SCHOOL

Butleigh Road, Street, Somerset, BA16 0YD
Contingent Commander - Captain Craig Middleton
School Staff Instructor - Rob Seeley RM
Seeley.R@millfieldschool.com

BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL

Castle Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 2BB
Contingent Commander - Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Hardy
School Staff Instructor - Steve Carter WG
SCarter@berkhamsted.com

THE ORATORY SCHOOL

Woodcote, near Reading, South Oxfordshire, RG8 0PJ
Contingent Commander - Major Scott Boshier
School Staff Instructor - Adrian Stead
A.Stead@oratory.co.uk

TREORCHY SCHOOL

Pencelli, Treorchy, CF42 2YE
Contingent Commander - Captain Simon Davies
Stsdavi2@treorchycomp.org.uk

MYDDLETON COLLEGE

Peakes Lane, Denbigh
LL16 3EN
School Staff Instructor - Ian Nicholls RAF
i.nicholls@myddeltoncollege.co.uk

ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF)

DYFED & GLAMORGAN

(G Company)
TA Centre, Heol West Plas, Litchard, Bridgend, CF31 1PA
Major Stephen John
ceodandgacf@pintel.co.uk

CLWYD & GWYNEDD

(Bradley & Brynteg Platoon, Holywell Platoon)
Kinmel Park Camp, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 5TY
Major Bernie Pageant
theceo@clwtd-gwyneddacf.org

GWENT & POWYS (Band)

HQ & Training Camp, Cwrt-y-Gollen, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8
1TH
Major Derek Munro
ceogandpacf@aol.com

ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

(5 Platoon (Maidenhead))
Anson Block, Brock Barracks, Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire,
RG30 1HW
Major DM Laden
aoberksacf@acf.org



Millfield Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

by Captain Craig Middleton, Contingent Commander

Millfield CCF has had a very successful year despite the obvious restrictions during the first term.

We managed to welcome our partner school back onto the site for face-to-face training which was exciting for all the students after a break during remote learning.

Two highlights include the first CCF annual camp and the newly introduced shooting programme; both have allowed the students to accelerate their skills exponentially. During the camp weekend, students practiced field activities including fire and manoeuvre, section attacks and cooking - it was a fantastic experience. We now have several BSA scorpion cadet rifles, a portable 6 lane outdoor range and competed in the regional Bisley rounds at Yoxter in September, an exciting year ahead and plenty of ground to build upon.'

1. HQSW Cadet Camp attendees, Millfield CCF
2. L-R: Cadet Khimji, Cadet Etchell, Corporal Pepler, Cadet Farnen - cooking in the field lesson.
3. Contingent Commander Capt Craig Middleton sampling Cadet Humphries' lunch - cooking in the field lesson.
4. Corporal Curwin, Standard Bearer on the Schools Remembrance Sunday Parade.
5. Cadets receiving initial Instruction on the BSA Air Rifle from Cadet Training Team (CTT) Sgt Watkins
6. Cadet Irvine on Cadet Camp.
7. Screenshot from Millfield Cadets social media from their visit to Regimental Headquarters when RQMS Parry 95 took the opportunity to present the Welsh Guards Flag for them to fly.



Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF Report

By Major (ACF) J V Baxendale, Media and Recruiting Officer Clwyd and Gwynedd ACF

Clwyd and Gwynedd Army Cadet Force (ACF) have two detachments that are proudly affiliated with the Welsh Guards; Holywell and Bradley/Brynteg detachments.

The detachments have been delighted to receive support from the Welsh Guards Regimental Support Team - North (RST N) before during and after the COVID-19 restrictions.

However the fantastic support from the RST, led by the retiring Sgt Peter Duffy, has benefited every detachment across North Wales. Team visits have been a highlight of the training calendar with its unique mixture of information, activities and challenges. The team also supported company and battalion training weekends.

This year two Welsh Guards badged instructors successfully completed the commissioning process and received their Cadet Force Commissions. 2Lt Louise McCabe-Allen heads up Holywell detachment and 2Lt Kyle Williams is from Brynteg detachment.

With the easing of restrictions tentative steps were possible for detachments to reopen and thanks to some considerable efforts a series of mini-camps were possible bringing a very welcome return to cadet activities.

With the suspension of face-to-face activity the team of Sgt Duffy, LSgt Davies, LCpl Worthington and latterly Guardsman Williams, turned their hands to virtual training sessions via Zoom expertly delivering sessions on: Admin in Camp, Why things are seen, Admin in the field, and

Camouflage and Concealment both from the confines of their lockdown location at RAF Valley and also from the back garden at home. Overall there were some 19 sessions delivered. With the sessions proving so popular they were also delivered to other cadet units across the UK

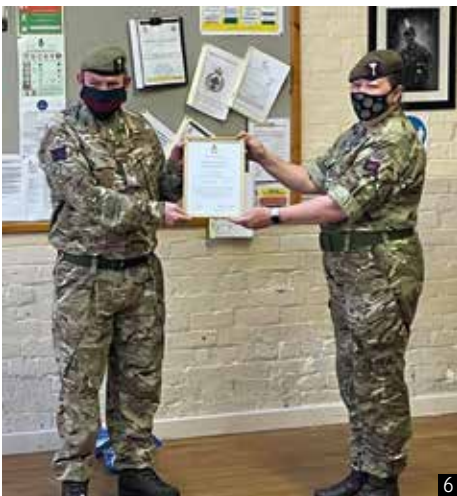
Sgt Duffy said "we as a Regimental Support Team would like to say just how impressed we have been with the participation in our Zoom lessons. From the junior cadets to the senior staff, despite the ominous COVID period it was a delight to pass on our knowledge."

LSgt Christopher Davies 35 who delivered many of the sessions added "from my point of view it was good to see how well cadets could retain the information, and using two sessions they were able to find the hidden LCpl Worthington which was great"

With the easing of restrictions there was just time to fit in two detachment visits to refresh the close regimental links and to mark Sgt Duffy's retirement from the Army. Once again the Welsh Guards engaged the cadets with eventful evenings of COVID compliant activities.

Mervyn Jones, the Brynteg Detachment Commander said "The cadets wanted to do something special to mark Sgt Duffy's last night so it was their idea to present a tankard plus we gave him a Brynteg &





Bradley T Shirt with the Welsh Guards logo on it. It was a way of saying a big thank you for all he has done for the ACF." Holywell detachment also marked his retirement with a special presentation and we all wish St Duffy good luck as he heads into retirement.

With the demise of the WG RST and the formation of the Infantry Engagement Team now in the very capable hands of LSgt Chris Davies we look forward to continuing the close relationship with our detachments across North Wales

1. 2Lt Kyle Williams, Brynteg detachment
2. 2Lt Louise McCabe-Allen, Holywell detachment
3. Sgt P Duffy presented with a tankard on his retirement
4. Cadets at Camp
5. Cadets at Camp
6. Sgt Duffy Presented with the Cadet Forced Certificate of Recognition by 2Lt Louise McCabe-Allen, Holywell Detachment Commander.
7. The Holywell Challenge!
8. Brynteg Detachment



1

Dulwich College Combined Cadet Force (DCCCF)

By Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Felix Taylor

Dulwich College CCF's year began with tight COVID measures across the school meaning that, initially, lessons had to be taught online.

While this could have dissuaded some, Dulwich's senior NCOs were eager to return, after both a lockdown and the summer holidays, and so embraced this new challenge with open arms. The Year 9s first experience of the CCF was electronically and on a computer screen, but they kept engaged with the lessons which showed both their dedication and enthusiasm and that the NCOs were keeping the lessons interesting and entertaining.

On 5th November 2020, it was announced that once again Britain would be going into another COVID lockdown, posing yet another challenge for the CCF. Nonetheless, weekly parades and lessons continued, albeit online, displaying once again the ability of the NCOs to successfully organise and teach

lessons online. These lessons ranged from the basic fieldcraft syllabus to some more advanced first aid lessons. During lockdown the Officers came up with the "Contingent Commanders Challenge" where cadets had to send in a video or picture of what they had done that week, whether it was learning to cook a new meal or doing 50 press-ups, keeping the cadets both involved and active. The College were running a 24-hour charity run and so the CCF saw the opportunity to enter a 12-man team, all of whom would run 2 hours each. The College and CCF raised £8,958 for the Kings College Hospital Charity in recognition of the stresses in which the NHS had been put under during the COVID pandemic and over the 24 hours the CCF team ran an impressive 270.01km.

After three long lockdowns the College and it's CCF returned to in-person teaching on 8th March 2021. Finally, the Year 9s experienced what it was like to have a full contingent parade and they were in a classroom with their fellow cadets and their NCO. Also, this year was the first year that DCCCF offered archery which proved a big hit amongst both the cadets and the Officers. The weeks running up to Summer Camp have always been action packed and the preparation for Summer Camp 2021 was no exception. The cadets practised and perfected certain topics such as platoon attacks and drill in the space of 4 weeks to ensure a well-executed camp.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to carry out both a single day exercise at St Martins Plain and a great day at Frimley Park with the Cadet Training Team. Our exercise day was extremely busy and included a recce, an observation post and culminated in a platoon attack on to a set of bunkers which all the cadets thoroughly enjoyed. The day at Frimley Park included a wide range

of activities and competitions, from mine clearing to a Queens Guard drill competition. The day concluded with the annual RSM handover from WO1 Edward Brilliant to WO1 Francesco Dembinski. The end of the academic year also brought the welcome news that two senior cadets had been awarded with an Army Officer Scholarship. DCCCF looks forward to this year and all its challenges and opportunities.

As always, Cymru am Byth.

1. Dulwich College CCF – Ex Alleynian Advance
2. RSM Edward Brilliant, hands over the Contingent to WO1 (RSM) Francesco Dembinski
3. Cadets receive their Orders before deploying on a Recce Patrol
4. Cadets enjoy some Archery Tag at CTT Frimley Park
5. Cadets patrolling on their way to the Final Attack





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Recruiting Update

by Warrant Officer Class 2 D T Hughes 39,
Recruiting Warrant Officer

It is no secret that Welsh Guards recruitment has been successful this year, with over 105 candidates loaded into training between Sept 20 and Sept 21.

I am often asked what the secret is to successful recruiting in the Principality. The answer is simple: by using social media as your vital ground; employing good, professional recruiters that spread positive words about life in the Battalion; and, finally, looking after your candidates as they progress through the pipeline - going above and beyond.

With our Welsh Guards branding being restricted by the creation of the Infantry Engagement Team (IET) in 2021 it's difficult to sell something you are not actually allowed to show or display. The IET movement means our recruiters are owned by Inf HQ and can only wear

Infantry clothing with minimal branding from Battalion. However, the recruiting team established early on that we can still produce our ethos of 'excellence in action' by simply doing what we do and doing it well.

The teams have supported the Military Preparation Colleges in Wales, three academic colleges in South Wales, two local schools in Windsor and a college local to our homesite in Brooklands. Although restricted in our branding, demonstrating the Welsh Guards as an attractive offer to young people is relatively simple: by preparing lessons and displays to a high standard in a way that automatically makes us

stand out from the crowd. Our Junior Non-Commissioned Officers have excelled in this, with LCpl Morris in Neath College, LSgt Davies 35 and LCpl Worthington up North and others capturing the requirement in almost every town in between.

It is clear that the old tactic of patrolling streets and handing out leaflets no longer works. The current generation of candidates wants the information electronically and wants a person to talk to immediately with any issues or questions. My predecessors set up a fantastic nurturing system that ensures our candidates are supported from 'cradle to Catterick'. It was clear to me early on that having an experienced recruiter and soldier on call to deal with issues has been a great asset to ensure that people stay into the pipeline and initial applications are converted into attendances at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC). With the nature of some candidate's backgrounds not allowing

them the financial ability to arrive in Catterick with the correct equipment the team have gone above and beyond to facilitate the arrival of new soldiers.

Worthy of a note, Sgt Duffy now steps off and leaves the Army after an extremely successful tour as Regimental Support Team North (RST (N)) Commander, LSgt Davies 35 will continue his good work while Sgt O'Brien leaves Bangor ACC (Army Careers Centre) and is replaced shortly by LCpl Worthington. We wish them both all the best in the future.

The team continues to support our candidates while concentrating efforts on events and colleges in the homeland. We have expanded our Area of Responsibility (AOR) to Hereford and Worcester as LCpl Oxtoby continues his excellent work in Cardiff AFCO (Armed Forces careers Office). At the time of going to press we have loaded 105 candidates to training at both



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adult and junior entry. 83 new Guardsmen have arrived in Battalion with a first time pass at Guards Training Company and a third of these have gone on an operational tour in their first ten months of arrival. The pipeline remains strong and it is hugely rewarding to see the Battalion's efforts in recruiting bearing fruit after a difficult period of under manning.

Anyone serving who wishes to join the already strong team are advised to speak to their chain of command and the Recruiting Warrant Officer about opportunities to build on the success that we have had.

1. A student from Brooklands College getting to grips with the Sharpshooter Rifle.
2. A member of the Welsh Guards RST explains Army employment opportunities to Brooklands College students.
3. Gdsm Hathaway and LCpl Morgan fine tuning their weapon before firing the ACMT.
4. LSgt Davies 35 attends annual training.
5. Sgt Duffy's last range day in the Army.



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The Oratory's Cadet Suo Oskar Jordan-Barber as a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Oxfordshire

The Oratory is delighted to announce that Cadet Senior Under Officer Oskar Jordan-Barber from Oratory Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has been selected as the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for Oxfordshire (CCF). He is also the first Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet that The Oratory School has had since the formation of the school's CCF.

The Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet is one of the most respectable and outstanding roles to achieve within the CCF. His role includes accompanying the Lord-Lieutenant to local community events and ceremonies, as well as representing the Cadet Forces when Public Speaking.

A strong field of candidates were nominated for this role from across the county and a rigorous selection process took place earlier in the year, including an interview panel with senior officers from the cadet forces as well as each application being examined by the Lord-Lieutenant's office. The Lord-Lieutenant has only one cadet from each of the cadet services (Combined Cadet Force, Air Cadets, Sea Cadets and Army Cadet Force).

On his appointment, Oskar Jordan Barber, a boarder at The Oratory School in Woodcote, says "I am very pleased and delighted to be appointed to the role of the Lord-Lieutenant Cadet for Oxfordshire. It is also a great honour to be the first Lord-Lieutenant Cadet that The Oratory School has had."

The Oratory's Contingent Commander Major S J Boshier, says "It is a great honour for both SUO Jordan-Barber and

the Contingent as well as The Oratory School. This post is recognised throughout the cadet organisation."

1. Oratory Cadet Suo Oskar Jordan-Barber with Oratory Contingent Commander Major SJ Boshier.
2. Oratory Cadet and Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Oxfordshire Suo Oskar Jordan-Barber.
3. Oratory Contingent Commander Major Scott Boshier and Oratory Cadet Suo Oskar Jordan-Barber presented with a Welsh Guards flag by RQMS Rob Parry during a visit the Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards.





Berkhamsted School Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

by Warrant Officer Class 1 Steve Carter, formerly Welsh Guards, Regimental Sergeant Major (School Staff Instructor)

Berkhamsted School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) - like most CCF's across the country - have been heavily restricted in cadet training and as we are all aware, we have had unprecedented times.

Thankfully, restrictions have now slowly eased, and we have been able to move away from remote cadet training to parading back at school and taking part in training away from the school grounds.

Recruiting in May this year (we are a voluntary Corps), was a big success despite COVID and we recruited 60 new cadets into the Corps. 35 joined the Army section and were issued their berets with the new affiliated Welsh Guards cap badge. We would like to extend our appreciation to RQMS Wayne Parry 95 from Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards and to the Battalion Master Tailor, WO2

Leighton Wilks and his staff for their support ensuring that the berets were ready on time.

In June this year, the cadets deployed on their first camp away from school to Pirbright Training Area, Surrey. It was great to get the cadets back into the field and they were taken through low level back-to-basic cadet syllabus training, with an overnight stay under a basher. The highlight of the camp was the infamous obstacle course at Brunswick Training Camp, where we were joined by SSgt Hammond RAPTC (Royal Army Physical Training Corps) who's interaction, professionalism and humour with the cadets made

for an enjoyable and fun filled morning - having the support from SSgt Hammond was excellent. Our thanks go to the Battalion for releasing him to support us at Brunswick/Pirbright.

During the summer period, the Cadre (Army Cadet NCO's) underwent a training package held at Farm 12 in Sennybridge, to further enhance their leadership skills and an introduction to the Advanced CCF Syllabus.

Longmoor training camp in October was the first exercise that the cadets were able to take part in the start of this Academic Year and was an excellent four days which enabled the Cadet NCO's to practice their leadership skills and tactics which were covered at Sennybridge in the July. The cadet's resilience was tested over a very wet and demanding four days at Longmoor.

The Method of Instruction Course (MOI) is planned for November. The aim of the course is to develop the cadet JNCO's within the Army Section

and topics covered on the course are the qualities of an instructor, lesson planning/delivery and leadership skills.

The enthusiasm shown by the cadets is excellent and we look forward to supporting the Berkhamsted Community during the Remembrance Parade through the town centre, where we will form a large marching Contingent. This will be the first time that the newly issued Battalion flag will fly above the School Garden of Remembrance.

We look forward to 2022, and with the excellent support from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards we can continue with the packed school cadet forecast of events.

1. Supporting the Pirbright obstacle course training with SSgt Hammond
2. Support at Sennybridge Farm 12
3. Support at Longmoor training camp
4. Support provided to the Method of Instruction (MOI) course



G (Welsh Guards) Company - Dyfed & Glamorgan Army Cadet Force

by Lieutenant D Evans, Company Second in Command

Armey Cadets from Dyfed and Glamorgan have just returned from their Annual Camps. Totally different from previous years in that they were independently run and had to abide with COVID restrictions.

They were still subject to socially distancing as much as possible but also had lateral flow tests prior to attending and then a further test, mid-week followed by another the day before leaving camp to ensure they were all clear when returning home.

G (Welsh Guards) Company took 40 cadets and 15 adult volunteers to Castlemartin Camp in Pembrokeshire. The cadets were from Cardigan, Newcastle Emlyn, Lampeter, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Crosshands and Ammanford detachments. They took part in fieldcraft, navigation, skill at arms, shooting, drill

and military skills. There was a full day of adventure training which consisted of Canadian canoeing, kayaking and coasteering to which the cadets and some adult volunteers took part. The cadets, aged between 12 and 18 were in great spirits and were lucky to have mostly dry days. Each enjoyed the camp as the previous year had been cancelled due to the pandemic.

One cadet who was attending his last camp as he had aged out after reaching the age of 18 finished on a high. Cadet Company Sergeant Major Josh Cozier-Bowen, who had been a cadet since October

2015, had worked his way up through the ranks after seeing his peers achieving amazing results and the respect they earned. He achieved Master Cadet, which is the highest achievement. He was also awarded Lord Lieutenant Cadet and represented The Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Miss Sara Edwards DL last year. He leaves the cadet force with the intention of joining the forces as an avionics engineer.

The whole camp was put together within 6 weeks under the control of the new Officer Commanding – Captain Alun Richards with the support of his Company Headquarters and detachment staff. All the adults are volunteers and come from different backgrounds and include former Welsh Guardsman Darren Evans who served in the signal platoon from 1984 – 1989. Darren is currently the second in command of the Company.

2021 for the army cadets started very slowly due to

COVID restrictions but we were very lucky to have the support from the Welsh Guards Regimental Support Team's (RST) North and South who provided the cadets with training delivered via zoom. This was a godsend as it kept the cadets engaged and enthused during these difficult times. We would like to personally thank the RSTs for their continued support. We will miss the legend that is Sergeant Pete Duffy who has stepped off after what seemed a lifetime in the Welsh Guards. Sgt Duffy was a great advocate of the cadet force and would do anything to support them. The RSTs have now changed name and become the Infantry Engagement Team (IET) and we look forward to their continuing support.

1. Capt Alun Richards OC.
2. Cadet CSM Cozier-Bowen.
3. On Parade.
4. Blank Firing on Exercise.
5. Canadian Canoeing - Adventure Training.

INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES

St David's Day 2021

by Capt WD Clarke, Adjutant

The celebration of St David's Day is a time honoured tradition for 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, and one that has rarely been interrupted in peacetime or war.

We were extremely lucky to celebrate St David's Day mere days before the first 'lockdown' in 2020, and this year the Battalion managed to rejoice the recently rescinded lockdown measures over the winter period. In the spirit of spring, the dawn of a renewed period of freedom and activity was rightly marked by the celebration of Dewi Sant.

With Force Health Protection Measures still very much in place, the wider events of the day were somewhat abridged. With great sadness, the Battalion was unable to collaborate in celebration of the occasion, with individual Messes having to remain isolated. In some respects, this fell short of the reason we celebrate St David's Day, as the core element of the Day, as the core element of our ysbryd which unites all ranks as the bedrock of our moral component of fighting power.

That being said, the Battalion adapted to deliver as much of the familiar parade as possible. Masks were worn so that Companies were able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, and each Welsh Guardsman was presented his leek in advance of the parade, thereby minimising the contact between groups.

In addition to the maintenance of COVID regulations, the looming Mission Specific Training pipeline for The Prince of Wales's Company further

curtailed events, with a large proportion of the Battalion deploying to Castlemartin Ranges that afternoon. It is certainly fitting that The Prince of Wales's Company were able to begin this operational journey by celebrating St David's Day with the Battalion, and no doubt their success in Iraq to date can be attributed in part to the strong foundation maintained through events like St David's Day.

Fortunately, the significance of the event was preserved through the attendance of Major General Richard Stanford CB MBE, marking his final St David's Day as Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. It was a privilege for the Battalion to share this momentous occasion. Cymru am Byth.



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1. Dmr Thomas proudly bugles the General Salute.
2. Facemasks were worn in order that the Battalion could congregate.
3. Maj Gen RJÆ Stanford addresses the Battalion.
4. The Colours provide the focal point for the parade.



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5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) - The Tiger Battalion

by Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Dirago,
Commanding Officer

G'day to you friends in the Welsh Guards. While the Battalion paused for the Battle of Binh Ba Week, the Battalion have been busy with a range of field, training, sporting and operational tasks throughout the training year.

A big wet season delayed the start of some of our field training which we have now caught up on. Ex TIGERS WALK was a great hit out for the Battalion, with Companies rotating through live fire activities. Bravo Company has conducted Ex SPOUTHERN JACKAROO 21 with our United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Japan Ground Self Defence Force mates. Teams practiced urban breaching, danger close artillery, urban training, and a combined arms company live fire. Charlie Company has been focussed on our inaugural

small boats training courses conducted by 2 RAR and Delta Company has been providing support to the COVID Task Force here in the Northern Territory. Support Company has planned and conducted all Battalion live fire activities, conducted basic Mortars and Recon courses, and supported a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) live fire exercises.

Despite numerous changes due to the heavy wet season, we were excited to conduct the second running of the CPL Kennedy Cup, won by CPL

McCullough's section and by Delta Company on aggregate. The CPL Kennedy Cup is an annual inter-company military skills competition in memorial of the fallen Battalion soldiers of the Vietnam War, particularly CPL Kennedy. This event also involves veterans and veteran's family's in the Battalion's training and commemorative events is a special connection that brings depth and meaning to what we do.

Sport and competition is seeing a resurgence, with Logistics Company winning the Battalion Swimming Carnival, and Support Company victorious in the Battalion Cross Country, held at East Point Reserve. We were fortunate to host the first exported language course here in Darwin, learning both language and culture of our nearest neighbour. Many of our soldiers are conducting courses remotely due to COVID,

which has seen them spending more time here in Darwin with family and friends. Most of our soldiers have been shooting in our new indoor range, built right within our compound next to the Museum and now adjoined by a vehicle simulator.

The next few months see the Battalion prepare for EX KOOLENDONG, a USMC led field and live activity which Delta Company will participate in as part of a 7 RAR led Battlegroup. We will conduct final training for our Duke of Gloucester Section for the August competition in Singleton (pending COVID), and commence our Sniper, and Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFSWS) courses. We are preparing for our next Infantry Section Commanders course and some international security cooperation training activities with our neighbouring countries.

The Battle of Binh Ba, fought



on June 6 and 7, 1969 was a key moment in the history of Australian operations in Vietnam when Australian Army troops from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR) fought a combined force of People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and Viet Cong (VC).

Duty First & Cymru am Byth



1. Cpl McCullough receiving award from Karen Kennedy (daughter of Cpl Kennedy RIP)
2. Battalion Photograph 2021
3. DFSW Course 1-Y
4. Platoon Training on Ex Southern Jackaroo 21

A Window into a Life - Peace, War and Whitehall, Writing the memoirs of Field Marshal Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank

by Captain Paul de Zulueta

Field Marshal Lord Guthrie is on record as saying, "When I retire I certainly will not be writing my memoirs. I'm sick of generals who write about their experiences in the Army."

It's a betrayal and should not be allowed. I'll never write about my career and I don't think others should either."

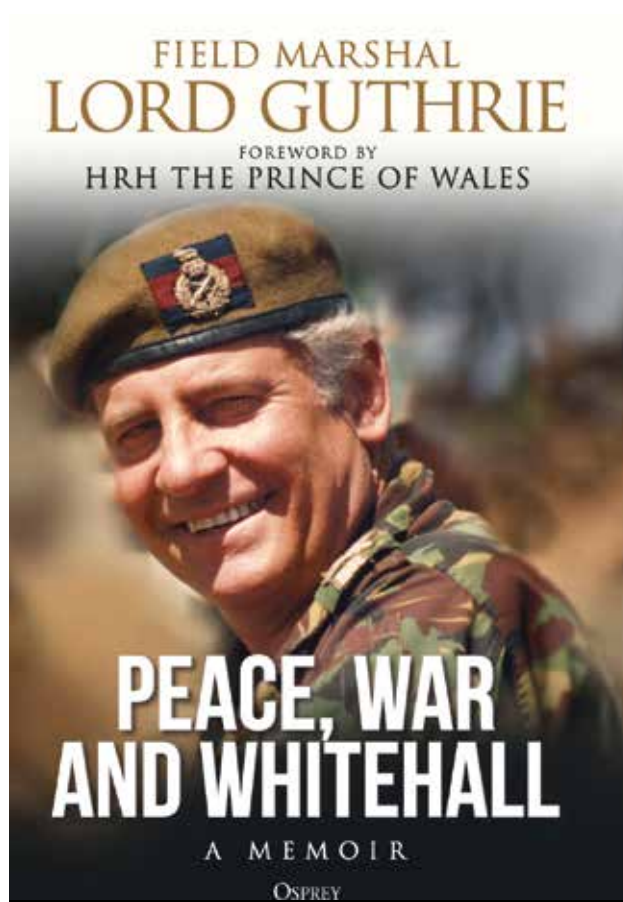
With the passage of time comes for most of us a refusal to let the past disappear and be forgotten. We live on in our descendants. The field marshal's great grandchildren will, one day, if they so wish, have a window into the life and times of their distinguished forbear. And we, as Welsh Guardsmen, present and future, will have a record of the career of a man, the father of today's Regiment, who is almost certainly to be our first and last field marshal.

In hindsight, I sometimes feel that the privations of Covid -19 and lockdown boredom convinced Field Marshal Charles that it was now or never. Many friends had pressed him in the past to put pen to paper. Many eminent publishers had tried to persuade him to write his memoirs. Flattering offers were made. There was also fighting talk from other senior generals who had thrown down the gauntlet with portentous book titles, 'Leading from the Front', 'Taking Command', and 'Soldier'. But beneath the grandeur and dignity of his rank, the field marshal has always been a man of humility, conscious of his good fortune and the sacrifices made by so many who were not so lucky.

I had kept in touch on and off with Field Marshal Charles

since I was one of his platoon commanders in Berlin and South Armagh. I sometimes reminded him that he had sacked me as Battalion cross country officer when we were beaten by the Berlin Women's Police Team. My own experience in writing only amounted to obituaries of Welsh Guardsmen in the Guards Magazine, book reviews and various travel articles. I had written just one book, 'An Anglo-Spanish Family' which was an account of how we emigrated to Liverpool and London in 1823 as agents of the Spanish government for the export of wine, olive oil, oranges and aniseed. From such beginnings, it was a natural progression to the Welsh Guards for my father, a handful of cousins and me. Perhaps that's one of the reasons, the rest of the Household Division referred to the Regiment as 'The Foreign Legion'.

The Welsh Guards Trustees contribution to the Regiment over the past decade or so has been outstanding. They recognised from the outset that to let the field marshal's life and career go unrecorded would be a great loss. This initiative would not have been possible without their vision and support. They had also learnt the lesson from the Welsh Guards centenary book that a book committee should consist of three people, two of whom are preferably absent. I was honoured that they felt I was up to the task and that



PRAISE FOR
PEACE, WAR AND WHITEHALL

'A lively and engaging
account of a life well lived...
[a] fascinating memoir'

LADY ANTONIA FRASER

'Charles Guthrie has been one of
Britain's foremost soldiers as well
as a terrific personality throughout
his remarkable life. It is great that
he is now telling his own story.'

SIR MAX HASTINGS

'[Lord Guthrie's] boldness and
humour make the book fizz.'

MICHAEL PORTILLO

'Pithy, humorous, engaging but
above all wise... will guide future
generations of our military leaders,
but will also fascinate the general
reader for their insights into how
world-changing decisions are made.'

PROFESSOR ANDREW ROBERTS

PEACE, WAR AND WHITEHALL

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie commanded at every level in the British Army from platoon to army group, and was Britain's senior military commander at a time of great change.

As a junior officer he served on operations with both the Welsh Guards and 22 SAS in Aden, Malaya, East Africa, Cyprus and Northern Ireland as Britain's role in the world changed with the retreat from Empire. As a senior officer he commanded the Welsh Guards during an operational tour of the Bandit Country of South Armagh at the height of the Troubles and then, following a brief interlude as British Commander, South Pacific in the New Hebrides, led an armoured brigade in Germany in the midst of the Cold War. Lord Guthrie was eventually appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine and Northern Army Group as the Cold War ended and the former Yugoslavia began to disintegrate into savage internecine warfare, before becoming Chief of the General Staff and later Chief of the Defence Staff.

Throughout his long career, he was instrumental in developing and encouraging the officers who have served under him, many of whom went on to reach the highest ranks. As a commander, he always delegated and allowed subordinates to learn, develop and make their own mistakes while making sure no one took life too seriously. *Peace, War and Whitehall* details his extraordinary career.

they would need only a light touch on the tiller.

I had my first meeting with Field Marshal Charles in late January 2020. It was good timing. Two months later, as Covid-19 begun to take a stranglehold, the initiative would have been stifled at birth. With an eye to accuracy and professionalism, I took along a dictaphone. This was a mistake. The field marshal, with Lady Guthrie present - a marvellous prompt to his memory - took me down many different paths, all entertaining, anecdotal and acutely observed, that I found only 20% of my dictaphone records were of use in the memoirs. From then on, I took notes. I should add that Lady Guthrie's meticulous record of 59 photograph albums over 50 years were a wonderful help in recalling the events of five decades.

Field Marshal Charles's memory, since his bad fall at the 2018 Trooping the Colour, has been up and down. I was fortunate in meeting General Sir Richard Shirreff who had been the field marshal's military assistant (MA) and personal staff officer (PSO). Richard summed up the field marshal's strengths; "an extraordinary ability to build multi-national alliances, a sound geostrategic understanding, but above all, the ability to get on, and build trust with, people from every walk of life. No die in a ditch man, he always left the day-to-day stuff to others, you grew in confidence under his command." These points gave me the structure I was searching for in the memoirs.

Field Marshal Charles's ADCs, General Richard Stanford, Guy Bartle-Jones, Harry Legge -Bourke, Pierre Morgan -Davies, Hugh Bodington and Mark Carr filled in the

gaps with their stories and experiences that still make me chuckle. It's a singular attribute of successful men and women that they take their job seriously but never themselves.

The field marshal and I quickly established a working routine. I would take the train up from West Sussex once a week, the dreaded Zoom call only at the pandemic's height, and spend a couple of hours with him at his home in Victoria. We did not mask up but kept apart as though he were in an adjacent trench with Lady Guthrie whose interjections were always good value, 'No Charles, it was the Bulgarian minister's wife not Romania', 'That Chinese general kept banging on about invading Taiwan.....'

As for myself, I remembered the writing drill used by my grandmother, the novelist Daphne du Maurier. Write from 7am to 9am with one cup of black coffee; have breakfast; two hour walk with dog - I have an English Springer Spaniel - to mull things over; after lunch, short nap and then read/research/edit till 4pm; write for one hour and a half to include opening sentence for next day at 7am. And the other thing I remember her saying was, 'Never try to write a perfect sentence, press on even though you know you're writing twaddle, there's always plenty of time to edit.'

I learnt to guard against personal bias. Every kind of writing has an element of autobiography. With the field marshal's memory declining, it would have been only too easy to air my own views and prejudices. Fortunately, whatever feelings I had were mirrored by the field marshal and probably the rest of the army. That pretty well came down to Gordon Brown, his unforgivable lack



of support to the Services and his penchant for pork barrel politics that purely benefited his constituency and Scottish roots. Apart from that, I was meticulous in conveying the field marshal's natural warmth and humanity. It was clear he would always see the best in others. Thirteen officers who served with him reached the rank of general.

Writing the memoirs of a great man can be dispiriting. You can fall into the trap of measuring your own life's worth against another. But in the same vein, you can turn the experience into something positive, lessons you can share with others, proud that you

have been chosen to record a successful life that will give the Regiment and Field Marshal Charles's family and friends great pleasure now and in years to come.

Ironically, the writing was the easy part. The layout and proof reading, selection of photographs and permission for their use as Crown copyright, acknowledgements, indexing and organisation of drafts, selecting and working with a publisher, were all aspects that I had underestimated. I was extraordinarily grateful to Major Martin Browne, Colonel Tom Bonas and all the RHQ team for their unwavering

support. A particular word of thanks to David Mason, an accomplished author and Regimental contemporary, whose advice was invaluable. We were blessed in our selection of Bloomsbury/Osprey as our publisher.

On October 26th this year, the book's launch took place at the National Army Museum. Well over 200 friends, family and Welsh Guardsmen attended. Charles Moore, the celebrated journalist, and Nigel Newton, Bloomsbury's chairman, spoke at the event. Famous authors like Andrew Roberts, Max Hastings, Antonia Fraser, Michael Portillo and Frederick Forsyth gave

ringing endorsements for the memoirs.

As I left the National Army Museum that evening, I reflected on the extraordinary time of the pandemic. So much misery, disruption, and sadness for so many people. But without the enforced isolation, I'm not sure the memoirs of Field Marshal Lord Guthrie would have been started, let alone finished. It gave Lord and Lady Guthrie a sense of completion to their remarkable lives together. And I was able to give something back to a Regiment which had given me the gift of friendship and family.



Command Sergeant Major (Not a RSM for a Headquarters)

by Warrant Officer Class 1 (Command Sergeant Major) Dean Morgan 10

Home Command (HC) and Standing Joint Command UK (SJC UK) are headquartered at Montgomery House, Aldershot on the edge of the playing fields that parallel the famous Queen's Avenue.

Both organisations are commanded by the same 3-star General, Lieutenant General Ian Cave CB (late Royal Welch Fusiliers). The two commands are very different in what their outputs are for the Army and Defence.

Home Command. Home Command likes to describe itself as the foundations of the British Army's fighting power. Our outputs include recruiting, basic training, engagement, enhancing the firm base and public duties. These responsibilities are given to the 2-star subordinate commands that include Regional Command, London District, ARITC (Army Recruiting Initial Training Command) and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) to deliver.

Standing Joint Command UK. SJC (UK) is the headquarters for the Defence contribution to homeland resilience in the form of Military Assistance to the Civil Authority (MACA). The chain of command differs here to that of Home Command as this is a joint defence HQ which reports directly to the MOD, the office of the Military Strategic Officer (MSO) and the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS). Many of our serving and veteran community would have served on MACA tasks during their service. From Op FRESCO (UK Firefighter dispute in the early 2000s) to Op RESCRIPT (COVID Pandemic) most recently, Welsh Guardsmen have answered

the call of the nation when the other governmental departments need assistance.

The Command Sergeant Major (Comd SM). It would be easy to assume that the Comd SM is the RSM of the Headquarters and that the more traditional pairing of RSM and Commanding Officer would be emulated by Comd SM and the Commander – this is not the case. In fact, they very rarely travel together and have their own individual visit program across Home Command and SJC (UK), which sees daily interaction with our people. This freedom of manoeuvre allows them to gather information on friction points and issues affecting our people. Some would argue that this is a chain of command function – agreed, but, when people facing issues are stuck in staff stove pipes and don't hit the desks of those who make decisions in a timely manner, the only people who suffer are those at the coal face. The Comd SM is under no illusion that they are not the Commander and do not own the levers of a 3-star command, but they do have access to those levers and those who make the call to pull them.

The Comd SM network is now well established with each major command of the Army having this appointment. The Comd SM has four main responsibilities to the Comd, although they are not





exhaustive, they give a feel for the role. The first is to be a directed telescope for the Command, where they can be sent to the heart of a Soldier facing problem and provide feedback and advice to the chain of command to assist in finding the root cause and assisting and advising on possible solutions. The second is as a courier, where they can deliver important information and direction from a 3-star HQ straight down to the Soldiers who it affects. Most importantly, this works in reverse where the views of our people can be delivered straight into the senior leaders of the Army to provide greater context and perspective to decision making. Thirdly the senior soldier of the command acts as a thermometer to gauge the temperature of the force and report back on areas of tension and friction and lastly, as every good combat infantryman is, he is the link man. The ability to sign post and connect people who are facing similar issues is powerful and saves nugatory work and helps to share best practice.

The majority of the Comd SM time is spent on the road visiting units and Soldiers to build their situational awareness to provide the General with undiluted feedback on issues surrounding our people. Of course, the General does spend a lot of time visiting the Soldiers under his command but often with these visits, the occasion can take over the communication. The Comd

SM is able to visit units with no fuss and speak directly to Soldiers in a relaxed environment and get their issues direct from the coal face. Some would argue that all these roles are a chain of command responsibility – agreed, but surely another line of communication to support the chain of command is for the betterment of our people?

The Comd SM is also often asked to deliver presentations on leadership to our NCOs, from sessions at the Centre of Army Leadership (CAL) to unit leadership days. This gives the opportunity to convey a Soldiers take on leadership to our incredible men and women, who are, in fact the first layer of our leadership onion. I am so impressed with the quality of our Soldiers and junior commanders and their striving to become a better leader, they are far more articulate and brighter than I was at that stage of my career!

Comd SM Home Command is also proud to represent our Soldiers views as a board member and trustee of the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB), Victory Services Club, Armed Forces Pension Board, Army Dress Committee, Army Welfare Grants Committee and The Army Benevolent Fund Grants Committee. All these organisations are there to support our men and women in some guise, they really value hearing a Soldiers perspective on new initiatives and projects and what they want in the area in which they operate in.

Neurodiversity is incredibly important when it comes to building high performing, cohesive teams. Linear thinking by a team from a similar background can be a factor of creating group think and not an environment where creative thinking can happen. By having the Comd SM part of planning teams it brings a different perspective and a level of experience at the tactical level that cannot be replicated. Having input and a voice at the table of strategic and operational level plans provides that diversity in thought and ensures that our Soldiers feelings and perspective is considered at this level.

Comd SMs are, on paper, commissioned Officers that have gone through the Late Entry Officer's Commissioning Board. However, this is primarily for pay and pension reasons and they still remain members of the Sgts Mess and afford correct compliments and respect to Officers. When the time comes to move out of the Comd SM network, as the higher up you go the posts get less (as with any hierarchical organisation) they will start a meaningful career in the Officer world, with more opportunities opening to the Late Entry cohort as the Army Talent Framework gains momentum.

I hope to have explained what the role of the Comd SM is and dispel the many myths that surround the appointment. I understand

many do not agree with the role, and I have encountered many frictions along the way. Challenge culture is key to any organisation to help it develop and progress, and to ensure that the views of its people are always heard. The Comd SM is in a perfect position to provide this challenge and add real value representing our Soldiers to the senior Officers of our Army. I have learned so much in my first year in this role as a 3-star Comd SM with mentorship and guidance off some incredible people. I really do have to pinch myself sometimes with the opportunities that I have been afforded. A 30 min live interview with Chris Evans on Virgin radio, a keynote speaker for the x-forces business awards at the O2 arena in front of thousands of people, Personnel Campaign Board, SJC planning meetings, the list goes on. Amongst all this, the most enjoyable and rewarding part of the role is representing our people's views to the most senior members of the Army and Defence; our people are the Army, not in the Army.

1. *Virgin radio interview with Chris Evans.*
2. *A keynote speech delivered to the X-Forces Business Awards at the O2 Arena.*
3. *Getting around by Puma, Comd SM on a visit.*
4. *Visit of Sir Keir Starmer to Home Command (photo credit Ian Wilson).*
5. *The tri-service nature of the job (photo credit Ian Wilson).*



(L-R) Rhidian, Elaine, Harry, Clare, Betty, Rhys, Joyce, David. A family photograph in 1931 at The Court, St. Fagans, whose garden was designed by Gertrude Jekyll the famous garden designer and a daughter of a Grenadier Officer.

The Llewellyn Eight – A remarkable Welsh Family scrum

by William Prichard, formerly Welsh Guards
1975 – 1986

Following the Regimental Adjutant's article last year about the Clarke brothers, I was delighted to be offered the chance to write this article about my mother's Llewellyn family particularly as their combined contribution to the World War II effort was truly impressive.

To clarify matters, three of my mother's brothers were commissioned into the Welsh Guards and served together between 1942 and 1945. It could well have been four. However, the second eldest, Harry without a truly Welsh christian name, didn't apply to join the Welsh Guards as he was determined to go to War mounted on a horse because of his love of and expertise in riding.

My mother, Betty, was one of eight children born between 1910 and 1922, a balanced and close family of four boys and four girls, of whom the seven eldest were all born in

Fairfield House, Aberdare and the youngest Clare, at The Court, St Fagans then outside Cardiff. Six of these siblings served throughout World War 2. The eldest daughter, Elaine, was already married with two small children. Clare was too young although she later married in 1948 Hume, who became a successful Northern Irish tycoon and who was commissioned into The Royal Artillery in Apr 1939. Clare worked in Fleet St in the last years of the War.

The youngest brother, Rhidian, was the professional soldier. After being educated at Eton and RMC (Royal Military



College) Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Welsh Guards in Jul 1939 joining the 1st Bn in Gibraltar, which was later deployed to Belgium & France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in 1940.

Rhys, the eldest, was educated at Oundle School and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a 2Lt (War Service) in Jun 1939. He was a proficient horseman and was joint MFH (Master of Foxhounds) of the Talybont Hunt in Breconshire

1936-40 with my mother, an equally talented horsewoman. Rhys inherited the Baronetcy when my Grandfather died in December 1940. During the War, he was steadily promoted and when in 1945 (Gazetted 2 Aug) he was Mentioned in Despatches for service in NW Europe he had attained the rank of Lt Col (Temp).



The third brother to be commissioned into the Welsh Guards was my Uncle David, the fifth child. He took a slightly different route after his education at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He enlisted into the Royal Fusiliers, serving in the ranks, as possibly he didn't believe he was a natural soldier. He clearly realised he had more to offer and despite a serious accident falling down a manhole, he gained a commission as a 2Lt (War Service) in the Welsh Guards in Mar 1942. David spent much of his service in the UK becoming Adjutant of the Training Battalion at Sandown Park. Unfortunately, he was severely concussed when a flying bomb landed there during a Battalion Sports Day. This was most probably the cause of his Meniere's Disease affecting his inner ear that troubled him for the rest of his life. He was only able to participate in NW Europe in the last few months of the War.



Returning to the 1st Battalion in Belgium and France in May 1940 my Uncle Rhidian, commanding 5 Platoon, 2 Company, after various tactical deployments, prepared a defensive position near West-Cappel, 5 miles south of Dunkirk and three miles west of the Belgian border. Below is the official citation that is published although it doesn't tell the full story. His award of a Military Cross (Gazetted 22 Oct 40) makes him one of the youngest recipients of this Gallantry Medal. Despite the

huge risk and doubt of getting home to Britain, Rhidian and most of the remnants his 5 Platoon made it back.

Citation for 2Lt WHR Llewellyn resulting in the award of a Military Cross

For courage and inspiring leadership on 29 May 40 2/Lieut. LLEWELLYN was holding a position in the village of WEST CAPPEL with his Platoon. The position was heavily attacked by enemy tanks and infantry. 2/Lieut. LLEWELLYN displayed great coolness and courage in holding up the enemy attack. Finally, he received an order to withdraw his Pl. to another position. He ensured that all survivors of his Platoon had withdrawn and remained behind himself with 2 Gdsm. Although by then the enemy had surrounded his post, he found his way back using hand grenades at close quarters, and continued to command his Platoon in

their new position, although wounded. His courage and fighting spirit were an inspiration to his Platoon.

Signed. F.A.V. Copland-Griffiths, Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 1st Bn. Welsh Guards

N.B. Guardsmen Warwick and L Fazackerley (the latter fatally wounded and buried with 19 other Welsh Guardsmen in the Commonwealth War Graves (CWG) cemetery at West-Cappel) remained behind with Rhidian. Only 23 Officers

and men (out of more than 120) from 2 Company were evacuated from the beach at La Panne in Belgium with the large majority of the remainder of the 1st Battalion on 30 May. Captain Jocelyn Gurney, No2 Company Commander, was also awarded a Military Cross for his actions on 24 May.

My Uncle Harry was educated at Oundle School and Trinity College, Cambridge, one of three brothers to have been at the same College at Cambridge University. In 1936, he was runner up in the Grand National and the next year on the same horse, Ego, finished 4th. He rode in several hundreds of point-to-point races and steeplechases under National Hunt rules as an amateur both before and after the War. He won his first race when only 20 years old and, after 60 race wins, finally retired in 1950.



Harry was commissioned into the Royal Warwickshire Yeomanry in Sep 1939 and served with the Anglo-French force that invaded Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq in 1940 fighting, mounted on a horse, alongside the

Household Cavalry. After passing the Middle East Staff College course at Haifa, he was posted in 1942 to Monty's Staff in the 8th Army as GS02(Ops) and then as GS01(LO) to 21 Army Group from 1943 to 45. He fought in the Western Desert, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and NW Europe. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice for service both in Sicily and Italy (Gazetted 23 Mar 44 & 24 Aug 44), awarded the OBE(Mil) in 1945 and the US Legion of Merit. Harry somehow found time to marry Navy Wren driver, the Hon Teeny Saumarez, in April 1944.

Rhidian married Lady Honor Vaughan in the Guards Chapel on 2 Jan 1943. Honor had strong family ties with the Regiment. Her father, 7th Earl of Lisburne, was a founder member of the Regiment in 1915 having transferred from the Scots Guards and was Regimental Adjutant in both World Wars. Her brother John, the 8th Earl, was commissioned on 22 Oct 1939, the same day that her sister's husband, Sir Nigel Fisher, was also commissioned into the Welsh Guards and who was awarded a Military Cross in 1945. Rhidian soon found himself in North Africa, where for his service was also Mentioned in Despatches in 1943 (Gazetted 23 Sep).





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It would be hugely amiss to ignore two other Llewellyn siblings. Joyce Llewellyn, the sixth child, was educated at North Foreland Lodge at its original location in Kent. She was commissioned into the WAAF in July 1939, with her service number of 200, as an Asst Section Officer. She carried out a range of postings during the War being promoted to Squadron Officer in Jul 1943. Joyce spent the last couple of years of the War with the WAAF Directorate in The Air Ministry in London. She was popular, fun and endearing.



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Betty my mother, the fourth sibling, was educated at St James's School, Malvern and St Hugh's College, Oxford. She was commissioned into the WAAF in Jan 1939, with a service number of 83, as a Flight Officer (eight months before War was declared) and earlier than any of her siblings! Initially she recruited four squadrons of WAAF in Cardiff mainly from Boots and WH Smith. After a year in Yorkshire organising barrage defence balloons at RAF stations, she was posted to the Air Ministry where she spent the remainder of the War until her demob in 1946, being bombed there twice. She also eventually outranked all her other five siblings following promotions to Squadron Officer in 1941; to Wing Officer in Apr 1943; and to Group Officer in Aug 1944.

In my research, I came across a handwritten letter dated 7 Jul 1944 from my mother to my future father David, then the Bde Maj in Orkney, that referred to three notable incidents. I reproduce some extracts that she had written. Note the veiled language used at that time trying not to give any information away:

One of my mother's bombings in the Air Ministry. ...I have not a telephone in my office and have to be fetched so a little patience is necessary. You may well wonder why we have moved, it was for the obvious reason that we had an argument with a Nazi nuisance and naturally came off second best. Although it was pretty frightening at the time and pretty horrible immediately afterwards it has given me quite a bit of confidence to feel that we were within fifty yards of the thing and got away without a scratch. Joyce (sister) and Sue (best friend and whose sister, Jo, later married her brother) were in the conference room with us

all which was lucky as the wall of their office came down. My office was hardly damaged but some of the bigwigs had nowhere to sit so we had to move to Ashley Gardens.

The bombing of the Guards Chapel. ...*You asked whether your Club had been hit, you have no doubt heard it was the Chapel (Guards). Rumour put casualties very high to begin with but facts proved them to be 35 killed. Johnny Gillant to whom Joyce (sister) used to be engaged was unfortunately amongst them.*

The bombing of the Training Battalion at Sandown Park. ...*The more recent casualties announcement in Rhys (brother) and Elydr's (future husband's brother-in law) regiment were caused when the sports ground on which the Training Battalion were holding a gymkhana or something had a hit. David (brother) had a very narrow escape by flinging himself flat. Howell Moore-Gwynne is seriously injured. I hope I am not giving away important information but now Mr Churchill has named Greater London as the target and given the casualties I cannot see that it matters. However it is a little difficult to avoid giving some indication as to the composition of a regiment when the officers have such names as Rhys, Elydr and Howell.*

Then at last in May 1945 there was Peace in Europe. Five Llewellyns were all eventually demobbed, with only Rhidian remaining as a regular officer until his retirement in May 1958 having been Military attaché to the Governor of Sind Province, Pakistan and Second-in-Command 1st Battalion.

Rhys had a special interest in the study of animal breeding, including horses and mice. He published a book about horse breeding but sadly he was unsuccessful in breeding yellow mice as the yellow pigment was generically poisonous to the rodent. Sadly, he died rather earlier than all but one of his siblings in 1978, which meant that Harry inherited the Baronetcy.

Harry carried on riding after the War. Having discovered a new horse, Foxhunter, they participated together in both the London 1948 and the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games. It was in the latter that Harry rode the final round clear to give GB their only Gold Medal of the Games on the final day of competition. He was awarded a CBE in The Queen's first New Year's Honours 1953 (Gazetted 30 Dec 52) for services to British International Show jumping. He was Chairman of the Sports Council of Wales from 1972 - 1981 and knighted, Knight Bachelor, in 1977 (Gazetted 11 Jun), a year before he inherited the



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Baronetcy. He was inducted into the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame in 1990.



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After standing unsuccessfully for Aberavon in 1945, David was elected MP for Cardiff North in 1950. He retained this seat until his resignation as an MP in 1959, having increased his majority at each election. He was appointed by Churchill as Secretary of State at the Home Office to keep an eye on Welsh affairs. In 1952, he resigned from the Government due to ill health and was knighted, Knight Bachelor, in the 1960 New Year's honours for political and public services. He returned to journalism and as an author wrote a fascinating book entitled "Nye: The Beloved Patrician" in 1961. His sharp mind and prodigious memory enabled him to undermine pompous establishment figures and yet to support those less able to defend themselves. For 27 years, he wrote a weekly article in the *Sporting Life* under the non-de-plume of Jack Logan.

Interestingly in 1950 David married Jo Williams, who was born near Llantwit Major. Jo had also served throughout the War in the WAAF having been commissioned in Jan 1939, with a service number of 84, as Asst Sect Officer. She was promoted to Squadron Officer in Jun 1942 on her appointment as Head of the

wartime Cabinet Office cipher office (or Coco), a position she held until 1946. Jo was one

of the linchpins of Winston Churchill's War Cabinet Secretariat.

She attended many famous strategic Allied political conferences worldwide during the War but for the rest of her life she refused to discuss any details with anyone including her three children. She was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours in 1944 (Gazetted 2 Jun).

My Aunt Joyce married in 1947 a Northern Irish solicitor, Frank Byers, and they lived on the outskirts of Belfast. Tragically

Joyce died in 1971, early in "The Troubles", unable to cope with them.

My mother married David, a Royal Welch Fusilier, in 1946. They moved in 1954 from Chelsea to Monmouthshire near Abergavenny, having bought Harry's house that had been Foxhunter's training base in his heyday. My father converted the show jumping arena into a croquet lawn. Consequently I, as the only one of 22 1st cousins to join the services and The Welsh Guards, represented GB for 17 years. I think probably a period of international participation unsurpassed by any other Welsh Guardsman.

However, I did have to do some soldiering; with the UN in Cyprus; in Berlin; at the Guards Depot; as a firefighter in the 1977/78 London Fire Brigade Service three-month strike; in South Armagh; an instructor at Junior Brecon for two years; a period as Adjutant 1st Battalion; and finally, as G3 Ops 19 Inf Brigade HQ in Colchester commanded by Brigadier Johnny Rickett.

Rhys, Harry and Rhidian



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all served as High Sheriffs and were all appointed as Deputy Lieutenants of their respective counties, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire and Cardiganshire. These Llewellyns were rather special people in, arguably, the greatest generation we have known. They contributed hugely to our country, about 45 years combined War service, and were proudly Welsh. Remarkably, they each put their head on the block yet survived, which sadly many didn't. Lest we forget.

1. *The christening in 1937 of the 2nd child of Elaine and Donald, who later became Chairman of P&O.*
2. *Clare and Hume's wedding in 1948. Hume later became Chairman of Gallaher Group.*
3. *Rhys and my mother as joint Masters of the Talybont at Buckland Hall near Bwlch in 1938.*
4. *My mother being given away by her brother Rhys in Jun 1946.*
5. *The three Llewellyn brothers in early 1944.*
6. *A pencil sketch of Harry winning the 6th Cavalry Bde. Horse Show in Palestine in Dec 1940.*
7. *Harry and Teeny's wedding at St Margaret's Church, Westminster in April 1944, with Joyce & Clare as bridesmaids.*
8. *Rhidian & Honor's wedding*
9. *Squadron Officer Joyce Llewellyn*
10. *Betty*
11. *Wing Officer Llewellyn aircraft fundraising in Grimsby*
12. *(L-R) Rhidian, Rhys, David, Joyce, Granny Llewellyn, Clare, Betty. 1944 in London.*
13. *H.M. The Queen presenting a bronze model of Foxhunter to Harry, a present from the BSJA, as Leading World Rider for three years, in 1953 at Badminton, accompanied by Princess Margaret.*
14. *David on his first day in the House of Commons in 1950.*
15. *David and Jo's Wedding in Feb 1950 in Cardiff*



The Royal Hospital Chelsea

by Ivor Williams (LSgt, 22217188)

Three hundred and thirty-nine years ago, King Charles II – mindful of the part played by the Army in his restoration to the throne – implemented his idea of the foundation of a home, or hospice, for his old soldiers.

On 7th December 1681, he issued a Royal Warrant for the foundation of a hospital “for the relief of such Land Soldiers as were, or shall be, old, lame or infirm in the service of the Crown”. In 1682 work started on the 66-acre site which the King purchased for the project. However, due mainly to a continuous shortage of funds, it was to take another ten years before the building was properly completed. The architect, Sir Christopher Wren, modelled his plan – though on a smaller scale – on Louis XIV’s Hôtel des Invalides in Paris. Before he died in 1685, Charles II would have seen Figure Court as the scene of the Founder’s Day parade in much the same form as we see it today. He was followed by his brother King James II, a distinguished soldier and sailor, who did much to improve the development of the Royal Hospital. He also approved the Scarlet coat which has survived to this day as the uniform of the Chelsea Pensioners. The Royal Hospital was finally completed in 1692, the year in which it was officially opened by William and Mary.

On Founder’s Day we remember our founder, and

the King’s statue is decorated with oak leaves in memory of his escape after the Battle of Worcester in 1651, when he took refuge from his pursuers in an oak tree.

On 10th June 1962, the Royal Hospital proudly celebrated the Royal Hospital’s foundation and tercentenary in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who graciously reviewed the 417 Pensioners on parade, including LSgt T Evans, the only Welsh Guardsman on parade.

At the time of writing, we have 267 Chelsea Pensioners at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, with the Welsh Guards contingent consisting of LSgt (22831658) Cass Butler (resident since 22 Aug 05) and myself, LSgt (22217188) Ivor G Williams (resident from 7 Dec 15). Following a successful four-day stay program (part of the Hospital’s admissions process) at the Royal Hospital, on 1 Jun 21 Richard Michael (Mike) Thomas (23866369) arrived and became the third Welsh Guardsman.

On arrival at the Royal Hospital, new Chelsea Pensioners first live-in independent accommodation on the





"Long Wards". However, for those who become unwell or unable to continue living independently, our on-site Margaret Thatcher Infirmary is a registered care home that provides nursing domiciliary care and an independent GP practice.

The Royal Hospital's Margaret Thatcher Infirmary, designed by Quinlan Terry and opened

in 2009 by HRH The Prince of Wales and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, can accommodate up to 125 Pensioners who are either ill or no longer able to live independently, some needing round-the-clock care. The Infirmary is a sympathetic building, offering Pensioners their own rooms with en-suite bathroom and the very best of medical and domiciliary care.

Surgery and more complicated medical matters are attended to at local hospitals. Within the Infirmary building is a dispensary, a physiotherapy centre and a hydrotherapy pool, as well as a hairdresser's, a room for arts and crafts, a thriving coffee shop (open to the public before COVID-19) and a chapel smaller and more intimate than Wren's Chapel.

Accommodation, with en-suite facilities and study area, is in the Long Wards, with communal lounges, the Chelsea Pensioners' Club and the wonderful dining rooms of the Great Hall providing a variety of menu options available every day.

Chelsea Pensioners act as ambassadors for the British Army and the wider veteran community across the UK and abroad. The establishment believes in positive active ageing and supports In-Pensioners to enjoy life and take part in rewarding activities, with staff providing a range of care support services including social care, rehabilitation, and medical and nursing services. They also offer a comprehensive activities programme involving both on-site and external events and activities.

Chelsea Pensioners are encouraged to wear their uniforms; it is mandatory to wear the scarlet uniform when representing the Royal Hospital on a recognised visit or when on parade (such as the annual Founder's Day parade in June), otherwise, within a two-mile radius of the Royal Hospital the blue day-to-day uniform is normally worn. The blue uniform is also worn at breakfast and lunch in the Great Hall and most Chelsea Pensioners wear this throughout the day in and around the Royal Hospital (but Pensioners are permitted

to wear their civilian clothes whenever they wish to dress down (usually in the evenings)).

We have a superb social life with a wide range of activities offered every week, bingo, gardening, film nights, pottery, bridge club to name a few. We are often invited to attend special events outside the Royal Hospital, from charity fundraisers to high profile sporting fixtures and every year Chelsea Pensioners have the opportunity to represent the Royal Hospital at various ceremonial and commemorative events (including the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph).

It would be wonderful to have more Welsh Guardsmen here so if you want to join Cass, Mike and me at the Royal Hospital please visit the online Admissions page at: www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/become-chelsea-pensioner or call the Admissions Officer on 020 7881 5204.

1. *In-Pensioner Cass Butler carrying the mace on Founders Day.*
2. *In-Pensioner Ivor Williams 88*
3. *Long Ward Kitchen Facilities*
4. *Long Ward berth Bathroom*
5. *Long Ward one*
6. *Ivor Williams just prior to receiving his weekly Covid-19 lateral flow test from Lance Corporal Emma Dann from the Band of the Welsh Guards.*



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The Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy

by Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM, Assistant Regimental Adjutant

In 1956, shortly after his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment, HRH Prince Philip introduced a Trophy, known as "The Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy" which was to be competed for annually by all units of the Corps and Regiments of which His Royal Highness was Captain-General, Colonel-in-Chief, Colonel or Honorary Colonel.

The Competition had to be carried out in a correct sequence of practices within a period of thirty-six hours and is supervised and timed by another unit of approximately the equivalent strength. The teams were to consist of one Captain, two subalterns, three non-commissioned officers above the rank of corporal, three Corporals or lance corporals and three Guardsmen/private soldiers.

The competition was in three parts and there was a time limit for all practices. Points were deducted in the various parts and practices for members of the team who took longer than the time allowed. The first part consisted of three rifle practices, which also included sprinting 80 yards, carrying another member of the team 200 yards to the firing point and a five-mile march in 59 minutes. The second part of the competition consisted of two practices on the Sten or Sterling Machine Gun. In one practice the team ran 25 yards in pairs, scale a smooth vertical wall, then ran a further 25 yards to the firing point. In the other practice the team ran 25 yards and fired 10 rounds rapid. In the third part of the Competition the team ran 3 miles in 16 minutes, round a quarter mile grass or cinder track.

The first unit to win the

trophy did so with a score of 1,240 points, but since then the general standard was improved and the winning score in 1963 was 2,108. The Regiment first won the trophy in 1958 with a team under the captaincy of Captain BD Stanier, with a score of 1,983 points. The 1st Battalion Welsh Guards became the first unit to win the Competition twice when, in 1961, they scored a then record total of 2,079 points. This team was captained by Captain PRG Williams, who had also been a member of the 1958 winning team.

1. The photograph, kindly provided by Captain Sir Beville Stanier Bt, the captain of the 1958 team, shows the Welsh Guards team at Buckingham Place on 18 January 1959 having been presented the trophy by His Royal Highness.
2. Each team member was also presented with two cased medallions, produced by the Royal Mint. The first containing the logo of the Duke of Edinburgh and the second a runner with the number 3 (to represent the 3 mile to be run in less than 18 minutes on day two of the competition).
3. The 1961 winning team captained by Captain PRG Williams (photo extracted from the 50th anniversary book hence the poor quality).
4. The Trophy



Reflections of an Officer Training Regiment Commanding Officer

by Lieutenant Colonel J D Salusbury

The Yorkshire Officers' Training Regiment was formed in 2012. It is made of Leeds University Officer Training Corp and Sheffield University Officer Training Corp. It is one of three Officer Training Regiments (OTR). In addition to the OTRs, there are 15 University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) throughout the UK.

The intensity of delivery and use of vocabulary was a little different from platoon sergeants in the Welsh Guards. The Junior Under Officer was urging on her platoon as they assaulted a building at the Whinny Hill urban training area. The Officer Cadets (OCdts) responded enthusiastically, confidently offering updates as each room was methodically cleared. This was not a pre-deployment training serial but a weekend exercise for university OCdts in the Yorkshire Officers' Training Regiment (Yorks OTR). The point is that modern officer cadets, male and female, can soldier.

After two and half years, I handed over command of Yorks OTR in January 2021. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute and left with a somewhat heavy heart. I

believe that Officer Training Regiments/Corps (OTR/Cs) have a lot to offer the 21st Century Army - the output to Sandhurst is essential to ensure the inflow to the officer corps and the personal development opportunities offered to student OCdts is unrivalled. This article will look at what an OTR/C delivers for the Army and update on the environment to dispel popular images of the OCdt experience. It will explain the four pillars of activity and argue that they mutually support mandated output. The OTR's unique engagement role will be described, looking at interaction with the university communities. Finally, I will describe the people who make up the OTR.

Sandhurst and the Army need the OTR/Cs. The old argument of OTR/Cs introducing

future civilian leaders to the Army while at university is challenging to quantify which means that arguing for allocation of scarce resource is difficult. I was clear, however, that the modern role of the OTR/C is to produce OCdts for Sandhurst and, if that is the start point, quantifying the value of OTR/Cs is more straightforward. For example, approximately 40% of the Regular Commissioning Course is drawn from former OTR and UOTC OCdts. And some 70% of Reserve female officers come from OTR/Cs. The majority of the summer Reserve officers commissioning course is populated by OTR/C OCdts. The OTR/Cs play a crucial role in attracting 'non-core intenders' to join the Army and therefore support the Army's need to diversify. If OTR/Cs did not exist, this would need to be replicated elsewhere.

Yorks OTR is established for 268 OCdts with a staff of 91. Each UOTC (Leeds and Sheffield) is funded for 134 OCdts but both routinely overbear; total numbers of OCdts in the OTR are usually on the 300+ mark. The staff is made from a small cohort of Regular officers and SNCOs (nine), Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) officers and SNCOs, Army Reserve officers and NCOs and a dedicated civil service cadre. It is therefore

about battalion size but compared with many Reserve units, feels bigger because most OCdts reliably turn up for training.

Yorks OTR draws students from all ten of Yorkshire's universities. Most come from Leeds and Sheffield, with a growing detachment based in York. There are some OCdts from universities in Bradford, Huddersfield and Hull (cue Blackadder joke!). Of note, one in three OCdts are in the 'commissioning pipeline' (ie. they have an active application to join the Army as an officer), ranging from having been selected to go to Sandhurst by the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) to having initiated an interest. Ideally, OCdts join in their first year at university, although many will join in their second or third year. OCdts must pass the standard - and stringent - Army entry medical; Yorks OTR conduct 'induction' rather than selection to encourage as diverse a cohort as possible. The OTR also trains some Potential Officers who are not at university on behalf of local Reserve units.

Just before I took command, OTRs and UOTCs were re-subordinated from Regional

Brigade HQs to the newly formed 'Sandhurst Group'





(now, and once again, commanded by a two-star officer). This is a significant step to corral what had been the ungoverned space of student OCdt training. Formal subordination to the Sandhurst Group has forced OTRs and UOTCs to evaluate training delivery to ensure it aligns with Sandhurst standards and, frankly, demonstrate competence and value for money. The end result, I would argue, is a more professional, better structured, accountable and appropriately governed OCdt organisation, engaging maturely with university organisations and delivering measurable output for Defence.

While a clearer role and better accountability has improved OTR/Cs, the approach by OCdts has also matured over the years. I think that the nature of OTR/Cs remains, but the character has changed. University undergraduates

are much more focussed in general than they were 25 years ago. They therefore tackle university life in a more transactional fashion – and they are bright. But they are still in their late teens/early twenties and therefore want to have, and do have, fun. It means that organisations such as the OTR/Cs thrive because they offer eye-catching CV material through exciting, money can't buy activity and camaraderie. As one senior university professor said to me, 'You really do attract the cream of the university community'.

The OTR offers activity grouped under four pillars: leadership training through military skills; sports; Adventurous Training (AT); and networking skills. The military side is covered by the Sandhurst owned Modules A and B – half the Reserve Commissioning Course – delivered to OCdts in their

first and second years. OCdts learn the basics of fieldcraft, which most find fun although some describe it as 'Type 2 fun' (ie. enjoyed once it's over!) and have low level planning and leadership opportunities. In their final year the best OCdts are made Junior Under Officers and are effectively platoon commanders (if they have not already been commissioned as Reserve Officers). My policy was for an OCdt to have the benefits of a third year in the OTR, then they had to have attended the Army Officer Selection Board (Briefing) (AOSB(B)) at the very least, no matter what the result. My view was that this meant that attending AOSB became a rite of passage and OCdts expected to do it rather than having to make a bold decision. It also demonstrated commitment, gave the third year OCdts experience and credibility yet did not commit them to joining the Army. As a result, more attended AOSB

which nudged up our figures for OCdts going to Sandhurst.

As a tool to recruit, AT proved the best value. We were able to send OCdts diving, climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, skiing and trekking all over the world. Having access to such expeditions brings into sharp focus some of the benefits of Army life – and it is a chance for OCdts to meet instructors from all parts of the military. Invariably, OCdts who went to Sandhurst while I was in command had attended an Adventurous Training expedition. And the OCdts were paid to do so; I viewed this as an important leveller so that AT was accessible to every OCdt, not just those with deep pockets. On occasion, we were quite ambitious. Our skiing expedition, for example, was the largest distributed training event in the Army authorised by the Adventurous Training Group. We took nearly 100 OCdts to La Plagne in



4

the French Alps. We set clear boundaries, such as parading in three ranks every morning in ski gear (to the bemusement of French holiday makers); the evening meal was also a mandated parade. There was a strict bedtime curfew of midnight. I was one of the ski instructors (can you imagine what the OCdts in my group thought when they realised their instructor was the Commanding Officer?). While I am pleased to say that the OCdts pushed the boundaries (quite hard on occasion), we had no major discipline issues to worry the front cover of the Daily Mail and the OCdts behaved far better than the other 'youth' groups from France who shared our accommodation. My point is that good adventurous training done well is an invaluable opportunity for OCdts.

I saw sport as important but not a priority. OCdts can play sport elsewhere at university should they wish. But the esprit de corps and leadership

opportunities generated by sports teams certainly has a role in the OTR and we fielded teams for anything from rugby to polo, swimming to netball, cross-country, hockey and football. We also had a gun on the Catterick shoot (managed by the QM). We competed as separate UOTCs at the inter-OTC Queen's Challenge Cup held at Sandhurst. And, of course, I paid OCdts to play sport which is something the university teams cannot do!

The social side is the glue that holds the OTR together. OCdts 'come for the Army but stay for the social'. Most OCdts' closest friends are made in the OTR. I was keen that we continued to offer an evening meal on mid-week training nights and the full spectrum of dinners and parties. But I must stress that UOTCs are governed by exactly the same alcohol policies as other Army training establishments – and my training staff enforced this. Furthermore, relations between staff and OCdts must

be professional at all times; staff were expected to 'role model all the time, every time'. Parties and dinners were – and still are – good fun but just not the somewhat wild, indulgent events of yesteryear. I also paid OCdts to attend some dinners such as the Annual Dinner. This was a big event and in February 2020 (ie. just before the pandemic hit), we had 250 OCdts, staff and guests sit down to dinner in the magnificent Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield. I always felt that the OTR was a good place to learn not to down five or six pints before dinner but, more importantly, practise the art of hosting and dinner conversation. OCdts did not get it right every time (again I am pleased to say!) but what a great – and safe – place to learn.

OTR/Cs are excellent vehicles for the Army to engage with academia. Yorks OTR developed good links with the University of Leeds (and I was asked to run a seminar for MA

students on my experiences in Afghanistan), the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam Business School (where I was an 'Executive in Residence'). I had touch points with other universities but while most were open to discussion, actually nailing down when and how to engage was problematic – and extremely time consuming. I really needed a 'University Engagement officer' to make headway. The University Student Unions offered mixed support but, predictably, are somewhat anti-Army and made freshers' fairs challenging. My main touch point with universities was through the Military Education Committees (MEC). These are a throw back to when the universities 'owned' their UOTCs but the modern version means that we have some supporters around the campuses. Leeds MEC was mostly full of retired types who enjoyed the annual lunch (but were very supportive); the Sheffield MEC was made from non-military university professors and would always visit us on Annual Exercise, thoroughly enjoying the chance to wear cam-cream and combats. I sensed that universities were also realising the value – and attraction – of our leadership training in a competitive student market and wanted something similar for all students. Also, interestingly, at the height of the pandemic, university leaders realised quite how good the OTR was at looking after our people. We picked up one or two issues through good old-fashioned duty of care responsibility that the universities would never have discovered. In summary, I had mostly positive engagements with the university communities, made some friends, and think that universities are beginning to value the role played by the

OTR.

As I wrote at the start, my team was drawn from across the Regular and Army Reserves, supported by civil servants. What became apparent to me early on is that neither rank nor appointment was a clear marker of what the person offered the OTR. For example, my Catering Warrant Officer was also the civilian storeman in the QM Department and it was he who devised and ran one of the best battlefield studies I've ever attended. And the Leeds UOTC Zic (a Reservist captain) was also a civilian clerk in another unit by day but led the most imaginative AT expeditions and wrote military English better than anyone else in the OTR. The FTRS former LE officers were first rate to a person; their diligence bought out the inexperience of some Reservists and the challenge that the best were time poor. The Reservists were invariably committed, enthusiastic and competent; some could offer more time than others and knowing who to task and when was key. And my civil servant team were astonishingly committed too – most had been around for many years and knew how to make things work efficiently. My overriding sense

was of family, the same as many other Army units. They all looked out for each other, enjoyed each other's company and took pride in doing their jobs well. And the Yorkshire humour was strong.

Like everywhere else, the covid pandemic ran a coach and horses through plans. Initially we had to cease training in person. But with this came an opportunity to develop virtual training. Not map reading or weapon handling – no one wants to do that online – but each week we asked a different speaker from all walks of life to address over 100 OCdts via Zoom. It was hugely popular; not only were the talks invariably excellent but the OCdts had the chance to 'see' each other during lockdown (and they were paid to attend, dialling in from their bedrooms). We also arranged for a virtual event with our Dutch opposite numbers and managed to secure DSACEUR to give a talk on leadership while sat at Field Marshal Montgomery's old desk; a few weeks later General Petraeus did the same but from his study in the US. As the grip of lockdown eased, I was able to argue that we should train face-to-face but with strict anti-covid measures in place. Not only were we the

best club in town, but we were the only club in town and it was important for the mental welfare of OCdts to be able to attend training once a week. The OCdts took their responsibilities seriously to keep everyone safe and while many caught covid through their day-to-day student lives, we avoided a mass outbreak in the OTR. The OTR, however, is all about inter-personal engagement and therefore it is not something that can be replicated online for any length of time. We did our best – and I think actually had some notable virtual successes – but nothing beats the in-person experience. I'm pleased that we were able to run a low-level annual field exercise in September 2020 and offer some local AT, when the situation allowed.

To conclude, and as I hope is clear from this article, I loved my time in command of the Yorkshire Officer's Training Regiment. I enjoyed encouraging OCdts to join the Army through the many activities we offered; I liked engaging with the university communities; and I thoroughly enjoyed trying to steer a dedicated, kind and proudly Yorkshire team. I would like to think we had some successes; there were, for example, 17

OCdts from Yorks OTR on the summer 2020 Reserve commissioning course out of a total of 90 from across the Army Reserve and more than twice as many as other OTR/Cs. Command opportunities in the Army are becoming fewer. Although somewhat clichéd, I feel genuinely privileged to have had my time with the Yorks OTR and will remember it incredibly fondly. Command, for me, was everything I had hoped it would be.

This particular JUO qualified as a doctor in June 2020 and was immediately on the front line in hospitals in the fight against Covid-19. She has said since that her time in the OTR helped prepare her for such an intense professional experience.

Those who join the OTR/C without plans to join the Army but go on to do so as a result of OTR/C service.

1. Commanding Officer's PT (every Friday!)
2. Pl Comd Orders before deployment September 2020
3. Yorks OTR Reserve officers July 2020
4. Instructing in La Plagne December 2019
5. HQ Londist visit summer 2019





Battalion Deer Stalking Trip

by Captain EWD Andersen, Officer Commanding the Reconnaissance Platoon

The traditional portrayal of deer stalking is usually one of tweed-clad eccentrics crawling across heather-covered hillsides in pursuit of a gigantic, roaring, red stag. While this may be the case for the lucky few, most deer stalking within the UK takes place in the lowland woods and fields in order to control the ever-growing number of roe deer.

Being considerably flightier than their larger cousins, combined with a ghost-like ability to disappear behind trees never to be seen again, the roe deer was to provide an excellent training opportunity for a mixed group of the Welsh Guards Sniper, Recce and Anti-Tank platoons.

While the price of stalking can be enough to put most off, the Regiment is incredibly fortunate to have friends in high places and, when it comes to deer stalking in Northumberland, they don't get much better than Steve Bennet (24220033 formerly 1 WG). Not only is Steve the

oracle on anything with four legs and antlers but he also has access to some fantastic stalking land on the Northumberland coast. Being a former Welsh Guardsman, he knew exactly what to expect when the Battalion stalking team arrived ready for action. However, I'm not sure the Guardsmen were quite ready for Steve. Possessing endless reserves of enthusiasm, energy and good humour, Steve kept us entertained with his tales of mishaps and mischief from his time in Battalion. Steve is also stepfather to WO2 (RQMS (T)) Peters, who helped to organise the trip and proved to be a fantastic stalking guide for our

team.

Deer stalking has deep-rooted connections to soldiering. The Lovat Scouts, formed in 1900, exclusively recruited Highland gamekeepers and ghillies for their expertise in fieldcraft and marksmanship to form the first regiment of sharpshooters. Likewise modern specialist weapons platoons require Guardsmen to be experts in stealth as they often operate forward of the Battlegroup in close proximity to the enemy. A week of stalking roe deer proved to be an excellent test of their skills.

Roe are typically most active at dawn and dusk, retreating into the safety of the thickest woods to lay up in the day. Luckily, being November, the winter nights were lengthening and sunrise was at the very reasonable time of 0700, meaning we could avoid the excessively early starts necessary for stalking in the summer.

With rifles loaded and binoculars at the ready our group split into small groups and headed into the woods

under the guidance of Steve and WO2 (RQMS (T)) Peters. Soft footsteps are key. The slightest snapping of a twig can spook a deer never to be seen again. Any movement immediately draws one's eye and sends the heart racing. Roe deer are perfectly camouflaged for the dark, mottled light of the woods, often only identifiable by their bright white tails, known as the tush. Many of our team got used to only spotting a flash of white as an unseen deer bounded away to safety before they took aim.

As the week went on our skills (and luck) improved considerably with all but one of the team bagging a deer each. The long hours of high concentration can be incredibly trying, especially when the opportunity to take a shot can be a window of just a few, brief seconds. It is credit to our Guardsmen that despite being novices, all remained calm when the time came to pull the trigger and all shots were clean kills.

Steve put together a fantastic package for the group

showcasing all that a sporting estate can offer. Once the deer had gone to bed some of the Guardsmen were taken out lamping for vermin in the dark using infrared torches and thermal sights. The snipers proved their skills on an improvised rifle range which stretched out across a valley, all of them knocking down a 10-inch steel plate at 600m with ease. The officers did not perform quite so admirably but clawed back some dignity on the clay pigeons!

At the end of the week the team were shown how to prepare and butcher their deer and all took home what they shot.

The week provided both an excellent insight into the sport and provided the ultimate test of soldiering skills. Steve was absolutely instrumental in the success of the trip and all the team appreciated his efforts throughout.

It should be mentioned that if any former Welsh Guardsman are interested in a career in deer management or simply fancy trying out stalking, Steve is always willing to introduce people to the sport.



1. *The Welsh Guards Stalking Team.*
2. *The team try out a variety of rifles on an improvised range.*
3. *One of the Snipers takes aim*
4. *Lt Haines-Henderson spots for Capt Andersen*
5. *The team learn how to butcher and prepare their deer.*





Heraldry in the Welsh Guards

by Lance Corporal Griffiths 86

Heraldry is defined as the system by which coats of arms and other armorial bearings are devised, described, and regulated. In this instance, heraldry in the Welsh Guards has to do with the research behind the design and display of our Colours and, in particular, Company Colours.

"A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole, It does not look likely to stir a man's Sole, 'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag, When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag." Sir Edward Hamly on seeing old Colours of the 32nd Foot in Monmouth Church.

The Welsh Guards are the youngest regiment in the Household Division and share many traditions with the Grenadier Guards. Our immediate history may not be as long as the history of the six other regiments that wear the blue, red, blue. However, it is no less glorious. Through the veins of this Regiment run stories, legends and traditions that are more ancient than any regiment currently serving the Crown: that of the Welsh people. This is where heraldry comes into play and makes the Welsh Guards amongst one of the most unique regiments in the British Army.

The designs for the first eight Company Colours of the 1st Battalion were hastily approved by the King not long after the formation of the Regiment in 1915 and were first described in full by Major C H Dudley-Ward's History of the Welsh Guards that was published in 1920. Through researching and rediscovering the history behind our Company Colours – all sixteen of them – I have rediscovered Wales and all of the stories and tales that go

with it. They do not belong to us, these colours. Once, many centuries ago, they were flown as coats of arms, on shields and flags, and in the fields of battle. One of them was flown at the Battle of Agincourt. Another belonged to Owain Glyndwr. One belonged to Sir Rhys ap Thomas, who delivered the fatal blow that ended the reign of Richard III. One of them, perhaps most unique amongst them, belonged to Llywelyn the Great, whose coat of arms has long-since been adopted and included in the Royal Coat of Arms of the Colonel of the Regiment, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

What makes our Company Colours unique? It is said that Gruffudd ap Cynan and Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, amongst others, made broad searches for the coats of arms and pedigrees of their ancestors. What they found became the colours, guidons and standards of the Five Royal and Fifteen Noble Tribes. Many centuries later, when researching Welsh standards and coats of arms, it was through the studies of people like Gruffudd ap Cynan that the arms of the Five Royal Tribes, along with those of Owain Gwynedd, Owain Glyndwr and Llywelyn ap Gruffudd that these eight coats of arms were approved as the first eight Company Colours. Later, when the 2nd Battalion was formed in 1939, additional colours were required. What

was planned and achieved was the adoption of numerous colours that were researched and chosen to represent Wales as a whole, on a geographical level. Some represent Northerners, some the South, some the Central.

What is shown below is a selection of examples of how Welsh Guards Company Colours are so unique, and how they represent not only the history of the Regiment but also the nation itself. They belong to ancient Kings and Princes, ancient rulers of ancient lands and are, historically, representative of all Welshmen. Heraldry in the Welsh Guards, I aim to show, is most unique for that reason.

Number 2 Company, 1st Battalion

"Gwyr ynys y cedyrn"

"The Men of the Island of the Mighty"



Bias prompts me to begin with my own Company, the Men of the Island of the Mighty. Our Company Colours were borne by, and representative of, Owain Gwynedd who was the son of Gruffudd ap Cynan, founder of the First Royal Tribe and King of Gwynedd. His arms were adopted by The Prince of Wales's Company.

Owing to Gruffudd's old age and ill health in the latter part of his reign his three sons were dispatched as conquerors around the Principality and upon his death his Kingdom was split between his two surviving sons, Owain and Cadwaladr. Shortly after

ascending to the throne Owain's brother Cadwaladr was implicated in the murder of the ruling monarch of Deheubarth (South Wales) and Anarawd ap Gruffydd, a key ally of Owain's who was about to marry Owain's daughter. In response Owain sent his son, Hywel ab Owain Gwynedd, to seize Cadwaladr's lands and burn his castle at Aberystwyth. From then on Cadwaladr was driven into exile and Owain the sole ruler of their Kingdom.

Owain Gwynedd is best remembered for his successful campaign against Henry II, who invaded North Wales in 1157 with the backing of Madog ap Maredudd of Powys and Owain's disgraced brother Cadwaladr. Henry II's army ravaged Eastern Gwynedd, destroying many places of worship. In July of that year the two armies met at Ewale, a small wood outside Flint. Henry had sent his naval forces around the coast to Anglesey, to attempt to cut off Owain's supplies. He did

not discover until after the Battle of Ewale that this plan had failed, and he had been defeated on both sides having himself narrowly avoided capture when Owain's forces ambushed the Royal army in a narrow valley.

Madog ap Maredudd died in 1160, allowing Owain to regain territory lost in the east. A few years later an alliance was formed with the Prince of Deheubarth to challenge English rule. King Henry II again tried to invade, eight years after his previous attempt, but was met by an alliance of all the Welsh Princes, with Owain as their

undisputed leader, and were pushed back into England by vicious Welsh weather that we Welsh Guardsmen are only all-too familiar with. In his anger, Henry had many Welsh prisoners violently murdered and mutilated, amongst them some of Owain's sons.



1

Owain, like his father before him, died old and was buried in Bangor. In Welsh folklore it is said that one of his sons, Prince Madoc, left Wales and travelled to America, some 300 years before Christopher Columbus.

The heart of Gwynedd, it is said, is Snowdonia, the Welsh name of which translates roughly to "nest of eagles" or "the place of the eagles." It is said that Owain's motto was "Eryr eryron Eryri" which translates to "The Eagle of the Eagles of Snowdonia". Eagles play an important role in the history and flags of North Wales, owing perhaps to the Roman conquest there and the creation of Ancient Rome's most westerly outpost, Segontium, which is just outside of Caernarfon. Eagles are historically a Roman symbol, used as their Standards or Colours in battle, each legion possessing its own, called an aquila. It was said of Snowdonia that if the eagles flew high you would be victorious in battle. If they flew low, the Gods were not for you that day.

On becoming Emperor of the

French Napoleon adopted the Eagle as a French standard, many of which were captured by British regiments during battle. Chief amongst these victories perhaps is one captured at Waterloo in a charge led by Captain A. K. Clark against the French 105th Infantry. Captain A. K. Clark, of the 1st Royal Dragoons, captured an eagle with the number 105 on it and that eagle now forms part of the uniform worn by the 1st Royal Dragoons' successor, the Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry.

It is said that Welsh archers and soldiers who fought under Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt did so under a banner of three golden eagles on a green field, in tribute and in honour of Owain Gwynedd. His arms are seen as representing those from Caernarfonshire, which adopted the design as its official flag in 2012. Members of Number 2 Company feel a strong affiliation with Caernarfon and, historically, with North Wales in general, counting many native Welsh speakers amongst its ranks.

The motto of Number 2 Company – "gwyr ynys y cedyrn" – is taken from the Mabinogion, the main source of Welsh myth and legend and the oldest written prose stories written in Britain. One of the stories – of Branwen, daughter of Llyr – concerns the marriage of Branwen to the King of Ireland, who treated her unkindly. So that she could avenge her wrongs at the hands of the King and his court, the Men of the Island of the Mighty sailed to Ireland to bring her home to Wales. The Men of the Island, in this case, are not from Anglesey, as is often thought, but are the Men of the Isle of Britain. Thus, the majority of Welsh Guardsmen past and present can claim to



2

be Men of the Island of the Mighty.

Number 3 Company, 1st Battalion

"Fy Nuw, Fy Ngwlad, Fy Mrenin"

"My God, My Land, My King"



The arms of Number 3 Company - the Little Iron Men - belonged to Llywelyn ap Iorweth, or Llewelyn the Great, who was a grandson of Owain Gwynedd. Upon the death of his grandfather, his two uncles had split the Kingdom between them and ruled as two separate

leaders but, by birth right, Llywelyn had a strong claim to be ruler of all. By the time he was twenty-seven he was sole ruler of Gwynedd and had good relations with King John of England, marrying his daughter Joan.

King John invaded Gwynedd in 1211, breaking a peace that had lasted a decade. After an initial loss and having had to give up lands east of the River

Conwy, Llywelyn pushed back and recovered his losses in alliance with the other Princes of Wales. By 1216, a year following King John's signing the Magna Carta, Llywelyn was the dominant power in all Wales and the remainder of his rule was characterised by small battles and treatises

until his death in 1240, three years after suffering a paralytic stroke following the death of his wife. Until 1230 Llywelyn had styled himself Prince of Wales but from that year onwards had been known as Prince of Wales and Lord of Snowdonia, thus ensuring his precedence over all Welsh Princes.

During the last decades of his life his military campaigns were not the only source of worry to Llywelyn the Great. He was also much troubled by his wife, Joan. In 1228 Llywelyn engaged in war with Hubert de Burgh, who had been given the Lordship and castle of Montgomery by the King and had been stretching himself and his men into Llywelyn's territory. The King raised an army to assist Llywelyn's enemy and they attempted to build a castle at Ceri. In October of that year however, the Royal Army retreated, and the King agreed to destroy the semi-built castle in exchange for the sum of £2000 from Llywelyn, a sum Llywelyn raised by demanding the same amount for a prisoner he had in his charge. During the fighting Llywelyn had taken a prisoner, William de Braose, Lord of Abergavenny.



3

Braose was an unlucky member of the House of Braose, a family of Marcher Lords; that is, a family of nobles appointed as protectors of the border between England and Wales. He was

born in that place so familiar and so loved by soldiers of all regiments and corps - Brecon - and married the daughter of the 1st Earl of Pembroke, who gave him four daughters. During his captivity Williams de Braose decided to align himself with Llywelyn and denounce the King. To seal their new alliance a marriage was organised, between Llywelyn's heir Dafydd and Braose's daughter, Isabella.

At Easter 1230, now a free man and aligned with Llywelyn, William de Braose visited the Welsh Prince's court. During his visit he was discovered in the prince's bedchambers with the Prince's wife, by the Prince himself. His wife, the daughter of the King of England, was imprisoned and William de Braose beheaded, probably at Bala. A letter written by Llywelyn to de Braose's wife questions whether the marriage between their children should still go ahead, but it did. Joan was later released back into Llywelyn's favour and the status as Princess of Wales.

His arms, so unique amongst Welshmen, are the traditional arms of the Royal Family of Gwynedd and of the Princes of North Wales and are, it could be argued, amongst the most Welsh of Welsh Guards Company Colours. Over the centuries they have endured and are now used, in a smaller fashion, emblazoned upon the



4

Coat of Arms of the current Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness Prince Charles.

Number 12 Company (4 Coy, 2nd Battalion)

"Heb nefol nerth nid sicr saeth"

"Without heavenly strength the arrow flieth uncertain"



Sir Rhys ap Thomas, K.G., is one of the more famous names associated with the Company Colours of the Welsh Guards. He was head of the family of Dynevor and certainly was the most powerful man in South Wales during the reign of Henry VII and VIII. Legend states that it was he who, at the Battle of Bosworth, delivered the fatal blow with a poleaxe that killed Richard III.

He was born to Thomas ap Gruffydd of Llandeilo and Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Gruffydd of Abermarlais. He was known for his unflinching loyalty to Henry Tudor, who should have been his enemy. When Henry entered Wales at Dale, on his way to confront King Richard III, it was suggested that to show his loyalty Sir Rhys should lie down and allow Henry to walk over him. Fearing this would embarrass him to his men he instead stood under Mullock Bridge while Henry and his men crossed it.

Henry and Sir Rhys marched separately through Wales towards Bosworth. Henry had set off from France and already had with him an

English and French army and when they regrouped at Welshpool Sir Rhys had recruited an army that in size could have "annihilated" Henry's. During the following Battle, when Henry was unhorsed and surrounded, Sir Rhys delivered the fatal blow to King Richard III, thus winning the famous battle and ending the War of the Roses. He was knighted on the field of battle for his accomplishments and was later given lands

and offices in South Wales. During the course of his later life he also showed great loyalty to Henry VII's son and heir, Henry VIII, and was a Privy Councillor and a Knight of the Garter. He died at Carmarthen Priory in 1525.

He held many high offices and great estates in South Wales which gave rise to the saying "the King owns the island except what belongs to Sir Rhys." His descendants, who spell their names both Rhys and Rice, have served in the Regiment throughout its history. Major General R H Talbot Rice CBE, former Commanding Officer of the Welsh Guards, is one of these descendants.

1. Vert three eagles displayed in fess Or
2. Owain Gwynedd in battle with his Coat of Arms upon his shield
3. Quarterly or and gules four lions passant guardant countercharged.
4. Coat of Arms of the Prince of Wales, featuring in the centre, beneath the crown, the coat of arms of Llywelyn the Great and the House of Gwynedd.



Learning to Lead

by Lance Corporal D Griffiths

It is easy to write about leadership. Putting pen to paper or finger to keyboard is the easy part. It takes no real effort and can be done from bed. The real difficulty lies in practicing leadership. I have learnt this the hard way.

I owe my continued interest in leading (and, indeed, being led) to a previous Platoon Sergeant of mine. What I have learnt since beginning to lead (as a Guardsman) and leading (as a Lance Corporal) is that it is not smooth sailing. The road, like Brecon, is boggy, full of obstacles that will trip you up and is often harsh, dark and lonely. I want to do well, as I am sure you want to do well in whatever role you find yourself. Unfortunately, life being what it is, this does not always work out.

I polish my boots every evening. I iron a sharp crease into my trousers. I wear my badge over my left eye. But what I have learnt – the hard way – in my first few months as a Junior Non-Commissioned

Officer is that sometimes this is not enough. Erwin Rommel said that you must be an example not only in duty but in your private life as well. This has only recently sunk in for me.

"Be an example to your men in your duty and in private life. Never spare yourself, and let the troops see that you don't, in your endurance of fatigue and privation. Always be tactful and well-mannered and teach your subordinates to be the same. Avoid excessive sharpness or harshness of voice, which usually indicates the man who has shortcomings of his own to hide."

Erwin Rommel

In the summer, following a meal in town, I put myself into a situation that a Non-Commissioned Officer should not have been in. At that moment I thought nothing of it. In my head I was still 'one of the boys'. It took me a few days to realise that I had acted unprofessionally and that, by allowing myself to get in that position, I had fallen short of the values and standards I hold myself to – and that I have written about holding myself to. I was, despite my best intentions, a hypocrite. I had failed.

So what? I was bound to fail. That is not an excuse, but I was. How can we learn to lead if we first do not make the mistakes that we do not want our men to make, or make again ourselves? Like I have said before: mistakes are good only as long as we learn from them. Learning to lead is learning know yourself. So how do I improve? How could you improve?

Not making the same mistakes again. When I finish my day,

I think about it and I think about myself. What could I have done better? What did I do well? And more often than not, owing to my own nature, I consider a number of points that I can improve on the next day, usually filling a page of an imaginary notebook in my mind.

This is, I think, a good quality. Maybe you could try it if you do not already? Finish your day and write down some points, as though you were briefing a section after an attack.

"How would you have done that differently?"

"Now you are standing on the position, how would you have used the ground differently?"

This is an unusual job we are in. The possible damage your failure can cause is huge. That is why it is so essential to learn from our mistakes.

Have I learnt from mine, you ask? When I think about that question, I consider what Bill Gates once said:



"It's fine to celebrate success but it's more important to heed the lessons of failure"

Bill Gates

I have learnt, the hard way. I will not make the same mistake again but, more important than that, is that I can help others not to make similar mistakes.

Four questions to ask yourself

If you find yourself newly promoted to a command position then consider some points I go over in my head at the end of most days:

1. Did I achieve what I wanted to?
2. What are my work-on points?
3. What do I want to sustain?
4. How have my subordinates viewed me today?

The fourth point is the most important one for me. It is something I have started doing in recent weeks. It is not about vanity but instead about figuring out where I stand in the eyes of those who I am bound to lead. If, just once, they see me in disarray and not upholding the values and standards then I need to be better. If they see it consistently then do I deserve this position of high honour I find myself in? Probably not.

Learning to lead the hard way

For me, learning to lead has been learning the hard way. I have made mistakes and I am – slightly – glad to have made them. Time will tell whether they make me a better leader and a better man. Perhaps they will provide inspiration for future leaders and future articles?

Our people are everything, our Guardsmen, Privates, Troopers and so on. I am learning to lead them through good choices and bad and I suspect that will continue this way throughout my career. What is important to realise is that there is no one-size-fits-all formula to lead. All we can do is try, learn and hope that one day after the next, we get it right. After all, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, the greatest glory in life lies not in never falling but in rising every time we fall.



1. *Ours is a people-focused business and commanders must learn to put their subordinates first.*
2. *Junior leaders must bring order to chaos when the situation demands.*
3. *It is essential for junior commanders to keep a cool head.*

Yeoman of the Guard of The Queen's Bodyguard (QBG)

By Yeoman Warren Williams (25)

The Yeomen that you see at the State Opening of Parliament, The Most Noble Order of the Garter, Maundy Service, Royal Garden Parties, Investitures, Coronations, plus other events such as Royal Weddings and Royal Funerals, Epiphany, State Visits and Diplomatic Receptions are the Queen's Body Guard (QBG) of the Yeoman of the Guard, all based and administered from St James's Palace, London.

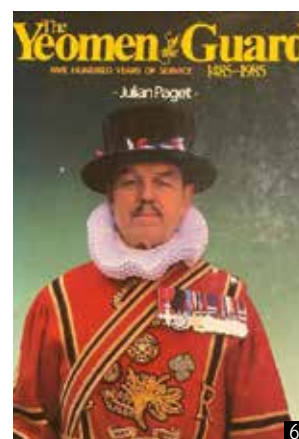
They are the oldest British military corps still in existence, created by King Henry VII in 1485 after the Battle of Bosworth Field. They are often confused with the Yeomen Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London who are commonly referred to as Beefeaters.

Since its inception The Body Guard has been headed by a Captain of the Guard; an important and highly prized position that grew in power as successive Captains were appointed a member of the Privy Council and Vice-Chamberlain, thus, becoming the executive-officer of the Lord Chamberlain. Other officers of The Body Guard in descending order are Lieutenant, Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, Ensign or Standard Bearer, and the Exon. Non-commissioned officers are Messenger Sergeant Major (MSM), Divisional Sergeant Major (DSM), Yeoman Bed Goer (YBG), Yeoman Bed Hanger (YBH) and Yeoman.

Today, candidates (servicemen and servicewomen) must have completed no less than 22 years' service in the Army, Royal Marines, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy, attained the rank of at least Sergeant or Petty Officer and been

awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. All Yeomen retire at the ripe old age of 70, to give others a chance of joining. There is a long list of candidates and places are limited to 64 Yeomen and Officers. www.yeomenoftheguard.co.uk

1. DSM Brian Owen 52 (RIP) & Major Simon Treadgold EXON (The officer rank of Exon is the most junior. The first mention of Exon is in the ceremony of All Nights, which is fully described in the chapter relating to Charles II. They were added to the staff of officers in 1668 just about the time when Marsham's account of All Night was written).
2. YBH Peter Evans 70 promoted to DSM 25 Nov 2020 and seen here with MSM John Davies at Westminster Abbey for a State Opening of Parliament.
3. Yeoman Warren Williams 25 at St James Chapel for his Oath of Allegiance on 9 Oct 19 and then onto duty at a Buckingham Palace Investiture.
4. Yeoman Terry Jones 71 preparing for an investiture at Buckingham Palace 2014.
5. The Welsh Guards Charity helped the serving Welsh Guards members of the Body Guard to purchase a Silver Dragon Lighter which they presented to the "The Yeomen of the Guard of the Queen's Bodyguard" on behalf of all Welsh Guardsmen members past, present & future.
6. MSM Cyril Phillips seen here on the cover of the 500 hundred years of service book 1485-1985

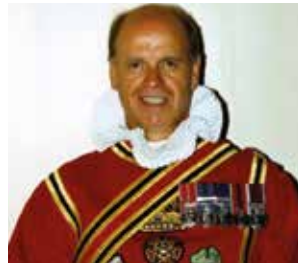


Currently Serving in the Body Guard

| | Enrolled | Exempt | Rank |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| Simon Treadgold | 2013 | Present | EXON |
| Served Welsh Guards | 1984 | 2003 | Major |
| Peter Evans 70 | 2000 | Present | DSM |
| Served Welsh Guards | 1974 | 1997 | Senior / D/Sgt |
| Terry Jones 71 | 2009 | Present | Yeomen |
| Served Welsh Guards | 1982 | 2004 | CQMS |
| Warren Williams 25 | 2019 | Present | Yeomen |
| Served Welsh Guards | 1987 | 2011 | RQMS |
| Superannuated and Exempt List | | | |
| Alan Williams RVM | 1980 | 1998 | CQMS |
| Lennard Davies RVM | 1985 | 2011 | WO2 |
| MSM John Rhys Davies 28 RVM | 1992 | 2021 | WO1 |
| Served Welsh Guards | 1969 | 1991 | WO2 |
| RIP | | | |
| DSM Brian Owen 52 | 1972 | 1994 | WO2 |
| QBG | 1997 | 2020 | DSM |
| Dennis John Williams 300 RVM BEM | 1950 | 1978 | CQMS |
| QBG | 1981 | 2002 | |
| Welsh Guards Past Members | | | |
| Cyril Horace Phillips MBE MVO MSM | 1934 | 1971 | ACSM |
| QBG | 1971 | 1983 | |
| Harry Webb ex Gren Guard | 1936 | 1966 | RSM |
| QBG | 1974 | 1984 | |
| Dennis Tubb | 1947 | 1975 | RSM |
| QBG | 1982 | 1998 | |
| Frederick Bruntwell | 1939 | 1962 | CSM |
| QBG | 1970 | 1989 | |
| Eirwyn Jones 34 MSM | 1949 | 1983 | RSM |
| QBG | 1983 | 1998 | |
| Albert Baker MBE MVO MSM | 1922 | 1953 | RSM |
| QBG | 1954 | 1970 | |
| Charles Blackmore RVM | 1928 | 1951 | RQMS |
| QBG | 1958 | 1977 | |
| Maurice Darlington | 1939 | 1967 | CSM |
| QBG | 1971 | 1981 | |
| David John Griffiths MBE MSM | 1934 | 1956 | WO1 |
| QBG | 1964 | 1986 | |
| Frederick A L Hedditch MBE RVM MID | 1931 | 1954 | RSM |
| QBG | 1960 | 1982 | |
| Thomas Henry John MM RVM | 1932 | 1958 | RSM |
| QBG | 1961 | 1982 | |



Horace Cyril Phillips
Awarded MBE MVO MSM
Academy Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Dennis Williams 300
Awarded BEM RVM
Company Quartermaster
Sergeant Welsh Guards



Dennis Oliver Tubb
Regimental Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Frederick H Bruntwell
Company Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



John Eirwyn Jones
Awarded MSM
Regimental Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Albert Reginald Baker
Awarded MBE MVO MSM
Regimental Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Charles HS Blackmore
Awarded RVM
Regimental Quatermaster
Sergeant Welsh Guards



Darlington Maurice
Company Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



David John Griffiths
Awarded MBE MSM
Warrant Officer 1
Welsh Guards



Frederick AL Hedditch
Awarded MBE MiD RVM
Company Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Thomas Henry John
Awarded MM RVM
Regimental Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards



Brian Lindsay Owen
Warrant Office II
Welsh Guards



Harry Edward Webb
Regimental Sergeant Major
Grenadier Guards



Thomas Emrys Walters
Awarded MBE MSM
Regimental Sergeant Major
Welsh Guards

Llongyfarchiadau ac haeddianol iawn gan Warchodlu Corff Y Frenhines! Cymru am Byth



1



2

The Art of Pace Sticking

by Lieutenant O M F Powell, Company Second-in-Command Number 2 Company

On the 6 May 21 the Welsh Guards revived the age-old tradition of holding a pace sticking competition.

What is pace sticking, you may well ask. Up until now my only experience of a pace stick was the wild gesticulations of my Colour Sergeant at Sandhurst who would use his as a pointer whether in lessons or giving us animated words of advice.

The pace stick was first used to ensure that artillery pieces were the correct distances apart. It was then adopted to ensure that the dressing of troops while on parade is at the correct distance. From this adaptation the sport of pace sticking sprung, and the Welsh Guards have been holding competitions for almost as long as the existence of the Regiment.

A total of five teams entered the competition including a team from the Officers' Mess and the Attached Arms. This was in the aid of choosing a Battalion team that would go on to compete in the World Championships held every year at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where teams from around the world come to compete in what can only be described as a smorgasbord of blindingly polished boots, pinpoint precision and military flare.

The Welsh Guards competition could be described in the same vein. However, the relentless pursuit of impeccable standards was partnered with a more light-hearted and humorous approach.

The first to take the runway were the Headquarters

Company team who performed with a unique style that was not considered to be from the orthodox school of pace sticking but they gave a good account of themselves.

Number 3 Company entered the fray next and had clearly been practicing but unfortunately a stick was dropped on the slow march which docked significant points. This was a matter of considerable disappointment.

The Officers' Mess team took centre stage looking extremely smart in suit and bowler hat and were even - to the surprise and admittance of Capt Parry (ex RSM and world pace sticking champion) - 'pretty good' in the slow march. They performed the changing of stick and carrying of sticks with unrevealed synchronicity and class. But unfortunately, they came unstuck at the beginning of the quick march where one of the members suffered a loss of consciousness and was carried off by the remainder of the team, but not before asking the Chief Judge (Maj Darren Pridmore) for leave to carry on.

It was the turn of the rightful favourites in the form of the Number 2 Company team to show how it was supposed to be done. The team under Company Sergeant Major McEvoy were obviously well practiced and the time spent was not wasted as the performance given was highly polished and it out-

shone the teams that had given their all previously. By the end of their run it was clear to all who had given the best performance so far.

Finally, it was the turn of the underdogs - the Attached Arms - who stepped up to the mark with their turnout immaculate. What on paper looked to be an inexperienced team preformed like old hands at the spinning of sticks, with very little to differentiate themselves between the Number 2 Company performance. This was turning into a real nail biter for the judges.

Once the teams had finished their runs all retired to the Sergeants' Mess to well-deserved refreshment awaiting them. It was with bated breath and hushed, excited talk that speculation as to who had won it was made. All bets were either on Number 2 Company or the Attached Arms teams. We were not held in suspense for too long. By a small margin Number 2 Company had clinched the top prize over the Attached Arms. Beautiful crystal glasses (donated by Mappin & Webb) were given to each member of the winning team and Company Sergeant Major McEvoy stepped forward to receive the coveted mounted pace stick trophy.

On that day it was determined that Company Sergeant Major McEvoy, CSgt Marsh, Sgt Doyle and Sgt Shapland with LSgt Jones as reserve would represent the Battalion in the World Championships and it is certain that they will do the Battalion proud.



1. The pace stick itself looks like a giant compass and dates back to Roman times when it was used to mark out the distance of straight

2. Roman roads. CSgt Jones 73 at attention in front of the Memorial Plinth at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

3. The day involved meticulous preparation and attention to the smallest detail in terms of standards.
4. The Officers Mess Team

Random Recollections

by Brigadier PRG Williams DL

In 1959 the Daily Mail decided to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bleriot's flight over the English Channel by promoting a race between the Marble Arch and the Arc de Triomphe in the ten days 13th to 23rd July.

At that time travel between the two capitals was protracted, a ferry crossing taking several hours, trains being slow and roads inadequate and even the fastest air route requiring a tedious journey to Heathrow and a further trapeze into Paris from Orly. The aim was to get one person from one capital to the other as quickly as possible, with an additional category for the most original form of transport.

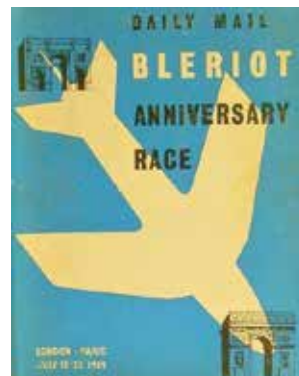
The battalion was stationed at Pirbright, and John Miller was the Commanding Officer. I suggested to him that it might be rather fun to enter the race, and he gave the idea his full support. The initial idea was that I could fly from Paris and parachute into Hyde Park, but for many reasons (air traffic control among them) this proved impossible. It was consequently decided that the best option would be motorbike-helicopter-jet over the channel-motorbike, and planning went ahead on this basis. Another Williams, a TT rider, was recruited for the first leg, a helicopter was organised to fly from Battersea Heliport to Biggin Hill and Michael Lee, despatched to France for the purpose, found a wild French motorbike racer whose name, sadly, I never learned. That left the question of the jet. It rapidly became clear that the RAF were not going to help rivals; in fact they eventually won, using helicopters and Hunters. We turned to the

Fleet Air Arm who were good enough to offer a Vampire from Biggin Hill to Villacoublay. We recognised that a Vampire's flight time of about twenty minutes was slower than a Hunter's of about twelve, but it was very generous of the Senior Service and we accepted with alacrity. I then had to report for a training session on the Martin Baker ejection seat, and having been fired up the chute and given some idea of what to do and, having got my Competitor's licence from the royal Aero Club we were ready to go. The date was set for Sunday 19th of July.

The day before I drove down to Gloucestershire for the magnificent dance given for Celia Pitman, having to tell my kind hostess that I would have to leave pretty early next day. Feeling that my rather elderly little Austin lacked the speed for a quick drive to London, I hired a Vauxhall Victor, and after a splendid evening at the party and a couple of hours sleep, crept out of the house and set off, through the summer early mist, for London, to change into a cotton flying suit. I was met there by John Miller and a send-off party under the RSM ("one of the smartest departures was given to Lieutenant P Williams of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, who was sent off by the RSM and a detachment of guardsmen" reported The Times), and having been timed, shot off on the pillion to the heliport, there to leap

into the helicopter and fly to Biggin Hill. The Vampire was ready for take-off, and I ran up the steps, buckled up and we were off to France. Some twenty minutes later we put down at Villacoublay to be met, at the end of the runway, by a villainous looking biker with a vast, pulsating machine which, the second I had clambered aboard, clutching him round the waist, set off hell for leather down the tarmac, leaving for the grass about 200 yards later and heading for the perimeter fence at a speed, which I could read over his shoulder, of 130kph. A quick and nervous glance showed us heading straight for the wire, with no gateway visible, but to my utter astonishment I realised that he had cut a gap in the fence, marked it with bits of cloth, and before I knew what was happening we were through, had bumped down over the pavement and were roaring up the roads of Paris at 180kph for the Arc de Triomphe, where I clocked in at a time of (if I remember right) 67 minutes, sorry not to break the hour, and was met by Michael Lee. After a quick meal in a little bistro, we headed for Orly and the return Flight. We were both pretty tired, and on the trip back to Pirbright Michael lost concentration, veered into the middle of the road and clipped a car coming in the opposite direction which neatly removed the driver's door handle. There is a medal to this escapade somewhere. I seem to remember that we came in the top twenty.

As to Vauxhall Victors, David Saunders, then Adjutant, launched out and bought one. Unfortunately, assiduous polishing by his orderly (it was the Adjutant's car) rapidly wore away the top coat of paint revealing an



undercoat of hideous pink. David wrote a superb letter of complaint, pointing out to Vauxhall that it was unbecoming of one of their products to parade its underwear, especially that of the Adjutant of the Welsh Guards, and was rewarded by a chagrined Vauxhall Motors giving the car a full respray.

There was one further outcome. As I had done the ejector seat training, in 1966 I was able to persuade the RAF to take me up in a Lightning to become a member of the Ten Ton Club when on a staff college visit. My main memory is that on firing the afterburners for a reheat take-off the fuel gauge needle went down at about the same rate as the altimeter needle climbed, and the pull of gravity was so fierce as we climbed to 60000 feet that I was unable to lift my hands off my lap. We broke 1000mph in a shallow dive over Belgium and I became a member; later every Concorde passenger automatically qualified, of course.

Billy Butlin, also a competitor, hired a two-seater Spitfire and flew from Biggin Hill, specially to emulate a Battle of Britain pilot. "Not many can say they've flown Spits from Biggin Hill!" he boasted; and one person went by motor mower.

Social Media Update

by Sgt Christopher Morgan – Battalion Social Media Content Manager

When I took over as the Battalion's Social Media Content Manager I felt that an overhaul of the Welsh Guards online presence was long overdue.

Throughout the year the Battalion achieved incredible things. We had travelled to fantastic places and we got the job done. I felt it only right that the public was able to share in our experiences and achievements and I felt that to not capture that and not show it to the world was reprehensible. A successful social media account can reach thousands and sometimes millions of people around the world, but it takes hard work, dedication, and a little obsessive behaviour.

In 2020 the country and the world found itself in turmoil and after a short time in lockdown the Battalion got back to work preparing for deployment overseas. It was August when I took over as Media Sergeant and I envisaged a working team that would produce content daily with the utmost of quality that would catch the eye of the thousands of potential Guardsmen out there – so we went to work. In December 2020 we found an opportunity to take on a new member of the team: LCpl Butler. He had experience in filming and video editing, so it was an easy decision to add him to Media Cell and he hit the ground running by travelling to various company locations weekly to capture short films and the response has been outstanding online.

The link between the Media Cell and the recruitment teams is paramount so we

decided very early on that we would need a working office together. We requested this via the Quartermaster, and he provided. We had to upgrade our means to capture content and we got what we wanted quickly. This included a new DSLR camera plus lenses, MacBook Pros, Go Pros and camera gimbles. The injection of new equipment greatly enhanced the Media Cell's ability to capture good content for our various social media channels.

The small Media Cell are infantry soldiers first and foremost and have been for quite some time, so learning new skills like photography, videography and running a successful social media account could have been taxing but we had a passion for it from the outset and we think that shows with our photography and videos that we upload daily. This success has been demonstrated in the increase of public interaction online.

The Welsh Guards social media success has taken the form of a substantial increase in followers and engagement across all its social media channels. Page impressions – the number of times any content from a Welsh Guards platform has entered a person's screen – have increased from 1.2 million to 4.3 million (258% increase) for Facebook and 1.1 million to 3.1 million (182% increase) for Instagram over the course of 2020-21. This achievement is



invaluable in itself but it takes on particular significance in the context of the recruiting challenges that the Battalion has faced in recent years.

Since the overhaul and combining the efforts of the Recruitment Teams and Media Cell we have hugely improved our recruitment numbers. We currently have, as of writing this, a total of 57 trainee Guardsmen in Catterick and Harrogate. We also have 125 potential Guardsmen in the pipeline effectively waiting to get the chance to become a Welsh Guardsman. It gives huge satisfaction when someone who has seen some of our social media content expresses interest to Recruiting Teams, and to see the effects of your work come out the other end in the form of new draft is very rewarding.

I have very much enjoyed this year as Social Media Content Manager and it is

always a pleasure to be able to capture the Battalion's achievements and to make sure they are well known. To do this while being able to practice photography – something I am passionate about – has been a privilege.

1. The author's work was published on the front page of Soldier Magazine in 2020.

Regimental Headquarters Pictorial Comparison (Then and Now)

Regimental Headquarters Staff February 1946 (37 members)



5th Row; Gdsm. W. Williams, L/Sgt. K. Harris, Gdsm. R. Shaddock. **4th Row;** L/Cpl. W. Williams, Gdsm. G. Davies, Gdsm. A. Cope, Gdsm. R. Blackshaw, Gdsm. C. Carey, Gdsm. C. Dudley, Gdsm. W. Williams, Gdsm. G. Barr. **3rd Row;** L/Cpl. A. Eldridge, Gdsm. R. Towill, Gdsm. W. Liversedge, Gdsm. J. Greener, Gdsm. G. McGowan, Gdsm. K. Axworthy, L/Cpl. O. Hughes, Gdsm. A. Atkinson, Gdsm. H. Kershaw. **2nd Row;** L/Sgt. G. Wenn, Sgt. D. Latchford (A.T.S.), Cpl. S. Marlow (A.T.S.), Pte. V. Smart (A. T.S.) Pte. V. Bashford (A.T.S.), Pte. M. Hartman (A.T.S.), Cpl. M. Colley (A.T.S.), L/Sgt. L. Pike. **1st Row;** ORQMS J. Edwards, ORQMS A. Hall MBE, Major R. B. Sawrey-Cookson, Major H J Moore-Gwny, Colonel Sir A.B.G. Stanier, Bart, D.S.O, M.C., Major N. M. Daniel, M.C., Sup/Clerk. J. Copping, M.B.E.

Regimental Headquarters Staff June 2021 (10 members)



Back Row; Captain EWD Andersen, Lance Sergeant S Laing, Guardsman A Jallow, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant W Parry 95 **Front Row;** Mr K Hibberd, Major (Retired) ME Browne BEIM, Colonel (Retired) TCS Bonas, Major General RJÆ Stanford CB MBE, Mrs Y Brown, Mr C Enraght-Moony



Multinational Corps Northeast

by Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent MBE

Most of us could perhaps be forgiven for not being able to pinpoint Szczecin on a map of Europe. Certainly, as I sat in western Somalia early in December 2019 mulling over my appointment as a Staff Officer in NATO, I had very little idea, it was certainly far removed from the dust of Baidoa and not quite as exciting or exotic as I had perhaps imagined.

Szczecin, or as it was known when it was a part of Germany pre-1945, Stettin, is a Baltic Port City and home to NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast, my home for the next two years. Largely destroyed during the Second World War, Szczecin is a large bustling centre of commerce and maritime transportation networks. Industrial architecture blends seamlessly with Communist era tenement blocks and office buildings. Perhaps a

poor relation to neighbouring Berlin and distant Gdansk but a city with a vibrant heart, albeit one with an overdose of Communist concrete and an earthy lack of pretentiousness!

Against the backdrop of COVID, my arrival and an immediate solo ten-day quarantine period was a rude awakening after the bustle and vibrancy of eastern Africa. Despite this less than auspicious start and a slight

feeling of isolation, it quickly became apparent that the Poles are delightful people, proud of their heritage, conscious of their history and determined to succeed and move on from a violent past. They take their security seriously, they are acutely aware of the threats poised from the east and they are determined that events of 1939 which led to 1 in 5 of their countrymen being killed during the Second World War, will not be repeated. They have invested heavily in technology and Heavy Armour, have finely developed defensive plans and have committed significantly to NATO since becoming a full member of the alliance in 1999.

The Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast has been operating since 18 September 1999 and is formed from three framework nations: Poland,

Denmark and Germany, augmented further by personnel from 25 member states and representatives from Sweden and Finland under the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. Whilst the Headquarters itself comprises of some 400 personnel, under command are two Multinational Divisions, Multinational Division North and Multinational Division Northeast and a Command Support Brigade. As with all things multinational, it brings with it both strengths and weaknesses. NATO has undoubtedly been a successful political and military alliance over the years. However, that which should be comparatively simple within a single nation Headquarters is made more complex by the diverse nature of the personnel and the all too apparent national caveats and interests. This can stifle decision making



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and impact upon the speed of reaction to a threat, real or perceived. It comes with frustrations, but the deterrence effect that is achieved both by presence and a 'unity of effort', is very real. The Polish themselves see their day-to-day activity known as Baseline Activities and Current Operations (BACO), as a key contributor in providing deterrence activities along their eastern border. Disturbingly for some perhaps, even my presence here is deemed BACO and contributing daily to the deterrence of a resurgent Russian Bear!

Despite the recent pandemic, the Headquarters has adopted a pragmatic approach to working practices and activity has continued unabated despite the best efforts of COVID. Working From Home and Shift systems have not been the order of the day for most and activity has continued at pace. To date three Corps level Command Post Exercise have been conducted in the last 12 months with the associated planning and execution phases. This has proved problematic given insufficient communication systems and an inability to have a face-to-face dialogue with subordinate and

Higher Headquarters. Whilst technological advancements over the years have developed systems beyond that of the Clansman of the 90's, they are still not mature enough to replace the requirement to have face to face dialogue. This is especially true when dealing with complex military/political dilemmas, where many involved are delivering plans in their second or even third language (deeply impressive). There is a danger within NATO that the pandemic has created a reliance and confidence in an ability to plan and command remotely and at reach through a technology which currently remains immature and in insufficient quantity to actually deliver in a real world scenario. This has at times, led to confusion and an inability to rapidly shape and deliver coordinated plans across the Chain of Command and this will need to be addressed if NATO is to truly remain able to react to the threat to thirty nations states from one - Russia. These issues are to be expected in an alliance where common consent has to be the bedrock of decision making and activity, it will always be difficult, particularly given the political scrutiny that is given to even the most basic

of actions. The risk of getting it wrong, especially in Poland and the three Baltic States, is stark.

Poland as a country is an interesting place to live. The history in this part of the world has been shaped by Prussian, German, Russian and Polish influences, and these are still apparent today. Although the ability to explore has been curtailed in recent months, Gdansk, Warsaw, Wroclaw, Poznan and Auschwitz are all within striking distance. The countryside is beautiful and wildlife abundant. The people, although perhaps on initial contact, a little dour are wonderfully hospitable and welcoming once you get to know them. I have been granted membership of the local Hunting Club with shooting rights over 13000 hectares of forest and rolling grassland. There is skiing within a four hour drive, the Baltic Coast a mere hour away and the delights of Berlin just to the south - much to do and see once life returns to normality.

With one year completed and one more to push, despite the frustrations and isolation, Poland does have much to offer. NATO is still an interesting place to

work and remains relevant to both Europe and the United Kingdom. We must continue to invest in our position within NATO and our contributions to deterrence effects in the east. As the United Kingdom perhaps begins to switch focus on technology and away from a more traditional war fighting army, we must remain acutely aware of the intent and potential actions of both our friends and our enemies. Whilst technology undoubtedly has a significant place on the battlefield of the future, the need for heavy armour and flesh and steel in the arena has not yet been usurped. Conventional and technological superiority must be complimentary, not exclusive. Our NATO allies will look to us to provide more than just HQ personnel and technology in order to provide the collective security that has been the cornerstone of NATO's success since 1949.

1. Polish Armed Forces Day
2. Headquarters Multinational Division Northeast
3. The author with COMARRC (with apologies to the Brigade Major for the appalling position of salute)

Life at The European Joint Support Unit by Major JR Farmelo

Across continental Europe, from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean Sea, squatting in small offices in the many NATO Command Centres sprinkled across the continent sits the European Joint Support Unit (EJSU).

It provides the firm base and real-life support (RLS) to facilitate the British contribution to NATO as well as UK Exchange, Liaison and Diplomatic operations in mainland Europe. EJSU personnel come from all areas of the Armed Forces. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen: Aircrew, Artillerymen, Logisticians and Submariners, and of course Guardsmen. All combine to make up EJSU HQ and it's in-country support locations, known as National Support Elements (NSE) in Europe. This support is complimented by EJSUs partner organisation, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) who ensure that we are housed, as well as the Department for Young People (DYP) who make sure our children receive a first-class education whilst overseas.

From its Headquarters at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium, quite possibly one of the ugliest buildings in

the world (but not without its unique and retro charm), this tri-Service organisation currently provides full J1-9 support to personnel in 26 countries in an Area of Responsibility (AOR) that spans over nine million square kilometres. This AOR has continually expanded since EJSU reached Full Operating Capacity (FOC) in 2014 and is the most recent incarnation in a long line of tireless support units which date back to the earliest days of the British Army of the Rhine (BOAR). The Unit's mix of Military, Civil Servants, Dependants and Host Nation (HN) employees now support well over 4,000 personnel in 112 locations throughout Europe. It is our responsibility to ensure that the supported population are looked after and, where possible, given exactly the same level of support that they would be receiving back in the UK.

This support is implemented via a Hub and Spoke model. HQ EJSU provides the Hub

with a Head of Department in each J function and NSEs provide the Spokes. There are 16 NSEs providing day to day RLS for personnel in locations such as Milan, Norway and Lisbon. Each NSE is overseen by a Head of Location (HoL), usually managing a team of junior ranks and some HN civilians or Dependants. Some of the less populous postings which don't have an NSE - (due to there being no established NATO base nearby) - are supported by the Isolated Detachments (ISODet) NSE based within HQ EJSU*.

Alongside providing support for personnel, EJSU contribute to the delivery of the UK strategic intent in support of NATO readiness. To enable this, EJSU draws on support provided by StratCom, PJHQ and the Overseas Bases Directorate, whilst engaging with senior officers to review and shape overseas policy and support delivery.

I deployed out to SHAPE as SO2 J3/5 with high-hopes and a spring in my step at the thought of European weekends within striking distance, spending my summers lounging in the vineyards of Épernay, the cafes of Paris and spending my winter downtime breaking out of

this astonishingly flat country to the south and the runs of Zermatt. Alas, none of this was meant to be. By the time the wheels of my car touched continental soil in January 2021, there were already rumours of a strange new infection coming from a place called Wuhan.

I was lucky enough to enjoy about a month of the famous SHAPE social life before the first virus made landfall in Belgium and, it was not more than a week before we had our first few cases on camp, turning everything on its head.

A herculean effort was required in order to truly operationalise the headquarters, turning it from one which specialised in administrative and logistical delivery to one which could not only do these things in the new environment of dizzyingly complex and ever-changing restrictions, but also could track case numbers, manage care, coordinate responses, prioritise resource, report back to London and advise a jumpy and often isolated population. A 24-hour Operations Cell has been set up, new processes and routines have been established and we have been bolstered by reinforcements from the UK. Over time the Ops Cell grew



to encompass the continuing complications from the UK's transitions out of the EU and in October 2020 it also had to manage the UK's military response to the Izmir Earthquake.

This added layer upon layer of complexity to the headquarters. The welfare and mental health of personnel in the AOR has been top priority for the Commanding Officer as COVID-19 put a particular strain on personnel everywhere, particularly with travel restrictions prevented them from seeing loved ones and spending leave back in the UK. Further, it increased the complexity of day-to-day work as the inability to travel made particular roles significantly more difficult, adding another layer of stress to an already stressful situation.

To address the issue of travel restrictions the members of the EJSU team, wrote a paper detailing the adverse effects that UK quarantine restrictions were having on the mental health of its people. This paper contributed to the Directorate Overseas Bases submission to Centre policy staffs and influenced the updated DAN18, which permits exemption from quarantine for personnel, both Military and Dependant, when travelling back to the UK on welfare grounds; just in time for Christmas. Individuals have been ingenious in organising online events for personnel to interact and socialise, as well as Zoom "Town Hall" sessions to keep personnel informed and have numerous questions the ever-changing restrictions create answered.

Opportunities Overseas

Before I arrived at EJSU, I



hadn't heard of this strange and disparate organisation. EJSU seems to be somewhat of an unintentionally well-kept secret hidden across the English Channel.

Whatever the reason may be for EJSU's anonymity, the scale of it makes the "unit" more comparable to a Regional Brigade HQ back in the UK, which offers an enticing challenge to members of all three services, and civil servants, looking for a unique assignment. There are numerous opportunities for each J-function to operate outside the "normal" parameters of what they would do in a comparable unit back in the UK.

To give an example of the immense scope of the organisation - J4, conduct logistics all over the continent. They are responsible for ensuring that weapons are available in each of our locations to ensure readiness, from the larger places like Ramstein in Germany, that require rifles and daily use pistols, to smaller ones such as Sofia in Bulgaria. J7 delivers training to EJSU supported Service Personnel (SP) throughout Europe, from OR-2s to OF-9s (Other Ranks - Private to Officers Rank - General). They cover a wide spectrum of training

courses including: Weapons Handling, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear), IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) etc. The J7 department also includes PTI/ATI roles and regularly conduct fitness tests, unit phys evenings and Adventurous Training (AT), when there isn't a pandemic on that is! With mainland Europe on EJSU's doorstep the opportunities for AT are numerous. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, J5 took the lead role in HQ EJSU's response as they also encompass the J3 function. Quickly establishing the Ops Cell at the beginning of the pandemic, J5 has continually been responsible for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding COVID-19 throughout the AOR. More recently, the Ops Cell has been involved in facilitating vaccine rollouts throughout the AOR and

our J6 department has been incredibly proactive, dragging the organisation into the 21st century with the development of our own slick web presence at 'ejsu.net', the site not only keeps all on the continent connected, no matter what their geographic location, but also enables those thinking about service abroad to investigate what happens over the water.

I am now entering my last few months out in Belgium; life is slowly returning to some semblance of normality and it's heartening to see each nation's community emerging from 18 months of almost constant restrictions. Events are being held again and each weekend there seems to be another national event with Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) working tirelessly to rebuild community and inter-community cohesion. This has given me a brief glimpse into the intensely social life that can be had out here with our international partners and has reminded me that the strength of multinational alliances is built on more than just time spent on interoperability training in the field or in the simulator but also over a late morning Pastis on Basile Day or over sharing a wonderfully non-covid compliant paella on the Día de la Hispanidad.



HMS Prince of Wales

by Lieutenant Commander DS Marshall, Senior Air Engineer HMS Prince of Wales

2021 has seen PRINCE OF WALES transform from a Ship newly out of build to an operational warship ready to support contingent operations for NATO in 2022.

A challenging start to the year saw us alongside in Portsmouth for the first quarter of 2021 undertaking a Fleet Time Support Period in readiness for a busy programme at sea.

Whilst in Portsmouth, the Ship's Company continued to support the national effort against COVID 19. In particular, the majority of personnel in the Ship's Sickbay were despatched as part of the MOD's Vaccination Quick Reaction Teams. They provided a marvellous effort in supporting the NHS, including in the North-West, the Midlands and to our one of our affiliates, the City of Bristol.

Returning to sea in April, we tested every system and worked with external support agencies to train many new joiners. This included a period with personnel from Fleet Operational Sea Training (FOST) who embarked to train and assure our ability to deal with a range of incidents including Damage Control, Warfare scenarios and even how we deliver catering to our 700 sailors.

The most significant development during this period was our first embarkation of Rotary Wing aircraft with three Apache AH-64 aircraft of 656 Squadron Army Air Corps embarking to train their crews and engineers in maritime operations. A further exciting milestone

was the first landing of an F35-B Lightning jet on the deck of HMS PRINCE OF WALES. The Royal Navy operating two aircraft carriers with fast jets is something that has not been seen since the retirement of the Harrier in 2010 and is a pivotal development for the future of the Royal Navy.

The Ship has remained at sea into the early summer and engaged in multiple exciting opportunities including a rendezvous with HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and the ships of the Carrier Strike Group before they deployed to the Mediterranean. In July we headed south to make our first overseas port visit to Gibraltar enabling the Ship's Company to have some much needed rest and recuperation.

Having returned to the UK for some well-earned summer leave, we set sail again in September to conduct our first ever embarkation of F35-B Lightning aircraft to support 207 Squadron's Carrier Qualification period. We conducted this alongside further FOST covered training which tested our ability to fight and protect the Ship alongside aviation operations, proving our readiness to deploy around the globe if required.

In a year of firsts, we were proud to undertake the first ever launch of a Fixed Wing Un-Crewed Air System from the deck of a QEC Class carrier with the successful



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capability demonstration of the Banshee Target. This allowed us to demonstrate the feasibility of integrating Un-Crewed Systems into Carrier Strike operations.

The culmination of this year's period at sea was our participation in Ex JOINT WARRIOR alongside our NATO allies. This was the final validation for us prior to assuming the role of NATO Flagship in 2022 as the Afloat Command Platform for the NATO Reaction Force.



1. Support to the national COVID vaccination programme
2. Aircraft hanger storage
3. An Apache of 656 Sqn AAC coming into land
4. At sea with our sister Ship, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH
5. HMS PRINCE OF WALES entry to Gibraltar
6. F35-B Aircraft from 207 Sqn
7. F35-B of 207 Sqn at night
8. Banshee Target Drone
9. Piloting an F35-B





The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club – 71st Annual Dinner

by Warrant Officer Class One Cope, Regimental Sergeant Major

On Saturday 30th October 2021 the 71st Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club Dinner was held at Combermere Barracks, Windsor.

Due to COVID restrictions this had been the first time the event had been able to take place since 2019. The event was supported very well in terms of attendance by serving and ex serving members especially when considering that we have a large part of the Sergeants' Mess deployed on or about to deploy to Op SHADER.

The evening began with everyone coming together to witness the New Zealand Rugby team unfortunately giving their Welsh counterparts a rugby lesson at the Principality Stadium, but even such a disappointing result could not dampen the atmosphere or banter in the room as old friends came together to argue time old arguments such as North or South Wales, Jamboys or The Iron men and so on! But

after such a long period on not being able to be together or reminisce it was brilliant to see so many of us in one room.

Prior to the Dinner, as is traditional, we conducted the AGM and the overall message and feeling in the room was that even though the Club is doing well, we can grow and do even better going forward. This saw new and exciting proposals being voted in that the new committee, a mix of serving and non-serving, will explore with the aim to ensure that the club moves with the times, but with our traditions remaining. As the current President and Regimental Sergeant Major, I am fully behind this and look forward to supporting the new plan going forward.

The actual Dinner was excellent, and a special mention must go to the mess staff and chefs as the food and service was first class - this is something which has been consistent since we came out of lockdown. Our guest speaker was Lt Col Antelme DSO and for me no one more fitting to present and talk to our club. His speech was fascinating and inspiring but underpinned by laughter and anecdotes. He talked about his early experiences prior to joining the Army and conducting training with Brigade Squad 56 which shaped him for joining the Battalion in 1995 as a young Platoon Commander in Number Three Company. He then discussed how those early years and the people he met helped him through selection, life in Hereford and onto being a Company Commander on Op TELIC 5. Ultimately his experiences in peacetime and war ultimately prepared him to take over as Commanding Officer unexpectedly and in very tragic circumstances on Op HERRICK 10 after the death of Lt Col Thorneloe MBE. The biggest take away I took from his speech was

through all the good and bad times during his adult life, it was the core and key skills he learned in Battalion that had always been at the bedrock of how he had dealt with whatever he faced in life. The saying "Once a Welsh Guardsman, always a Welsh Guardsman" seemed to me to be more poignant than ever.

I must give huge credit to WO2 (RQMS) Wayne Parry who organised such a great event and ensured every detail was covered. I look forward to next year's Dinner and the upcoming changes. My personal plea to all club members whether serving or retired is to please support our club going forward - there is and will always be a warm friendly welcome and beer waiting for you in Windsor.

CYMRU AM BYTH

1. Lt Col CK Antelme DSO with the Regimental Sergeant Major
2. Old friends back together again
3. WO2 Heath, CSgt Cunningham, CSgt Bladen and Sgt Doyle enjoying the evening



REGIMENTAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING, WELFARE AND REGIMENTAL VETERANS



The Welsh Guards Charity and Regimental Veterans Officer

by Jiffy Myers MBE, Regimental Veterans Officer

The Welsh Guards Charity

During the period covered by this publication, the Welsh Guards Charity has, so far, received 44 requests for financial assistance through welfare grants. Over £10,000 has been paid out in individual grants to directly supporting our serving soldiers, veterans and their families, with a further £10,000 paid directly to 2 Service Charities that have supported Welsh Guardsmen over the past 12 months.

Some examples of how the Welsh Guards Charity has provided support with grants are as follows:

- Home adaptations for a disabled elderly Veteran.
- An adapted profile bed to assist a disabled Veteran.
- White and brown goods for Veterans moving into a new home, where no other means of funding is available.
- Debts and rent arrears.
- Security deposits for Veterans moving into a new home, where no other means of funding is

available.

- Electric Powered Vehicles for disabled Veterans to allow them to be mobile.
- Adapted chairs to support disabled Veterans.
- Compassionate travel for a serving Soldier during a family emergency.

Case study 1. A Serving Soldier had a family emergency overseas which fell outside the criteria for MOD funded compassionate travel. The Welsh Guards Charity and Headquarters Household Division provided the necessary funding to allow the Soldier and his family to travel home. Following this support, the soldier wrote:

"I want to take this opportunity to thank and show appreciation to all of you for the exceptional support I received regarding my family welfare" he went on to say: "Please extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone who helped in either way as it means a lot to have someone show concern and moreover support when my family was

going through tough times".

Case study 2. The ex-spouse of a serving soldier required support to purchase furnishings for a new home she was moving into. She had no other means of funding and so the Welsh Guards Charity, the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) and the Royal British Legion (RBL) all provided grants for the items to be purchased for her and her children.

Case study 3. An elderly Veteran, who is disabled, sought help with the funding of a profile bed and a riser chair to provide him with better mobility around his home. The WG Charity, ABF and RBL all provided grants to purchase these items for him.

The above examples are just a few of the cases that are dealt with "behind the scenes" on an almost daily basis. They are all treated with the greatest of care and in the strictest of confidence. Independent assessments are carried out, in most cases, by SSAFA Caseworkers with the findings put forward, electronically, for consideration by the three main financial contributors, the Welsh Guards Charity, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal British Legion.

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, Regimental Band, Association and Museum, the work of the Regimental Veterans Officer and details on how money is and can be

raised is also provided. For those who are still serving, the "Service Days Pay Giving" scheme is explained in detail, with examples given. The pie charts included in this article show the annual income and expenditure of the Welsh Guards Charity and demonstrate the huge impact our serving offices and soldiers have by voluntarily signing up to the Days Pay Scheme -thank you.

Each year a Charity Impact Statement (see photo 1) is compiled and published on the website for all to read and this report gives and in-depth review on the Charity's support throughout the year. The Welsh Guards Charity website is at the following link: <https://www.welshguardscharity.co.uk>

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 organisation, charity or specialist group. Referrals can be made to provide support with mental health issues,



debts, substance addictions, housing support, benefits / PIP applications, war pension applications etc.

Over the past 12 months, in between lockdowns, the RVO has continued to conduct home visits to WG Veterans and families. Any welfare issues are treated with the strictest of confidence and referrals for specialist support can be made. Most of the cases are linked to mental health issues. Some cases, where there are indications of Service-related PTSD, can be referred for an assessment to Veterans NHS Wales or, in England, to the local TIL (Transition, Intervention and Liaison) service.

Follow up home visits are then conducted by the RVO during therapy. So far, 88 veterans, who were not physically injured during Operations, have been referred to the RVO, either by themselves making contact by phone, email or through social media. In some cases, a friend or family member makes the initial contact on their behalf.

The RVO does not report back to the Battalion and only provides RHQ with statistical information and trends in the types of cases etc as it is essential that all cases remain confidential between the RVO and the veteran/family member.

All home/local visits are arranged at the convenience of the individual. Some visits are simply a friendly chat and update on events, whilst others may require referral for special medical treatment/counselling or therapy. These referrals are only made at the request and with the complete agreement of the individual.

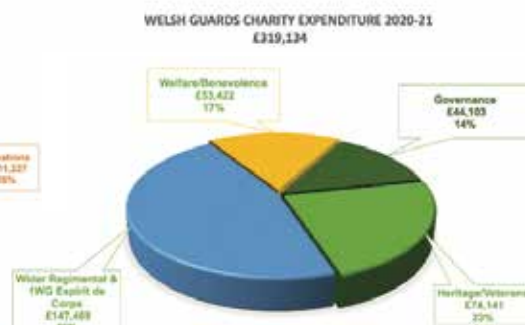
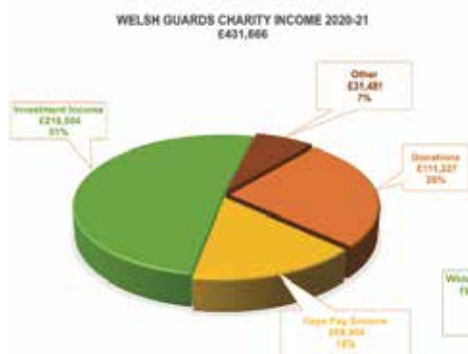
Over the past 12 months, more requests than ever have been made by family members of our elderly veterans, who may be feeling lonely and particularly affected by the pandemic. The RVO has visited elderly veterans at their home or in a care home environment.

If you know of someone who may need some form of support, please contact Jiffy Myers.

You can contact the RVO on:

Mobile: 07456 985729
Facebook: Welsh Guards Regimental Veterans Officer or Jiffy Myers
WhatsApp: 07411 950784
Website: www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

1. The RVO visiting Dale Leach after completion of a new adapted porch, entirely funded by the Welsh Guards Charity and Blesma, The Limbless Veterans.
2. Charity Impact Report 2020/21.
3. The RVO visiting Adam Hobbs at his home
4. The RVO visited Carl Thomas 08 doing volunteer work at a local chapel.
5. The Welsh Guards Charity Christmas card 2021. Sentry change at St James's Palace c1960's from a painting by Sean Bolan.
6. Welsh Guards Charity Income and Expenditure for 2020/21.



WELSH GUARDS CHARITY EXPENDITURE 2020-21
£319,134

Welfare support to veterans involved in the legacy process

The operational legacy process relates to investigations, inquests and enquiries arising from operations in Northern Ireland (Op BANNER), Iraq (Op TELIC) and Afghanistan (Op HERRICK)

For many veterans the first thing they know about an inquest or investigation is when they receive a letter from the Coroner or a phone call from the Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP) informing them that they are required to give witness testimony as part of the process. This will be unsettling, and so the Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB) has established a network of Veteran Visiting Officers (VVO) to provide direct support to the veterans involved. The VVOs are FTRS Captains with a wealth of experience; they have a background of service on operations and the expertise in providing welfare support that will enable them to assess the needs of each individual to ensure they receive the support they require.

The Veteran Visiting Officer will provide 'End to End' support to the veteran. This will include regular home visits and check ins to reassure the veteran as they progress through the legacy process, coordination of any broader welfare or administrative support they may require, but importantly they will remain alongside them throughout the process, including attendance in court if that is necessary. But this is a team effort and the VVO will work very closely with the Regimental Headquarters' and Regimental Associations to ensure there is a strong network of pastoral support in place so that the longer term needs of the veteran are also captured and met.

Legal Support. The AOLB does not provide legal support or advice. Free legal support is available to all serving personnel and veterans being investigated or prosecuted for allegations relating to legacy operations, however, this is coordinated and arranged through the Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP).

If you have been contacted in relation to an operational legacy issue or are aware of someone who has and may need support, please contact the AOLB on the following means. (During normal working hours:)

Telephone: 0300 1514039 Mobile: 07813 007392

Email: APSG-AOLB-Legacy-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Postal Address: Army Operational Legacy Branch
Army Personnel Services Group
Ramillies Building
Army Headquarters
Monxton Road
Andover SP11 8HJ

Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) Debentures

by Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM, Assistant Regimental Adjutant

Once again, games at the Principality Stadium have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions and until Autumn 2021 we have been unable to provide tickets for any games taking place.

In response to the pandemic, the WRU have stopped issuing physical tickets and in future all tickets will be issued via their brand-new Principality Stadium ticketing app.

Digital ticketing will also allow the WRU to effectively comply with any track and trace procedures in place as part of the Governments strategy against COVID-19.

The Welsh Guards Charity is delighted to be able to provide two tickets for each of the following games, to be held in the Principality Stadium, to deserving individuals within the Battalion as selected by the Commanding Officer.



Digital ticketing will not only speed up the amount of time it takes to enter the stadium in future it also reduces the risk of any viral transmission by reducing the handling of physical tickets to get you to your seat.

Each ticket purchased will sit 'inside' the Principality Stadium ticketing app with the ability to be digitally transferred, again reducing the amount of physical handling of tickets.

(See below table)

The details of selected recipients for all tickets will be posted as and when presented on the WG Charity website and 1WG social media.

1. *LSgt Sandison (Wales v New Zealand)*
2. *LCpl Todd (Wales v New Zealand)*
3. *LCpl Waqanisaravi (Wales v South Africa)*
4. *Gdsm Korosaya (Wales v South Africa)*

| Date | Game | Recipients |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 30 Oct 21 | Wales v New Zealand | LSgt Sandison LCpl Todd |
| 6 Nov 21 | Wales v South Africa | LCpl Waqanisaravi Gdsm Korosaya |
| 14 Nov 21 | Wales v Fiji | SSgt Nukutabu Gdsm Heffernan |
| 20 Nov 21 | Wales v Australia | Sgt Shapland Gdsm Hathway |
| 12 Feb 22 | Wales v Scotland | TBC |
| 11 Mar 22 | Wales v France | TBC |
| 19 Mar 22 | Wales v Italy | TBC |



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First Impressions of a New Padre – Chaplaincy in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards

by The Reverend M A Nightingale CF

When I started at Windsor, I noted that I was jumping on to a fast-moving train of a Battalion. Indeed, it has since been said to me that this is one of the busiest times in the Welsh Guards' recent history due to coming out of London District and COVID lockdowns whilst also moving into a busy schedule of simultaneous deployments across the globe.

In order to hit the ground running I sensed I needed to know instantly the idiosyncrasies of the Welsh Guards, the meaning of each acronym and who all the different Guardsman Joneses were. I would also need intrinsic knowledge of each person's whereabouts in the various companies and the ever-changing forecast of events they were following. This would help me to actively seek out soldiers and help with their needs that might arise in such a busy time of the Battalion's life.

How then could I gain this knowledge quickly and how could I practice effective chaplaincy amongst the Welsh Guards? As I looked to my fellow soldiers for inspiration, I realised I needed to demonstrate two things I saw in the very best of our serving men and women. These are described in an article on leadership for the Harvard Business Review by Jim Collins. He says the most transformative and successful leaders 'possess a paradoxical mixture of personal humility and professional will. They are rare and unstoppable.'

I needed humility to enable me to serve the Battalion with a quiet yet questioning confidence, helping me to make better sense of each situation I would face. But I also needed a gentle yet professional will that would enable me to offer my thoughts, advice, guidance and care even in the hardest or most controversial of

circumstances.

How might I apply these two seemingly incongruous characteristics? As each Guardsmen worked speedily around me, I knew I was one of the lucky ones who had the time to stop, to think, reflect and respond to my own questions. And I believed this reflection - this Padre pondering - would help guide me in finding a way of slotting into Battalion life to the best of my ability.

Stopping and reflecting during a period of rapid momentum can be seen as counter intuitive or even countercultural in today's fast moving and connected society. However, practice of it often leads us to a more thought-out achievement, thus reaping the greater reward. My reflections showed me camaraderie in the Battalion is high. The bond between brother officers and Guardsmen is strong, even family-like and there is purpose and focus in this period of deployment. But it also led me to believe these could be made even stronger if, as we serve alongside each other, we all attempt to practice our personal humility and professional will.

My pondering led me to Phillip Brewer's poem Paradoxes of Servant Leadership. The paradoxes within Brewer's stanzas seemed absurd to some, but after reading the poem, I was convinced they were being displayed in the very best soldiers of the Battalion.

Living out the words of the poem is a challenge to us all, but when practiced they allow any collection of people like the Welsh Guards to reap the abundant harvest of an effective and efficient unit,

truly making them a rare and unstoppable force.

Paradoxes of Servant Leadership by Philip Brewer

Strong enough to be weak
Successful enough to fail
Busy enough to make time
Wise enough to say "I don't know"
Serious enough to laugh
Rich enough to be poor
Right enough to say "I'm wrong"
Compassionate enough to discipline
Mature enough to be childlike
Important enough to be last
Planned enough to be spontaneous
Controlled enough to be flexible
Free enough to endure captivity
Knowledgeable enough to ask questions
Loving enough to be angry
Great enough to be anonymous
Responsible enough to play
Assured enough to be rejected
Victorious enough to lose
Industrious enough to relax
Leading enough to serve

1. *The author during a more relaxed moment on exercise.*
2. *Chaplains are Professionally Qualified Officers who have been ordained in one of the recognised Sending Churches and have been selected to hold a commission in the Army. The Professionally Qualified Officers' Course is 10 weeks long and designed to teach core military skills such as drill, field training, officership and command.*
- 3.



Battalion Welfare

by Captain M E Parry, Unit Welfare Officer

CCOVID presented the Welsh Guards Welfare Team with many challenges. Critically, we had to make sure we could effectively communicate with families regarding their loved ones deployed to the Falkland Islands, Iraq and elsewhere, ensuring they were fully briefed and reassured.

Critically, we had to make sure we could effectively communicate with families regarding their loved ones deployed to the Falkland Islands, Iraq and elsewhere, ensuring they were fully briefed and reassured. It is essential that families feel that they can access information about deployments overseas and are able to speak to a member of the Welfare Team and we successfully used Zoom to communicate far and wide, adapting to a new way of working.

Once lockdown was lifted, the Welfare Team was able to go back to hosting weekly coffee mornings that provide an opportunity for families to unwind over a coffee and a chat and to approach the Team with any questions or suggestions. The Coldstream Guards and Household Cavalry families also living in the community are very welcome and considered as part of the wider Household Division family and that we can provide mutual support to one another.

In the context of the operational deployments this year, many members of the Battalion were entitled to the 'Operational Welfare Grant'. The grant provides funding for the families of soldiers who are on operations and was used by many families to enjoy a well-deserved day out in Legoland. Getting together with other members

of the Welsh Guards community who are in the same boat with loved ones away can be a great way of sharing experiences and realising that one is not alone in dealing with the absence of a deployed soldier.

Alexander Primary School sits in the heart of our military community. The number of pupils with a serving family member is above 90%. The Welfare Team works closely with the school, ensuring a strong link is maintained and the school has embraced the Welsh spirit, with Welsh-speaking wives coming into the school to teach the children some of the language. The purpose of this is to strengthen the links in the network that Welsh Guards families can rely on for support.

The Unit Welfare Officer, the Regimental Sergeant Major and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant took part in a charity event to raise money for 'Welsh Guards Charity'. They took it in turns to run for one hour then resting for two hours, continuing over a period of 24 hours, totalling eight hours of running each. Collectively, they covered 168 miles, indicating that each runner covered seven miles in an hour, with a total of 56 Miles per man. The route ran was a 400m loop inside Combermere barracks. They ran this loop 672 times between them, accomplishing



their objective. A total of £805 was raised for the 'Welsh Guards Charity'.

The nature of our work means that families inevitably have to deal with the absence of a Welsh Guardsman while they are deployed. This can be very hard on families and this is understood by the Regiment. Here at the Welfare Team we aim to provide a structure of support that can be there to offer help and information to those who need it.



1. The Welsh Guards Welfare Team (Left to Right: Capt Parry; LSgt Purvis; Sgt Frowen).
2. Ensuring that members of the Welsh Guards and their families have access to the Welfare Team and can chat to them in an informal environment is an essential part of the care that the team offers.

Friends of the Regiment Re-Unite In Cardiff 8th August 2021

by Colonel TCS Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

Since 2013 our Friends of the Regiment (FOTR) have gathered on a routine basis in a variety of locations and with differing themes to support the Welsh Guards Charity.

Before the pandemic the last such gathering was at the Cavalry and Guards Club on 6 March 2020 where some £26,000 was raised for the WG Charity.

The onset of Covid and with all the rules and guidance that we have all been following for much of 20 and 21, it has not been possible to assemble the FOTR. Against this background and with an eye to re-initiating this wonderful group, Colonel Alan Peterson OBE thought that a FOTR event should be held in Cardiff to coincide with a week of concerts at the Castle, a means of signalling by the Council that Cardiff City were back in business as well. And so it was that on Sunday 8 August Colonel Alan Peterson sponsored a lunch in Cardiff Castle in the Banqueting Hall for nearly 50, a combination of mostly FOTR but also the outgoing Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Richard Stanford and the incoming one Colonel Giles Harris. The Regimental Adjutant and the Regimental Sergeant Major were also present as well as RQMS Parry 95. It was great to see some of the now large FOTR gather again after so long and a further £17,000 was raised at the lunch for the WG Charity.

But the lunch, in an absolutely stunning setting, was only half of the proceedings and all present then went on to enjoy a truly

thrilling "Bring Them Home" Concert within the Castle and performed by Welsh singing stars performing in London (such as Lucie Jones) and where the songs were largely from the Musicals "Les Miserable" and "The Greatest Showman". It was truly special to see the performances and again our presence so generously sponsored by the Peterson family.

With the Covid rules being relaxed we hope to arrange more events with our FOTR in Windsor and elsewhere. Certainly, our day in Cardiff has reinvigorated this close bond between the Regiment and our Friends. We remain truly grateful for the support that our FOTR have given us over many years now.







CONSIDERING LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE REGIMENT?

IT'S AS STRAIGHTFORWARD AS INCLUDING A SIMPLE SENTENCE IN YOUR WILL OR ADDING A CODICIL.

In most cases, the first priority of members of the Regimental family will be close relatives and friends. However, many people also leave gifts to charities, known as legacies, in their wills.

Having recently been recognised and registered as a Charity (The Welsh Guards Charity, Reg No: 1152766), the Regiment can now accept legacies into the Welsh Guards Charity.

There are three types of legacy you can leave.

- **A fixed sum of Money** [Pecuniary] - This is the simplest option.
- **A percentage of the net value of your estate** [Residuary] - A residuary legacy means you can leave a set proportion of your estate to the Regiment after all the other beneficiaries are taken care of.
- **Individual Possessions** [Specific] - This could be typically land, property or shares.

If you're not sure about what kind of legacy you might like to leave to the Regiment, please talk to your solicitor who will be able to advise you further, or alternatively contact Regimental Headquarters.

If you have already made a will but now want to leave a legacy to the Regiment, you can make an addition or change it without rewriting your current will. This addition is called a codicil and either we or your solicitor can provide you with a form of words.

Tax Benefits

If you leave a legacy to the Regiment, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax (IHT) is worked out. In some cases leaving a legacy may help bring the total value of your estate below the taxable threshold of £325,000 for 2019 (plus the new 'main residence' band of £150,000 giving a total allowance of £475,000 per person).

Gifts to the Regiment made up to seven years before your death may also qualify for exemption.

The Regiment is very proud of its tradition of taking care of the extended Regimental family. The two world wars of the last century made great demands on Regimental charitable funds and the operational deployments since, most recently in Afghanistan, has exacerbated the situation. The future, as always, is uncertain and the need to care for the welfare of members of the Regiment and their families will remain as important as ever.

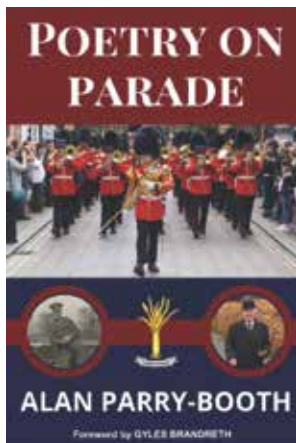
Beneficiary details

Welsh Guards Charity - Registered Charity Number 1152766

Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards,
Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
Tel: 0300 160 8516 E-mail: welshguardsara@gmail.com

Poetry on Parade

by Alan Parry-Booth



A book of 100 poems by the wonderfully talented Mr Alan Parry-Booth (22326094) who served his National Service in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards between 1950 and 1952. Alan is a Branch Vice President of the Welsh Guards Reunited Branch of the Welsh Guards Association and raises funds

for the Welsh Guards Charity at every opportunity. His book, Poetry on Parade is on sale with all profits benefitting the Welsh Guards Charity. It is available to purchase on-line through Amazon so please, if you have not already done so, support Alan's fine work and the Welsh Guards Charity at the same time and purchase your copy today.

Readers might also recall that last year Alan raised funds for the Welsh Guards Charity by producing three Welsh Guards collectable coins. There are just a few sets of these coins remaining and anyone wishing to purchase a set and support the charity can do so by following the instructions below or by purchasing online in the WG Charity PRI shop at this link; www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/shop/wg-coin-set

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**

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 different and easy ways for you to make a donation to the Regiment 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



BRANCH REPORTS

I started my foreword in last year's magazine by saying *"this year has been like no other"* - I cannot repeat that this year, as this year has been remarkably like last year insomuch that our everyday lives are still very much being affected by COVID!

I would like to start by thanking WO1 (RSM) Michael Parry, who completed his tenure as RSM 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, for all the support and encouragement he and his Mess have given to the Association. Mike, like his predecessors, was (and still is) a staunch advocate of the association and now that he has commissioned and taken up the role of Unit Welfare Officer, we very much hope to see more of Captain Michael Parry. Having known Michael for several years, I know he will excel in his new role. Pob lwc. We welcome in his place WO1 (RSM) Dan Cope, who long before taking up the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major had pledged his support for the Association going forward and we have already discussed future involvement which has unfortunately had to be put on hold for now - but hopefully these ideas will come to fruition in due course and are most definitely something for us all to look forward to.

It would be remiss of us as an Association not to also thank Lieutenant Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher for his support throughout his time commanding The Battalion and we wish him all the very best in his new appointment. In his place we welcome and look forward to meeting and getting to know Lieutenant Colonel John Livesey who assumed Command on 10th

September. We know that our precious Battalion will continue to flourish and remain extremely professional under such fine leadership.

2021 has been, and I do not apologise for quoting our Colonel in Chief here, an "Annus horribilis" for the Association. Practically everything that we planned and prepared had to be cancelled. From St David's Day in Windsor to the Darts and Shoot competition in Cardiff and everything in-between! At the beginning of 2020 it was stated that those who had applied for the Queens Garden parties at Buckingham palace in 2020 would have their names carried over to 2021 - I now find the lists being prepared to send out in early 2022 (assuming there is no change in plan due to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations)?

Likewise with the Annual Association Battlefield Tour (BFT). The 2020 BFT slots were very quickly filled, a measure of the popularity, success, value and organisation of the tour, but sadly, it fell victim to COVID and was postponed. Suffice to say those who had paid their deposit to secure a seat in 2020 wished to carry it forward to do so in 2021. Unfortunately, the COVID uncertainty and confusing travel, testing and quarantine restrictions combined with the ever-changing red list,

| | |
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| President: | Colonel T C S Bonas |
| Vice President: | Brigadier J F Rickett CBE |
| Vice President: | Captain (Retired) A C Hopkins |
| Treasurer: | Major (Retired) M E Browne BEM |
| Secretary General: | Maldwyn Jones (24263892) |
| E-Mail: | secretary.general.wga@gmail.com |
| Assistant Secretary General: | Neil Rice (24446066) |
| E-mail: | ass.sec.general.wga@gmail.com |

green list (get on the bus get off the bus) meant that the 2021 BFT had to be cancelled also, had it gone ahead there would have been a very real danger of the whole group being stranded in Belgium or having to isolate at some dreadful quarantine hotel somewhere. Details of the 2022 tour are contained in a separate article in this publication which also covers this year's Regimental representation at Hechtel by Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE, who once again stood in. We are confident the tour will go ahead in 2022, regardless of the Covid status, as by then I imagine we would have learnt to live with it as we have with the annual rise in Flu cases.

The annual Darts and Shoot competition being cancelled was a huge disappointment. We were at the stage where restrictions in the hospitality industry were being relaxed or so we thought! All plans were in place, even to the extent that Neil Rice, the Assistant Secretary General was poised ready to have the trophies engraved, refresh his memory card for photographs and he had started taking additional cod

liver oil supplements for his knees! Again, with very short notice, we were given the news that the Maindy Barracks Sergeants Mess would remain closed due to Covid restrictions and sadly, at such short notice, an alternative venue could not be found in the short time we had.

A handful of us are looking forward to meeting up in November this year in London for the Royal British Legion National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Sadly, the numbers are, understandably, down on previous years, but it is, I believe, important that the Welsh Guards Association have become involved and continue to be so. We are invited to apply for tickets each year and these details are circulated through Branch Secretaries. If you wish to be considered for the 2022 parade then please contact your Branch Secretary soonest, or feel free to come direct to me and I can start compiling a list. We have two newbies joining us this year who have been out of the Welsh Guards loop since leaving; Jes Sinstadt and Ex Mortarman Dafydd Parminder, who tells me his



family name was Parminier which is French and explains why he is a 'staunch remoaner,' I still speak to him though!

I, like many, look forward to the Regimental Magazine dropping through the letterbox each year, especially to read up on what the wider Regimental family has been up to. 2021 was another particularly challenging year for the Battalion and, as you would expect, they rose to every challenge dropped on them. At one stage, whilst also dealing with COVID and Op ESCALIN (the MOD response to the fuel shortage), they had personnel deployed in; Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Kuwait, Falkland Islands, Iraq, as well as personnel in the UK, USA and mainland Europe. Hopefully the various articles contained within this magazine will bring these deployments to life, even though with the Battalion's amazing up to date social media presence a lot of the activity is already displayed, albeit in an abridged form for

social media. I know there is a Battalion social media article in this magazine which explains what they do and how they do it, and I know that everyone I speak to is in awe of the professional delivery, superb photographs and up to date content - Sgt Chris Morgan and his team are to be congratulated for a job extremely well done.

The opportunity for travel and adventure has always been an attraction for joining the British Army and many of us would have been lured into the recruiting office in the 70's by the Welsh Guards recruiting poster stating, "Join now and serve in Berlin", but the range of travel and opportunity available now has never been greater and those serving today must clock up some air miles during their service (if only)! On that note, I understand the Regiments staffing levels are now very healthy and heading in the right direction, clearly a team effort, but notably also down to the hard work, knowledge and enthusiasm of one of the

Welsh Guards Associations newest members, Sgt Peter Anthony Duffy, who has now handed over control of the Regimental Support Team North (RST(N)) and by the time this magazine has been published he will be a fully-fledged civilian, having enjoyed a well-earned period of resettlement and gardening leave. Well done Pete on all you have done for Welsh Guards recruiting over the years and for your outstanding support to the Association, especially the North Wales Branch - I am looking for a recruiter for the Association, the job is yours if you want it (sadly unpaid).

Association membership continues to grow. It is understandable that many of those leaving take time out to decompress after their service and indeed many have to concentrate on starting a second career before becoming involved, that is not a problem we will always be here when you are ready. This time last year I reported that both the West Midlands Branch and the

Pembrokeshire Branch were closing down due to a lack of membership. It has since become apparent that there is still an appetite to have a Branch in Pembrokeshire and Mark William Morgan (24828584), aka Mogsy, who many will know from his time working at Regimental Headquarters, has stepped forward and volunteered to try and resurrect the Branch and encourage membership. John Turner (24905681) aka JT has also offered to help and although it is still early days, all is not lost for Welsh Guardsmen living in Pembrokeshire, but they need members to be able to form a committee and take the Branch forward. If you would like to be involved, please email Mogsy at mark.morgan84@hotmail.com, or search for the Pembrokeshire Branch Facebook page and get in contact through there.

Alas as our numbers increase, they also decrease and in 2021 we have lost over 50 of our number. I find myself speaking with bereaved families on a regular basis,

never an easy task, but made all the more emotional when those who have passed are known and have been personal friends - it hits hard, very hard. This year has been no exception and you will see in the In Memoriam section those we have lost, numbers seem to be increasing, but that might simply be that these matters are now better reported and recorded? Deaths are normally reported to us in several ways. Many through the Regimental Veteran's Officer, when people stumble across him when google searching "Welsh Guards" and needing some advice! Jiffy in turn informs me, and I then make first contact with the family to see if we can assist in any way.

Sadly, it has become necessary, when I don't know somebody or even recognise a name, that I now regularly carry out background checks and so far, this year we have had two requests from families of the RRW and one from RWF, who were advised by Welsh Guardsmen to contact me? They were disappointed to find out their grandfather/father was not a Welsh Guardsman.

I do my utmost to carry out the families wishes and the service we offer is that the deceased's coffin is draped with a Welsh Guards funeral pall and dressed in a buff belt and Guardsman's forage cap (this is because once a Guardsman always a Guardsman). We endeavour to have a standard bearer on parade and are often asked for a bugler to sound the last post. Sadly, this isn't always possible as there are certain MOD criteria (length of service, medals held etc) concerning the cost involved and each and every case is different. Any applications

must come through the Association Secretary General in the first instance, if however, the request is short notice and there is absolutely no chance of securing a bugler, we do have the last post on CD that we can forward.

There is no fee for supplying the coffin pall, but if the families can make a donation, it is always appreciated as the equipment needs to be maintained and Branch Secretaries do have to travel at their own expense to dress the coffin, often long distances. If however the deceased lived outside a Branch area, I do have equipment that can be posted out if necessary.

We do not supply poppy wreaths and nor can we arrange for serving Welsh Guardsmen to attend in uniform (unless of course they are family members). We try and get as many Association members as possible to attend but this is not always possible due to other commitments and distances to travel, but whether 1 or 100 attend, it matters not, that we are represented is the main thing. Families are often told that the 'Regiment' will cover funeral expenses, this is only the case if a death is in service, outside of service unfortunately the Association are unable to meet or help with any costs but can signpost to various agencies who may be able to assist in certain circumstances.

Sadly, the Regiment said goodbye to a true legend Major (Retired) Glyn 'Chalky' White MBE, my first RSM in the Battalion. I always remember meeting him when I arrived at Caterham, where we were sized and allocated into our Companies, I was



on the cusp of either being a Jam Boy or going into 2 Coy - I was quaking in my shoes, but thankfully ended up in 2 Coy! All joking aside and, in all seriousness, it was a big thing as we were meeting God for the first time, the RSM in the Guards Depot never counted as he

was a Grenadier. We could clearly see that 'Chalky' was not a man to mess with a smart, strong man who was welcoming, reassuring and spoke with us firmly, but at the same time you could see he was a fair man, not to be crossed. Thankfully I never did cross him and never

stood before him for the proverbial (as I did in front of his successors from 1976 to 1993, fun times indeed). Sadly, I was unable to attend the funeral due to work and family commitments, and send my condolences to Sue, Brian and Mike.

The 2020 Branch Secretaries meeting was held online using Zoom and although it was a success, it was no substitute for meeting in person. By the time this magazine goes to print and is distributed we would have all met up in person and discussed the future. Sadly, due to restrictions on numbers yet again we are unable to hold the AGM and we feel it will simply not work online. Therefore plans are afoot to hold the AGM 2022, in Cardiff immediately followed by the biennial lunch, currently planned to be held on Fri 22 April in the Angel Hotel, this will be discussed at the Secretaries meeting.

Meetings of friends have not been a complete wash out this year and it was great to see that the Welsh Guards Golf Association managed to hold three very successful meetings, two in South Wales and one in North Wales. Congratulations to Steve Gelly and Paul Conlon for pulling these events together in the short window of opportunity that they had - an excellent effort. The Association is delighted that we can continue to fund the trophies for these competitions which are growing in popularity. A full article appears in this magazine covering all three competitions and also the short memorial service held on 30 Jun in memory of Gdsm Dai Williams 59 RIP at his Memorial at Penrhos Nature Reserve prior teeing off at Holyhead Golf Club. I

even managed to recruit a new golfer for them, Billy Hughes 58 asked me to pass on his details to Steve so he can be included in all future golf notices - be nice to see 58 back in the fold.

The Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) biennial dinner was held on 24th September at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli and was as popular as ever, attracting not just those who have played Welsh Guards Rugby, but anyone with an interest in Rugby and attending the dinner. Expertly organised by Darrel Jones 73 and the Club committee, they will already be planning the next dinner for 2023 - we will ensure, as this year that no Association event clashes with their selected date.

Restrictions permitting, there will be much to look forward to in 2022 and I feel that whatever restrictions might be in place will simply become part of our every day lives and second nature to us all. We start with St David's Day, where the Association have once again been invited to celebrate the day with the Battalion in Combermere Barracks and with the Association Trustees agreeing to fund the cost of a coach from North Wales and another from South Wales. To secure your seat, please contact your local Branch Secretary for further information. The trip to Combermere Barracks in 2019 for St David's Day was excellent and it was great to see many returning for the first time and thoroughly enjoying themselves. If you have not returned to the Battalion or been involved since 'stepping off' Dai's Day is the perfect opportunity to dip you toe in the water and get back into the Welsh

Guards loop - you won't regret it.

2022 also sees the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict and no doubt there will be many planned activities up and down the country. We still await the details of the Royal British Legion commemorations being held at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in Staffordshire on 14th June and the service in the Falklands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne on 12th June and also understand that the Battalion will be holding their own service of commemoration on 8th June.

The Associations main focus as ever will be in Wrexham. The date has already been circulated as Saturday 25th June 2022, where the day will follow the traditional format of a short and very moving service at the Church of St Giles in Wrexham Town centre, followed by a march, led by the Regimental Band and a detachment from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards to the Falkland Memorial in Bodhyfryd, for the Wreath laying ceremony. Afterwards everyone congregates at the War Memorial Club (WMC) making a concerted attempt to drink the place dry! Food and entertainment is provided free of charge, largely funded by the Welsh Guards Charity. It is a great day of remembrance and a day for families and friends to get together, it is a frightening thought that it has been 40 years since the events of 1982 - where has that time gone? Remember, the day is not about those who went to the Falklands and took part in the campaign, it is about those who never returned - everyone is welcome. If you are attending, please note that accommodation in

Wrexham is filling up fast, so don't delay in booking.

With it being the 40th anniversary, it has been decided to hold a Motorcycle Ride of Respect to mark the occasion. Planning for this is well under way and it is the subject of a separate article in this magazine - anyone interesting in taking part please contact Geraint as requested in his article.

The Queen's Birthday Parade in 2022, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, makes history with the Birthday Parade being held on midweek, on Thursday 2nd June as it marks the beginning of the celebrations. Full details of tickets are still to be released, but presumably application for tickets will follow the usual format and no doubt there will be ways of obtaining tickets, including applying online to enter the ballot for tickets.

Hopefully the future is bright, and I look forward to meeting up with many of you at events other than funerals - so here is wishing all our members a Merry Christmas and a happy safe, prosperous and healthy New Year.

1. *Welsh Guards Association Standards on Parade for the funeral of Sgt Gavin Hillier RIP.*
2. *LSgt Stuart Laing, Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards, sounding his normal exemplary Last Post.*
3. *Unable to take part in the Ride to the Wall RTTW in 2021, both the Secretary General (Maldwyn) and Assistant Secretary General (Neil) will have to make do with this photo from 2018 when they could take part!*

Cardiff Branch (Formed 1919)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Lieutenant Colonel CJ Dawney |
| Chairman: | David W Parry (22831847) |
| Treasurer: | Bill Morris (22217619) |
| Secretary: | Terry O'Shea (24047142) 43 Pwll-Evan-Ddu Coity Bridgend CF35 6AY |
| Telephone: | 01656 655889 or 07973 255527 |
| Email: | terenceoshea8@gmail.com |

Reflecting on from November 2020. The Remembrance Service held in Cardiff at the Welsh National Memorial was restricted due to COVID and Veterans groups were not allowed access until after the VIP group had laid their wreaths, the church service was completed and they had withdrawn. I laid a wreath on both the National Memorial and the Falklands Memorial on behalf of the Association.

Cardiff Branch Christmas Lunch fell by the wayside as we continued into 2021, social contact was not allowed and Branch meetings unable to take place.

Early on the Branch lost three members; Mr Ivor Hicks, Mr Dennis Wilkes and Mr Peter Rennie. They will be sadly missed.

Due to the restrictions of COVID and health restrictions on other Branch Secretaries I carried out numerous funeral duties from Ogmores to Caldicot, with an age range of the deceased from 44 years to 98 years. It was an honour to assist in carrying out the wishes of their families. With the co-operation of the Funeral Directors, I was allowed to attend the funeral services on the day and represent the Association.

On a lighter note, normality

has returned to the United Services Mess and meetings have resumed on the first Monday of the Month. We now prepare for Remembrance Events in Cardiff, which is less than a month away.

We extend to Welsh Guards everywhere our Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

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 |

This past year, just like everyone else, COVID has continued to have an impact on our everyday lives and what we can and cannot do together as a branch.

Not being able to hold meetings, plan special events together to celebrate or commemorate in any great number has been difficult for us all, but at least we did manage to attend some smaller events, which is better than nothing and progress from the 2020 restrictions.

Since our last report was submitted way back in October 2020, we have said goodbye to the two stalwart branch members; Ron Hamley and Brian Owen 52, that passed, either through illness or COVID 19. They will both be very much missed and we were so fortunate to be able to parade our Branch Standard at their funerals. We will always remember their names and our thoughts are with their families always.

Remembrance Day 2020.

Once again, due to COVID restrictions this service was a greatly reduced from the normal attendance and we as a branch were only allowed to have two members attend. Our Chairman, David Gayle and Treasurer, John Hooper represented the branch and

lay two wreaths to honour and remember the fallen. John Hooper (the author of these notes), had the honour to lay both wreaths; one laid on the main War Memorial and the other at the Falklands Memorial Stone.

Armed Forces Day 2021.

A few members of the branch attended a flag raising ceremony in Pontypridd for the start of Armed Forces Day on Wednesday 23rd June. Again, numbers were limited and greatly reduced from normal, but we would like to thank those who attended and the council for organising the event.

Falklands Commemoration.

The 8th June, a date that many of us will have etched in our memories forever, a day that the Battalion suffered such a huge tragic loss and we as veterans and relatives lost brothers, friends and sons. This year we were permitted to have a small but formal remembrance service for those that did not return from the Falklands and perished on board the RFA Sir Galahad. Wreaths

were laid at the memorial stone in Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd.

The short service was led by our Branch Chairman David Gaule, and was attended by Branch members, some of the family members of those named on the Memorial Stone, along with Veterans from other units who came along to support us.

As we can, fingers crossed, now see the light at the end of the tunnel and restrictions are lifted or relaxed, we very much hope that we can resume some sort of normality within the branch. We have recommenced our branch meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Gelliwastad Road Institute Club Pontypridd and a warm welcome awaits anyone wishing to join us. As a branch we close our notes by wishing all Welsh Guardsmen and their families, whether serving or retired the very best of health, happiness, and fortune for 2022.



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1. Branch Chairman, David Gaule as Branch Standard Bearer for the Remembrance Parade in Pontypridd 2020.
2. Remembrance Sunday, Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd; Chris Seldon, Len Davies RVM 62, Ken Haines
3. Flag Raising for Armed Forces Day, Pontypridd.
4. Wreaths and Standards at the Memorial Stone, Ynysangharad Park.
5. Group photo of attendees in front of the Memorial Stone, Ynysangharad Park.

Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire Branch (Formed 1974)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | The Reverend Patrick Mansel Lewis |
| Chairman: | Mr David "Dai" Thomas (30047237) |
| Treasurer: | Mr Rob Rees (RAF) |
| Secretary: | Mr Alan Cunningham (24125105) 19 Alden Drive Cockett Swansea SA2 0FH |
| Telephone: | 01792 554151 |
| Email: | alan.powcoy@outlook.com |

With the majority of branch activity cancelled due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, there is actually very little news from the Branch this year.

A handful of members placed the traditional wreath on our memorial at Llanelli Town Hall in remembrance of all Welsh Guardsmen from Llanelli and Carmarthenshire who lost their lives, in all conflicts, in the service of their Country. The accompanying photographs do not show our Branch Treasurer Rob Rees (RAF) who was also present.

I, as Branch Secretary, attended the funeral of Doug Tilley, who served from 1966 until 1973 and who was a legend of Welsh Guards rugby. Sadly, we could not attend the funeral service due to COVID restricted numbers but were able to pay our respects outside his home in Bettws. The turnout was excellent, with two branch standards on parade and the neighbours making us all most welcome.

Branch members will be pleased to hear that our memorial plaque (photo 4) is to receive some attention (or may have already done so by the time you read this)! We are employing a local monumental sculptor

(Thomas J Lloyd) to remove and refix the plaque correctly and regild with gold leaf (last done in 2018). We thank the WGA Trustees for their contribution towards this and will include photographs and a description of the work in next year's article.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye and thank you to two of our stalwart branch officers; firstly, our Branch President Major John Harding who is stepping down after 12 years at the helm. As Branch Secretary he has been an enormous help to me and I have always valued his guidance and advice over the years. All Branch members and Associate members wish him and his good lady, Georgina, best wishes for the future. Secondly, we are sad to say goodbye to our Branch Chairman, Keith Horrell and his good lady Lorraine as they relocate to the Shrewsbury area. Keith has also contributed greatly to the branch over the years and will be missed - we wish him and Lorraine well for the future. We all hope you will be able to support the branch



from time to time from Shropshire and that we will meet, in the future at various events.

We will close our Branch notes for 2021 with a message from our outgoing President, Major JGR "John" Harding:

A farewell message from the Branch President, Major JGR "John" Harding (Llanelli Branch President 2009 - 2021)

My retirement after twelve years from the Presidency of what is now the Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire Branch was one of great personal regret. But age will-out. It has been the greatest privilege and honour to have served over this time when the Branch witnessed many changes. Several stalwart members have passed on, but thanks to the unstinting work of its officers and loyal support of members, the Branch has gone from strength to strength. Though invidious to single out any one individual,

we owe a particular debt of gratitude to our tireless Secretary Alan Cunningham.

Local events such as our bi-monthly meetings and what is now a traditional fund-raising summer barbecue supported by the Gurkhas are held at the Royal Navy Club, Llanelli. We are well represented at Regimental events such as Saint David's Day and the WGA's annual Hechtel visit, and we fielded several members for the 2013 Walk on Wales. We turn-out in force for the British Legion's Remembrance Day ceremony at Llanelli (followed by our own short service of remembrance at the Welsh Guards memorial). At the Laying-Up ceremony of the Branch's old standard in 2017, attended by the Lord Lieutenant, Saint Elli's Church, Llanelli was so full that late-comers had to stand outside. The Presentation of Regimental Colours at Windsor in 2015 to celebrate the Regiment's Centenary was an unforgettable highlight for all concerned.



Our own bus-load of members and families who attended that marvellous event had their costs defrayed by a Welsh Lottery grant masterfully procured by Alan Cunningham.

We have created two WGA precedents. One, by appointing Rob Rees, formerly RAF, as Branch Treasurer in succession to Vernon Jones (our longest-ever serving Branch officer and member of one of my seven platoons at the Guards Training Battalion (GTB), Pirbright!). The other has been the appointment of our Honorary Padre the Revd Patrick Mansel Lewis to be my successor as President. Patrick's father David served with the regiment from 1946-49 and was my predecessor. Patrick follows a long family tradition of distinguished public service in Carmarthenshire. We all wish him well.

I reflect that it is almost seventy years ago since I was commissioned into the Welsh Guards for National Service at the instigation of my godfather Captain Geoffrey Crawshay, a WW1 veteran who founded the Crawshay Rugby XV. After a spell at Windsor, I spent over a year at the GTB, Pirbright, an experience that marked my transition from adolescence to manhood. The standards of excellence that mark the Brigade of Guards have guided the course of

my life and I am immensely proud to have been a Welsh Guardsman.

1. Al Cunningham (24125105), John Woodham (23929708) and Howard Davies (23877382)
2. John Woodham (23929708) and Howard Davies (23877382)
3. Al Cunningham (24125105), Howard Davies (23877382), John Woodham (23929708) and the Branch Padre (now Branch President) Patrick-Mansel- Lewis
4. The Welsh Guards Plaque at the Llanelli War Memorial located in the Town Hall Gardens, Llanelli.
5. The Llanelli Branch and WGR Branch Standards on parade for the funeral of Doug Tilley (23929772).
6. Major John Harding as Political Officer, Hailain, South Arabia during early 1965. He served in HIM Colonial Service in Aden and the Aden Protectorate from 1960 to 1965. Two other former Welsh Guardsmen were then stationed in the Western Aden Protectorate; Ralph Daly and Bill Heber-Percy. Both Johnny Rickett and Denis Stewart were also serving with the Aden Protectorate at much the same time.
7. The laying up of the old Llanelli Branch Standard 8 Oct 17.
8. 15 Company Welsh Guards, Guards Training Battalion Pirbright, January 1954. Seated in the front row includes; Lt JGR Harding, Lt Col DC MacDonald-Milner, Maj NC Kearsley, 2Lt R salter, CSM Webb, CSgt Pearce and CSgt Roberts.



London and District Branch (Formed 1926 renamed 2020)

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|------------|--|
| President: | Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) D R Evans MBE |
| Chairman: | T D J Thorne (24125065) |
| Treasurer: | T D J Thorne (Until a permanent Treasurer can be recruited) |
| Secretary: | Allan McLeod Miller (24185069) |
| Telephone: | 07885 736566 |
| Email: | londonbranchsecretary.wga@gmail.com |

This year London Branch celebrates the 95th Anniversary of its formation on 8th June 1926.

Provisionally, to start the new branch, Captain FAV Copland-Griffiths MC was appointed President and RQMS I Smith the Honorary Secretary. The first Meeting was held to appoint Officers and the Committee on 21st October 1926 and by this date 96 Members had joined. The following appointments were made:

Wellington Barracks on 11th December 2020 with the Branch President, Chairman, Secretary, LSgt Stuart Laing and Mr Christopher Enraght-Moony from RHQ all present. We would like to thank RHQ for all their help and assistance and Christopher for picking the winning ticket!

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| President: | Major CH Dudley-Ward DSO MC |
| Vice President: | Mr CE Woods MM |
| Hon Secretary: | ORQMS AF Hall |
| Committee Members: | Captain A Gibbs MC |
| | Mr G Woodhouse |
| | Mr V Moseley |
| | Mr R Mathias |
| | RSM W Stevenson DCM MM |
| | A/RSM S Dunkley |
| | RQMS HJ Pursey |
| | ORQMS AJ Lake |

The inaugural Dinner took place on 26 February 1927 at Messrs Harrods' Georgian Restaurant, Brompton Road SW at 7.30pm.

To bring us back from the past and right up to date, **Christmas Draw 2020**. The Christmas Draw took place at RHQ Welsh Guards,

The Branch Meetings.

The Branch has had many changes and challenges over the past year, not least Branch meetings. We managed two Zoom Branch Meetings; on 1st March 2021 and 29th April and were able to squeeze in a physical face-to-face Branch meeting in the



Wellington Barracks Sergeants Mess on 23rd Jul 2021 and, at the time of writing, our 2021 Branch AGM is booked to be held in the Sergeants Mess 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on

Saturday 9th October.

We had guest speakers at the two Zoom meetings. At the March meeting we were delighted to have WO1 (RSM) Dan Cope, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who updated us on the Battalion, recruiting, training and operations and was also gracious enough to answer questions from our members.

At the second meeting we were fortunate to have two Warrant Officers from the Battalion, WO2 Kieran Cunningham CSM Sp Coy who was due to deploy with his Coy to the Falkland Islands as the FIRIC (Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company), and WO2 Dean Hughes the Recruiting WO and CSM HQ Coy, both really added an up to date element to the meeting and also took questions from members.

Our physical face to face meeting was held at the Garrison Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, Wellington Barracks London. It was good to put faces to names with members from Chelsea Hospital in attendance, its always good to see them, and the bar was open also!

We asked Members if they would like to contribute to the Branch Report and received the following in response:

Imber Court (Contributed by Ray Isaacs and Steve Gelly)

For many years Ray Isaacs has voluntarily maintained the Welsh Guards Memorial at Imber Court and ensured

The Welsh Guards, By Freya May Hughes-Cuddihy (Aged 11) Great Niece of (24375643 David "Dai" Henty who served 1WG 1975 to 1989

(Freya will be showing this to her school, good on her and well done)

No braver men have been.
Than the ones who serve the Queen,
Gold lined uniforms you see them wear,
And a bearskin hat upon their hair.
-0-
They stand with us for eternity,
Yet what I admire is their modesty,
For no matter how many lives they save,
No attention do they crave.
-0-
They help many troubled souls,
And righteous soldiers they do mould,
They give promising youths a purpose,
And do us good with their service.
-0-
They served us in the Falklands war,
They are brave and righteous at their core,
Many good people we did lose,
We have yet to pay our long-owed dues.

-0-
So here I stand to say,
The Welsh Guards will serve Wales forever and a day.

that the garden is in good condition. COVID-19 restrictions has meant that regular maintenance could not take place and the garden had suffered. Ray covered the following during

a zoom meeting:

- The need to maintain the standard was paramount.
- Try to reduce frequency of visits whilst maintaining the memorial correctly.
- The need to visit the

garden to tidy up the day before the annual memorial service.

- A set timetable of visits would help enormously.
- The Police have a service each St David's Day when they lay wreaths and it would be good if the memorial was looking its best on this day also.

Steve Gelly: At the last zoom meeting Ray Isaac brought up the maintenance of the Welsh Guards Imber Court Memorial. He has been caring for it for several years, which should be applauded, but he regretted that due to covid restrictions and his inability to drive it was starting to become a bit untidy. As I have a landscape company, I arranged to meet Ray at Imber court to have a look at it and see what was needed to be done.

I met up with Ray and the Manager of Imber Court, Michael Kerslake, we had a look at the memorial, and I could see that the timber edging had rotted away, and the trellis and posts had seen better days, Michael said that the posts had broken during lock down and he had replaced them for which we thanked him. We discussed the memorial and Michael was more than happy with what I proposed to do.

So, at the beginning of June 2021 I replaced the timber with slate colour simulated Victoria Edging and have put in a new trellis panel and posts with round tops which has given the memorial a great lift. Sadly, after his many years of looking after the memorial Ray feels, he needs to hand the baton over to someone else, and I have decided to take over the maintenance of the Memorial.

I will make regular visits to



keep it tidy and later in the year when the planting has died back, I will prune them and then cover the area with mirex weed matting and cover this with Welsh slate to keep the memorial looking its best throughout the year.

Funeral of John Steele (23929704) Welsh Guards Band - 19th May 2001

John Steele, born in Canada on 19th May 1938, died 4th April 2021 aged 82. He had served in the Welsh Guards Band from 1966 until 1989 and his last wish was to have The Union Flag above him at his funeral. The Branch Secretary placed it above him on his coffin, along with WG forage cap and belt, a moving tribute to a strong-willed man. Due to restrictions placed on us, we were only able to take a photo, Sgt Chris Clark Sounded The Last Post.

Welfare Calls:

We are in July 2021 and we are still calling and

visiting members who have difficulties. As of November 2020, to present we have made 87 calls, not so much with bread and milk delivered this time, but to talk and to assure people that they have not been forgotten. The following members volunteered, not all were asked to call or visit due to postcode or area code mismatch, but they still volunteered:

Andy Probert, Peter Coleman, Kevin Jones, Gary Llewellyn, Gren Morgan, Kim Burnell, John Davies, Tony Evans, Steve Gelly, Dee Edwards MBE, LtCol (Retd) D R Evans MBE.

Thank you all for your continued support. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Secretary with your name, postcode, phone number and email address.

Similarly, if you require a visit, or just a chat please contact the Secretary.

Branch Membership Numbers:

Facebook: 116 members

Members not on Facebook: 155 (including 18 by post)

Total Members: 271

Lastly in closing, a huge, big London Branch thank you to David "Cas" Butler (22831658) from the Royal Hospital Chelsea for his generous donation to our Branch funds. This will be used for the good and benefit of our members and to help the administration of the branch - thank you Cas.



1. Tom Thorne, Lt Col Ray Evans and Allan Miller conducting the Branch Christmas draw in the RHQ conference room.
2. Mr Christopher Enraght-Moony, the RHQ Archivist, picking the winning ticket.
3. 1st March 2021 Zoom meeting, some of the participants.
4. 29th April 2021 Zoom meeting participants.
5. 23rd July 2021 Branch meeting in Wellington Barracks.
6. Ray Isaacs, Lt Col Ray Evans, Steve Gelly, Malcolm Aish at the Imber Court Memorial.
7. Steve Gelly at The Guards Memorial 8th April 2021 during a visit to London.
8. Sgt Chris Clark, from the WG Band, who sounded The Last Post at the funeral of

Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Branch (Formed full status 1957)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Captain HR Legge-Bourke, |
| Chairman: | Tom Peters (23523035) |
| Treasurer: | Errold Jones (24581438) |
| Secretary: | Errold Jones (24581438) 18 Marshall Crescent, Penydarren. Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9JA. |
| Telephone: | 07903417048 |
| E-mail: | errold438@yahoo.co.uk |

Like every other Branch, not too much has happened in the Merthyr and Aberdare Branch over the past 12 months with the various COVID restrictions and precautions in place, but there is light at the long dark tunnel and hopefully we can start to fill our calendar a bit better from now on.

The Branch is getting back to our monthly physical meetings with some eagerness and planning times and dates of future events and get togethers. It was a shame that the Association Darts and Shoot competition was cancelled again this year, as we had a good contingent willing to take part, but with the restrictions it was probably always a bit too optimistic to expect it to go ahead.

As a Branch our Members are looking forward to attending the various Remembrance Parades held within our area, with the Branch formally invited to and taking part in up to nine parades every year so it will be a very busy time for us all.

In June a few of our Branch (class of 82 members) had a small get together which turned out to be a fantastic day, regaling stories, which although had been heard plenty of times before, still entertained and amused,

unfortunately none are suitable to put in print! As the drinks flowed and the memories and stories continued unabated, we moved into the members private lounge and lasted until the early hours. We are looking forward for this event to grow from year to year as we invite more.

We are again looking forward to January where, COVID restrictions permitting, we will again hopefully be invited to The Royal Welch Associations luncheon to mark the anniversary of Rorke's Drift in Brecon Barracks. The last time we attended the event was organised superbly. Everything ran so smoothly and there were 150 of us seated.

Our Branch membership, having previously experienced attending St David's Day in Combermere Barracks, Windsor, are not particularly keen on the long journey time and overnight stay again and have asked that the Branch



committee look at having a celebration more locally. The last time we did this it was a huge success which was supported by many and is still being talked about by members and their partners today

Our thoughts as a Branch as always go to the families and friends of our late members; you are as always in our thoughts. We also send our best wishes to those who are not in the best of health, and we wish them a speedy recovery.

The Branch meetings as always are held on the first Monday of the month at

The Ex-Servicemen's Club, Lower High Street. Merthyr Tydfil at 2000 hrs, old and new members are more than welcome.

As a Branch we are optimistically looking forward to 2022 with eagerness hoping things will get back to anything close to normality and that once again we can share the friendships and camaraderie we all know so well within our branch.

1. Nev Hamer with Zulu warriors in Brecon.
2. Pat Reed with Warriors in Brecon.
3. Errold Jones with Zulu Chief.

Monmouthshire Branch (Formed 1920)

| | |
|------------|--|
| President: | Captain MGA Scriven |
| Chairman: | Vacant |
| Secretary: | Steve Liversage BEM (24141822) |
| Treasurer: | Steve Liversage BEM (24141822) 7 Shaw Close, Ebbw Vale NP23 6QQ |
| Telephone: | 01495 302567 |
| E Mail: | vicar54@outlook.com |

For over a hundred years the Monmouthshire Branch has been supported by loyal members from valleys and towns in a vast area.

In 1963 the year the Branch was revitalised there was no Regimental Magazine but an Annual Report which contained articles and Branch news with lists of members, their hometowns and where they worked.

In the 1963 edition the Monmouthshire Branch membership list included two World War One Guardsmen, Jim Tanner (5223) from Pontypool who served from 1916 to 1919 and Len Edwards (1356) of Tredegar who transferred from the Monmouthshire Regiment in 1915 and was demobilised in December 1918. Both were active and regularly came to meetings and functions.

Also listed was 22831721 Mervyn Delve who sadly passed away this year when Chairman. He lived over the Severn in Gloucestershire but he and his wife Gill attended every function and never missed a Branch meeting. Thanks to them two Guardsmen of the 273 era living in the Bristol area came to the Branch Annual Reunion Dinners and other events. They were 2733552 Len Brooks who served from

1932 to 1941 and 2733552 Gilbert Priddy 1939 to 1946, two great characters who were greatly missed when they passed away, Len aged 99 and Gilbert Priddy 101.

Another link with the England's West country that Mervyn Delve arranged was an annual skittles match with the Bristol Branches of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards Associations. It was, and hopefully will be again, a St George's Day celebration held initially in Bristol. Having won the impressive Cup over there in 2018 we played at home at the Rising Sun pub near Abergavenny the following year and retained the trophy but it was the social side that mattered, bringing Guardsmen and their families together.

Arranging the Skittles competition, lunches and taking part in the Association Darts & Shoot are easily arranged and depends on support from members and we hope they will take place again in 2022. Our strong links with the Battalion must continue and the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy for Welsh



Guardsman Sportsman of the Year presented at a Branch function. That is our hope and intention.

The passing of Glyn White saddened Branch members who remember him attending our Annual Dinners and other events. His first link with the Branch was in 1967 when he came to Ebbw Vale to play in an Association XV against a team raised by the General Manager of the local steelworks. A team photograph was taken and Glyn, then a Sergeant, is seen standing third from the left.

1. Two long serving Branch Chairmen; 2392977 Alan Mountjoy (left) 2006 – 2014 and 22839721 Mervyn Delve 2015 - 2021
2. Welsh Guards Association 15 v General Manager Richard Thomas and Baldwins (RTB) Steelworks Ltd on 12th September 1967. The team comprised of: Standing left to right – 23877216 Gdsm J Pearce, 2740324 Reg Buckler, Sgt Glyn White, Gdsm Morgan, 2739019 Bill Fraser, Gdsm ??, CQMS Graham Pugh, 23523564 Martin Cooper, Gdsm R Jones. Seated left to right – Sgt Gerry Greenstock, L/Cpl Dewi Llewellyn (RHQ), 2741392 Roy Lewis, 2733910 Mervyn Lewis (Capt), 22411344 Maldwyn Warwick, Sgt David Bowen.

Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch (Formed 1950)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Captain B M H Branston |
| Chairman: | Mr J Bates (23952205) |
| Treasurer: | Mr J O Williams (23860183) |
| Secretary: | Mr J O Williams (23860183) 83 Balmoral Crescent Oswestry Shropshire SY11 2XH |
| Telephone: | 01691 653244 / 07860 829206 |
| E-mail: | j83williams.wga@gmail.com |

Due to the COVID-19 national lockdown and restrictions our traditional Branch St David's Day Lunch and our Annual Lunch normally held at the Wroxeter Hotel, were both cancelled.

It is these two events which normally provides plenty of material for our Regimental Magazine Branch Report and so without these we foresaw a problem inasmuch as our Branch Report for 2021 would be particularly thin on the ground with no photographs whatsoever! Thankfully, Captain Sir Edward Tate came to the rescue and Branch members and friends were once again invited to his wonderful Isle Estate at Bicton (near Shrewsbury) for a walk, a talk, sandwiches and tea and a general relaxing get-together. The date was fixed for Saturday 21st August - this was to be our second visit to the Isle Estate, what could be different this time round?

Set in a bow of the River Severn, The Isle Estate farm is approximately 860 acres of agricultural land with water woodland and dwellings. The farm grows wheat (for milling) potatoes for Walkers (crisps) and fodder maize which is used for making silage for cattle to eat. They

also have 600 sheep. The fields are surrounded by margins which are specifically a 3m mown strip next to the main crop, a 3m strip left for wildlife and plants and a growing insect population. Thankfully our tour only covered some 1.6 miles (although the question was asked whether they were in fact Welsh miles and not English)! We were taken to the first field which was a site of a Saxon Dwelling.

Next, we were taken through a small woodland area where we were met by two Appaloosa mares and their Foles. The Appaloosa is an American horse breed best known for its colorful spotted coat pattern. The Foals are born black but later change to Grey and dark spots like their parents.

The next field had a crop of Maize showing the 3m margins of mown strips of land with large hedgerow to encourage wildlife, plants and the insect population. This was clearly visible as you



walked around the fields. Also noticeable was the slight gradient of the field, which reminded some members of the Sand hill at Pirbright!

Sir Edward was also keen on preserving the soil and avoiding soil erosion, by growing a diverse 'cover crop' between harvest and spring sowing to help prevent soil erosion. The potatoes grown for Walkers once harvested will be in packets of crisps on sale in the shops around February to March.

The next field was a harvest of dwarf wheat which is a high-yielding, short-strawed, disease - resistant wheat. The wheat is a shorter, tougher stem which will not fall over in the wind or if the grain heads get heavy.

The final destination was the house with a most generous and lovely selection of sandwiches, cakes and cups of tea. Some members liked the table service, others went for comfort!

Members enjoying their tea in comfort, with Mike Astley tucking into some cake, and Mike Corfield keeping Tony Smith and his wife Sue entertained.

The branch would like to thank Sir Edward and his family for a wonderful day out, they are superb hosts, and we are very fortunate, as a Branch to have them within our area. Members might think it was simply a day out walking round a few fields, but the knowledge, passion and enthusiasm that exudes from Sir Edward during his guided tours is infectious and makes it anything but dull. The tour covered some 1.6 miles in total, a good day's exercise with good company, lots of laughs, with wonderful refreshments laid on - a good

Welsh Guards Day out.

Branch Information for 2022

Branch Committee meetings, The Branch Meetings will be held at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club, on a Wednesday 14:00 till 16:00. No dates have been agreed as yet so please contact the Branch Secretary for details.

Christmas Lunch Sunday 12 Dec 21, Beaconsfield Club Shrewsbury

St David's Day Lunch 2022, We are hoping to continue the Luncheons at the Henllan but due to lengthy period of the lockdown we hope the property can still be used. We will be to confirm this in our January Newsletter.

Wroxeter Hotel Annual Lunch 2022, Sunday 10th July 2022

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch President, Captain B M H Branston and the committee members for their support with a special thanks to our members and their friends for supporting the branch over the years. Your support is appreciated even more so at times like this to ensure the future of the branch.

1. Branch Members and friends suited and booted ready for the off
2. Saxon Dwelling Site with Sir Edward giving a detailed account of the site and what was unearthed.
3. Appaloosa Mares with Foals.
4. Field of Maize
5. Sir Edwards Walker (crisps) potato crops
6. Dwarf Wheat
7. The Isle Lake
8. Tea and sandwiches in wonderful surroundings
9. Tea sandwiches in comfort



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North Wales Branch (Formed 1936)

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|------------|---|
| President: | Captain AC Hopkins (24060529) |
| Chairman: | Graham Binnie (24060777) |
| Treasurer: | Captain AC Hopkins (24060529) |
| Secretary: | John Burns (24823395) 45 Bangor Road Johnstown Wrexham LL14 2SR |
| Telephone: | 07758 074189 |
| Email: | north.wales.secretary@gmail.com |

As we closed off the last remaining few months of 2020 the lockdown continued to impact branch meetings with forecasted events being cancelled due to government restrictions and social distancing policies.

Despite this this branch did manage to hold a socially distanced Wrexham branch meeting in the November, along with a limited and well organised socially distanced Christmas Meal in the December. This was just hours before lockdown restrictions were reintroduced with all venues cancelling many Christmas functions over the festive season, we classed ourselves very lucky to have managed to be able to get out of the house and isolations to meet up again.

Our thoughts were with the Regiment and the families they had left behind as we saw them once again deployed over Christmas to assist with Covid testing to get the haulage drivers back home to Europe. Also, our thoughts and prayers were with the Battalion as they had deployed on operations over the last year. A truly amazing accomplishment for all of the serving Welsh Guardsmen who make us all very proud

of their achievements.

The Wrexham Sub Branch experienced in the first five months of 2021, like everyone else in Wales, lockdown and isolation until our first branch meeting of the year was able to take place in June. In July Branch Secretary John Burns secured a £1,000 financial grant though his employer Virgin Media O2 Business which boosted the branch funds. This was quickly put to use with a planned branch get together in Park Hall as soon as the restrictions were eased.

Since July the branch has continued with monthly meetings with attendance numbers growing month on month as members obtained their vaccinations along with the easing of government lockdown restrictions. Sadly, this has not been the case for our Bangor Sub Branch, with numbers dwindling and the health of sub branch committee members



declining.

The North Wales Branch is starting to see an increased interest in next year's St David's Day and the Queen's Birthday Parade celebrations with members putting their names forward to join events, some for their first time. We have also had a record response to this year's Christmas Meal with returns submitted to the venue to secure places, we look forward to December with a three-course meal along with entertainment and DJ Disco into the night at the Ramada Plaza in Wrexham.

Welsh Guard Veteran Funerals. Alas, funerals have remained a consistent factor during lockdown over the last twelve months. Restrictions on numbers able to attend funerals services has meant many Welsh Guards veterans have only had room for immediate family with association members unable to attend. The Pall and Standard have again been busy throughout the year. Amongst the funeral services held over the last twelve months included Mark Wynne (24636017) as well as Howell Hughes (2378519) who represented the North Wales Branch as Secretary for over 39 years.

2020 Wrexham Branch Christmas Meal. This took place at the Nags Head in Wrexham; despite the social distancing restrictions it was a well-attended successful night with twenty members which included partners who have also supported the branch throughout the year at other various events.

2020 Armistice Day Bodhyfryd Wrexham. Due to the restrictions many public events across the region did not take place last year.

Wrexham County Council held a small, closed service by invitation only on Sunday 8th November which was televised and broadcast live to the community via video link.

In attendance was Branch President Captain Chris Hopkins who as well as laying the wreath on behalf of the Welsh Guards Association North Wales Branch also read out the Kohima Epitaph. Branch Secretary John Burns conducted Standard Bearer duties, Chairman Graham Binnie as he does every year laid a wreath on behalf of the 8th Army Veterans along with Alan Loose who also every year again laid a wreath at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial.

Service of Remembrance. On Wednesday 11th November a small service was held at Queens Square in Wrexham which was attended by Chris Hopkins, Graham Binnie and John Burns with the air raid siren notifying the people of the town of the minute silence.

39th Falklands Memorial Service. Again, due to the government's local lockdown restrictions for the second year running the usual well-planned service at St Giles Church including a Choir and memorial parade had to be replaced with a discrete socially distanced memorial service with wreath laying which took place at the Welsh Guards Falklands War Memorial in Bodhyfryd, Wrexham on 26th June.

The event this year was also attended by Brigadier J F Rickett CBE. Capt Chris Hopkins has provided a detailed article on this event.

Darts & Shoot Competition. Having pulled together a



team the North Wales Branch were very much looking forward to travelling down to South Wales for this year's competition, unfortunately the Covid pandemic again put a stop to this resulting in the event being cancelled. On the plus side this will give our

star darts player Bill Britton yet another year to refine his skills on the dartboard. We look forward to representing the branch at the next competition hopefully in 2022.

Virgin Media O2 - Together

Fund. Branch Secretary John Burns employer VMO2 this year joined with Neighbourly who are an award-winning giving platform that helps businesses make a positive impact in their communities by donating volunteer time, money and surplus products, all in one place.

By registering the North Wales Branch with Neighbourly John was able to submit an application to the Together Fund which forms part of Virgin Media O2's support for the Together coalition which aims to bring people together to help build a kinder, closer and more connected society.

The fund concentrated support to projects and initiatives that aim to reduce loneliness and isolation and promote a sense of community belonging. John successfully received the

£1,000 financial grant which was paid directly into the branch account. To date the fund has been used to provide a day out for the North Wales Branch members.

Park Hall Visit. Funded by the Virgin Media O2's Together Funds John Burns arranged a day out to Park Hall in Oswestry on 4th July. North Wales Branch members were picked up from home by minibus then driven to Park Hall where Stan Evans hosted a tour of the Welsh Guards collection along with Alan Simcox providing a hands-on demonstration of some of the decommissioned weapons held within the museum.

Bill Britton was overwhelmed as he once again took hold of the .303 Lee-Enfield bolt-action, magazine-fed repeating rifle that served as the main firearm of the military forces of the British

Empire and Commonwealth during the first half of the 20th century and was the British Army's standard rifle from its official adoption in 1895 until 1957. Bill who served in the Suez Canal had not held the rifle since he left in the 1950's. Regardless of the many years like all good Guardsmen Bill was able to carry out his drills on the rifle remembering them like second nature.

Hugo Mailim then provided a very information and fascinating guided tour of the WWI & WWII trench systems explaining what life was like living in the trench environment for our boys. A buffet lunch was then laid on by the Owners of Park Hall Martin and Pauline with a wonderful selection of food, drinks and ice-cream's which were welcomed on the gloriously sunny hot day. Before we knew it, it was then time to jump back onto the minibus to be dropped back off at the door of everyone's homes. The day out together for the branch members most certainly did help to reduce any feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced during lockdown, we look forwards to our next event compliments of Virgin Media O2.

North Wales Branch Meetings – Throughout the last year. Regrettably, but due to dwindling numbers and ill health out Bangor Sub-Branch has now been wound down. I would like to thank Dai Moggs and Gwyndaf Williams for everything they have done for the Bangor Sub Branch over the years along with the delightful welcome they gave me when I went up to meet them as I took over as the North Wales Branch Secretary.

With the North Wales Region



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covering such a large geographical (largely rural) area it is understandable that along with work and family commitments it is difficult to join the Wrexham Branch monthly meetings.

I am aware however from social media that several groups meet along the North Coast on a regular(ish) basis, if anyone is willing and has time to form a sub-branch along the North Wales coast, please do contact me. I'd be happy to help set up a regular venue as well as attend the meetings myself on a regular monthly basis. It would be great to have a sub-branch along the North Wales coast to facilitate our local association members. In the meantime, if anyone within North Wales would like to join the Wrexham Branch meetings via Video Conference get in touch with the Secretary John Burns for details and support of how to join us via MS Teams.

Despite the lockdown restrictions the Wrexham Branch has remained as active as possible during the pandemic with meetings arranged when rules allowed.

CSM Kieran Cunningham who is the North Wales Sgt's & WO's Mess Affiliated Branch Member regularly joins us when not on operations via MS Teams and is projected onto a large screen for all to see in Wrexham. The regular updates from the Battalion are deeply appreciated and valued at our meetings. The cascading of information between the Battalion and the Association is invaluable in bringing us closer as a single community.

As a bonus we were joined by Kieran as well as the North Wales Regimental Support Team (RST) with LSgt Kris Davies bringing the team along for our October meeting. It was an extremely entertaining as well as the longest monthly meeting on record as everyone stood up and took turns providing icebreakers along with a brief explanation of their experiences. Also, on the plus side I was expecting a much larger bar tab, so glad to see they don't drink as much as the veterans do just yet! The veterans were very impressed by the confidence and professionalism of LSgt Davies and the RST as well

as a little envious about how great it sounds to be a member of the Battalion at present with so many opportunities and the fantastic prospects ahead of them. We welcome and look forward to the RST joining us on a regular basis at our monthly meetings as well as building our connection even greater with the Battalion.

North Wales Branch ID Cards. Members of the North Wales Branch are welcome to request a membership card. The credit card size ID cards look professional and give our members a sense of pride, belonging and as well as detailing the objectives of the Welsh Guards Association, they also remind members of branch contact details and monthly meetings.

If you would like to receive a membership ID card all you have to do is come along to our monthly meeting and become a loyal regular monthly member which is also free, you only need to pay for your own tipple.

1. *Funerals of Mark Wynn (24636017) & Howell Hughes (2378519)*
2. *2020 Wrexham Branch Christmas Meal*
3. *2020 Armistice Day Bodhyfryd Wrexham*
4. *Wrexham Service of Remembrance*
5. *39th Falklands Memorial Service*
6. *Virgin Media O2 - Together Fund*
7. *Park Hall Visit*
8. *October North Wales Branch Meeting with RST Drop-in: Left to Right - Frank Brooke (CG), Dave Hewitt, Ted Francis, Graham Binnie, Alan Loose, Ronnie Adamson, Gdsm Williams, Gdsm Davies, L/Cpl Wilkinson, Gdsm Byron, Gdsm Howarth, Bill Britton, John Burns (Behind the camera) L/Sgt Davies.*
9. *North Wales Branch ID Cards*

North of England Branch (Formed 1936)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Captain J W H Daniel |
| Chairman: | Post Vacant |
| Treasurer: | Mr Arnold Brassey |
| Secretary: | Mr Stephen Ollerhead 10 Penfold way Doddleston Chester CH4 9NL |
| Telephone: | 01244 661091 |



Again, another year gone in the blink of an eye and another year affected by COVID with all the restrictions in place altering our every move.

We have only just really been able to start having our monthly meetings again (at the Green Oak Farm Public House, Rossmore Road, Ellesmere Port) and it's great to be back amongst military friends once more.

If one good thing has come from COVID it is that it has forced (kicking and screaming in some cases) people to use on-line communications more in place of face-to-face meetings and to that end we now have our own North of England Branch Facebook Group - if you are on Facebook and live in the North of England area then please join our group and keep in touch, we want to grow our membership, keep in touch and support one another, but only you can do

that by joining our group.

We recently welcomed our newly appointed Branch President, Captain James Daniel, who some will recall served from 1984 until 1988. James and his lovely wife Charlotte were travelling, with their three little dogs, from their home in Bridport,

Dorset up to Scotland on holiday and very kindly popped in to see us. We arranged to meet for lunch at my local, the Red Lion Inn at Doddleston, a lovely little 18th Century stone built rural inn established in 1737. The meeting had been arranged over Facebook and it was nice to get a group together to welcome James and Charlotte. Following lunch James appeared

with a large box stuffed with frozen goodies from their local Dorset specialist butchers which was shared out amongst us and we all staggered home loaded down with artisan sausages, bacon and burgers - a lovely touch which was much appreciated by us all - thank you.

Because of age, illness and for many other good reasons, our Branch numbers are dwindling and much like other Association Branches we have difficulty in attracting younger members who seem to prefer the quickness and speed of online communication were meetings with comrades and friends can be arranged in the blink of an eye and with the push of the enter key! We are hopeful that now the COVID restrictions are beginning to lift we might see a few more people join us and as we plan for our Branch Christmas Lunch, it would be good to see some new faces attend - it is normally very popular, nothing of course to do with the Branch paying!

We very much hope that the year ahead will allow us to meet more often and to arrange a day out - please let me have your ideas and thoughts and we will see what we can do. We close by wishing our friends, the Regiment, all Branches and everyone associated with us a truly peaceful and kind Christmas and healthy happy New Year.

1. *Group outside the Red Lion, Doddleston. Back Row, L-R: Capt James Daniel, Charlotte Daniel, Derek Mangan, Peter Oldfield, John McGuinness. Front Row, L-R: John (Jack) Jones, Arnold Brassey, Sue and Stephen Ollerhead, Paul Liddy*

Ogmore Branch (Formed 1982)

| | |
|------------|---|
| President: | Captain P Robinson |
| Chairman: | Mr Paul Mockett MBE (22217125) |
| Treasurer: | To be appointed |
| Secretary: | Bob Chambers (24645750) Brynteg Bungalow Brynteg Llantrisant Pontyclun CF72 8LR |
| Telephone: | 07501 191917 |
| E-mail: | bobchambers50@live.co.uk |

What a year 2021 turned out to be - hopefully 2022 will be a lot kinder to us all.

I, (24645750 Gdsm RE Chambers) have been asked to put together these notes on behalf of the branch and it is my first sad duty to say that during the period covered the Branch has sadly said farewell to two loyal Branch members, they are:

Drummer, 22217398 Terry Henry who died on 23rd January 2021. Terry was a stalwart member of the Branch and will be sadly missed by all members. Our Chairman, Paul Mockett MBE, first met Terry whilst Terry was mounting his very first Barrack Guard in Wuppertal Germany in 1951. Terry was the Duty Drummer for the Guard and when asked by LCpl Mockett "Where are you from drummer"? he replied proudly; "Bridgend Corporal" and from that day both became firm friends and used to meet up for a beer when home on leave in Bridgend.

Our affiliated member Robert Johnson formerly of the Blues and Royals, served alongside our very own Treasurer/Secretary Mr Mike Jones 01 in the Guards Independent

Parachute Company and they could often be found sharing memories and tales with members of the Branch. Bob joined the Branch many years ago along with his wife Anita having moved to the area. Sadly, Anita passed away suddenly in February 2020 and Bob in November 2020.

All members of the Branch send their heartfelt condolences to all the families and friends involved, both members will be sadly missed.

On a happier note, our Branch Chairman Paul Mockett MBE celebrated his 90th Birthday with a surprise celebration organised by his wife Annette and family at his home in Bridgend. Paul's milestone birthday was commemorated by Branch members, abiding by COVID-19 restrictions, along with the local Ex Serviceman's members who carried out a march past with Paul acknowledging the tribute to him. A great day was had by Paul and his family.

Another birthday celebration



was that of Branch affiliated member Margaret Chambers (mother of 24645750 Bob Chambers) who celebrated her 80th Birthday with an afternoon gathering in her garden of family and Branch members.

Like everyone else in the Country our Branch members have had their share of the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 but slowly and surely things will get back to normal and I sincerely hope that this time next year our branch notes will be full of news on what we've doing.

Lastly, a reminder that we hold our monthly meetings on the second Monday of

every month at the Hunters Lodge Public House Brackla Bridgend CF31 2JT (COVID-19 restrictions permitting). As a Branch we welcome All Welsh Guardsmen or women, and they can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

Season's Greetings to everyone and a happy, prosperous and (fingers crossed) COVID free 2022.

- 1-2. Mr Paul Mockett MBE celebrating his 90th Birthday.
3. Margaret Chambers with Jamila Jallow, daughter of Gdsm Amadou Jallow from RHQ WG who along with others attended the 80th birthday gathering in June this year.

Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch (Formed 1927)

| | |
|------------|--|
| President: | Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD |
| Chairman: | Mr Karl Trenchard (24449915) |
| Treasurer: | Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD |
| Secretary: | David Williams (24623938) 7 Waun Fawr Cwmrhydyceirw Swansea SA6 6FG |
| Telephone: | 07779 246345 |
| Email: | wgaswansea@gmail.com |

Like every other Branch, in fact everyone else in the UK, we have suffered the effects of COVID restrictions since March 2020 and continue to do so now, albeit things are slowly drifting back into a kind of normality!

Swansea Branch started the year continuing to hold our online zoom meetings each month where Captain Jimmy Everett kept us all entertained - although we think he had an ulterior motive and simply wanted to test out his new comedy material and point us towards his comedy Facebook page! In June we finally moved back to having our physical monthly meetings at the Cwmfelin Social Club, Courtney Street and now hope to hold these, as previously, on the 3rd Monday of each month at 1900 hrs.

Branch members have also managed to attend a few non WG social events this year and a particularly popular one which attracted Swansea Branch attendance was an evening with the Veterans Breakfast Club Wales at the Cockleshell Toby Carvery in Gorseinon. Members have also taken part in adventure training, supported by Change Step and run by Matt Woodfield from Outdoors

Matters (who provide quality Climbing, Walking and Adventure Activities on the Gower and across South Wales).

We had a number of rock climbing activities taking place at Herbert Quarry and Dinas Rock with Mike Callaghan and Tony Davies Davies 14 both taking part and enjoying themselves and we had a "wee" walk to the waterfalls at Aberdulais - it was a hot day and we needed to cool down!

A relatively new activity has also been undertaken by branch members at Llanelli North Dock who attended Stand Up Paddleboard sessions run by Phil Owen from Surf Therapy (part of the international Surf Therapy Organisation formed in South Africa). The sun was shining, which made all the difference especially as for most of more time was spent in the water than on the paddle boards!

In August branch members



attended the unveiling of a new headstone for Welsh Guardsman Gareth Crocker (24220174) who served 1974 to 1978 in the Corps of Drums and who sadly died of cancer on 15 Jun 17. The project started when Wayne Michael (24263901) was walking around Morryston Cemetery and saw that Gareth's grave was marked with an old broken cross. He decided there and then to start fundraising to put a decent headstone in place and quickly received donations from a number of Welsh Guardsmen, these included Davies 38, Ken Webster, Ken Williams 05, Allan Peter's, Maj John Harford, Dai Morgan 05, Mark Woolcock, Geoff Roberts 22 - Michael apologises to anyone he has forgotten to mention. The money was pledged within 3 hours of the appeal going public and the new headstone was designed and made by a family member of Mark Woolcock.

On the headstone dedication day, Saturday 28th August, at Morryston Cemetery which was attended by members of the branch and Gareth's family we had two Branch Standards on parade; Llanelli Branch carried by Al Cunningham and Swansea Branch carried by Peter Williams and a bugler present to play last post. An emotional, yet happy day as Gareth's grave is now fittingly marked with a headstone.

In August we lost one of very own legends and dear friend and mentor to many when Major Glyn "Chalkie" White MBE passed away. Major White served as President of the Swansea Branch for many years and was loved and respected by all. His funeral took place at Morryston Crematorium for family and close friends, with a Drum Head ceremony

held beforehand at Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli for his wider Regimental family and friends. His passing is covered in greater details elsewhere in this publication.

In closing this years slimmed down report, we do of course wish everyone in the wider Regimental family, both serving and non serving a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year as we look forward to 2022 and finally being able to gather together again, hopefully at St David's day in Windsor on 1st March and on the Swansea Branch trip we are organising to the National Memorial Arboretum early in the year.



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1. Standards on Parade for the funeral of Sgt Gavin Hillier RIP.
2. Llanelli Branch and Swansea Branch Standards on parade at the unveiling of the new headstone for Gareth Crocker.
3. Attendees as the Gareth Crocker headstone unveiling.
4. Ian (Plume) Thomas - and yes he did manage to stand up but was too quick for the camera!
5. Branch members attending an evening with Veterans Breakfast Club Wales at the Cockleshell in Gorseinon.
6. Our first face to face Branch meeting at the Cwmfelin Social Club in June.



6

Welsh Guards Reunited Branch (Formed 2006)

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| President: | Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) AJ Davies OBE |
| Chairman: | Keith Smith (24283390) |
| Secretary: | Dennis 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 |

Another year over already with the COVID restrictions in varying forms rolling over from 2020 into 2021 and still affecting our everyday lives. This pandemic has continued to curtail all Association events throughout the whole of 2021 resulting in no real big get-togethers for the WGA Family.

Firstly, early in the year we had St David's Day with the Battalion in Windsor cancelled, then in September our annual Darts and Shoot meeting at Maindy Barracks cancelled at a late stage, just when we thought it might just happen. WGR was up for it and was drawing up the various team

lists, Larry John had been practising his throwing and was getting his eye in, only to find with weeks to go that the Sergeant's Mess at Maindy Barracks had not opened its doors. We have no option but to go along with it and abide by the rules for the sake of everyone's safety.

COVID-19 has hit us all directly or indirectly since it reared its ugly head in early 2020 and it feels like it's been around forever! We've all had setbacks in one way or another, be it cancelled visits to family or holidays, catching it and suffering during recovery or, fatally, as has been the case for some of

our Regimental family COVID has taken the last breath and they have passed on.

But we as Guardsmen don't have our glass half empty, it is always half full! We always look ahead, not back. There is light somewhere ahead and we are starting to see it and mix and meet again. The boys from Cardiff have started meeting up for a drink together, sharing war stories and generally enjoying themselves. This is what we and life as a Guardsman is all about. Tony Davies 22, our Branch President joined one of these get togethers and thoroughly enjoyed it - there is no better medicine than a dose of Welsh Guards banter and mates. More I'm sure will be planned and hopefully, the big one organized by Paul Morgan, (aka Flicker) in Porthcawl will be as popular as it always is.

Some of us are managing to escape for a short while on holiday now that flight routes are re-opening and the red country list is shrinking. I have just returned from a week's break in Rhodes and at the time of writing Larry John is sunning himself in Lanzarote and Wayne Michael (aka Mickyjack) in Grand Canaria.

On the home front, Emrys Morgan has just returned from a month's caravanning up to the Hee-lands of Scotland and Kim Burnell has led (in the loosest sense of the word?) an expedition up Pen y Fan. No sights to see due to atrocious weather on the day, although everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Unfortunately, with the passing of the years, it has the effect that none of us are getting any younger and we seem to be losing many Regimental brothers

who are marching off to the great parade ground in the sky far too regularly - the In Memoriam List at the back of this magazine makes sobering reading as we put faces to the names and dates and recall serving together. I have once again been involved as our Standard Bearer at far too many funerals. It is my utmost privilege to attend at each and every one, but three stand out; Brian Owen 52, Sgt Gavin Hillier and of course Major Glyn (Chalky) White.

I had been in Brian's company a few weeks previously, only to be told shortly afterwards that he had passed. Tragic that a man still so fit and relatively young had been taken by COVID. His Funeral was attended by many of us, his friends of days gone by and members of The Queen's Body Guard of which Brian was a proud member.

The tragic death of Sgt Gavin Hillier during a live firing exercise at Castlemartin ranges was as great a shock to our Regimental veteran's community as it was to his comrades in arms in the Battalion. No fewer than eight Standard Bearers paraded and joined a huge number of mourners from family, friends, Battalion and the Association to march this Sergeant off on his last parade. RSM Dan Cope had pulled out all the stops, Bearer party, Firing Party and us, the WGA Standards, to salute this fine man. It was an honour and privilege to be a part of such a sad occasion with both the Association and Battalion pulling together as one to give Gavin a fitting send off.

Major White, better, and affectionately known as Chalky, sadly passed away on



7th August and Chris Beynon and Jan Koops organized a fitting Drumhead service at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli to enable many who have served alongside him to pay their respects prior to the family funeral. The Drumhead service was, as you would imagine for such a popular man, well attended and four Standard Bearers led the cortège, whilst Sgt Stuart Laing of RHQ played an impeccable, as always, Last Post and Reveille. A private Family cremation was then carried out but with the Standard Bearers in attendance and Eulogies spoken by Chris Beynon, my old friend Mike White (son) and Owen (grandson).

So, onwards into next year. Hopefully we will all progress from now, double jabbed, boosted and flu jabbed and hopefully that will keep us all safe and well and out of harm's way as we head into 2022, the 40th anniversary year of the Falklands Campaign, and another step closer to normality?

St David's Day is planned to go ahead on 1st March next year with the Battalion in Windsor and is something to look forward to and aim for and then, hopefully the rest will fall in line; Queen's Birthday Parade in Her Majesty's Platinum year, Wrexham Reunion, Battlefield Tours, Darts & Shoot, we look forward to it all and hope

COVID is put to bed forever and let's us get on with what we do best.

To end I will wish each and every one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and if not prosperous, then a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year.

My thanks as always to our Branch Officers and Members, to Regimental Headquarters and to Maldwyn and Neil for their support throughout this difficult period and to everyone else in the Association and wider regimental family who continue to do what they do to make our Regiment and the Association great and at the top of the pile.

CYMRU AM BYTH.

Of course, none of my Branch notes are complete without some poetic words from our Bard and Vice President, Mr Alan Parry-Booth. He's been penning verse since way back in his childhood days and this poem, I believe, sums us all up whatever year, generation, equipment we used and times of conflicts. We do in some cases, or have in most, MARCHED with the MEN of HARLECH!

1. Paul Morgan 71 (aka Flicker) presenting a cheque for £3,050 to Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant, the proceeds of his fundraising efforts at the WGR Porthcawl Reunion which he organised.

We Marched with the Men of Harlech

We marched with The Men of Harlech
Right into the barrack room
With palliasse or "biscuits"
The comfort of Pharaoh's tomb.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
And learned how to clean our kit
High burnished brass and shiny boots
Achieved with a load of spit.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
Spent ages in the gym
And hours in the water
So that each recruit could swim.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
Out on to the barrack square
With "PLATOON 'SHUN" and "AS YOU WERE"
We quickly learned to swear.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
With a cunningly "tailored" peak
Which smartened up our S.D. caps
That proudly bore the leek.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
Dressed up in a battledress suit
With an old Lee-Enfield 303
They taught us how to shoot.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
And all acquired a skill
But whether Medic, clerk or cook
Each man was taught to kill.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
And some marched off to war
Some made the ultimate sacrifice
And they will march no more.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
And, as army life depends
On the trust in the guy at your shoulder
We all made lifelong friends.

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
Back to the civvy job
But none of us will ever forget
Our brothers in "The Mob".

-0-

We marched with The Men of Harlech
To countries near and far
Now daily, we can keep in touch
On line with W.G.R.

-0-

So, thanks to Mike's inspiration
And you guys who never tire
We'll march with The Men of Harlech
'Til the day that we expire.

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 |

The last twelve months have been complicated to say the least. COVID is still with us only this time we are better prepared. During these times of shut down to our visiting public there have been a million and one things to turn our attention to and catch up on. Mainly jobs that involved more than one person working alone. Alan Simcox has been working flat out, up and down ladders, drilling, sawing cutting Perspex he never stops, and the building has had a real "COVID makeover" where now everything is behind Perspex with a CCTV system of eight cameras in place which covers every item on display. There are two large monitors connected, one in our office and the other in the main site entrance so the public are made aware as soon as they enter that there is security in place.

As I said before, "Simmo" has fashioned screens and covers to protect just about everything from enquiring hands. It also means that it is now possible to open the Museum without any staff being in attendance as is the

case in our WW1 display area in the adjoining building. The only real down-side to our present situation is that under COVID guidelines we are not allowed to dress children in uniforms for photographing outside our sentry box (no hands on), this was particularly popular with the children and had created a nice little bit of donation income.

We are still fortunate enough to have artefacts donated from families of Welsh Guardsmen who have passed on to that great barrack square in the sky. Recently Mrs Ruth Gollings, the daughter of 2734020 Guardsman A Jarrett presented his medals and a plethora of artefacts from his service. Amongst these treasures were two bedplates circa WW2, one brass, the other chrome. During this time brass bedplates were all called in and removed from issue because of the shortage of brass to make shells and were replaced with chrome plated base metal types. After the war circa 1945-1946 brass plates were re issued and used until around 1961.





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I say 1961 because that's when we as boy soldiers in Pirbright handed them in. Some Extra Regimentally Employed (ERE) Guardsmen may have handed them in later or didn't hand them in at all as is the case with the two in the photograph. We have dozens of bedplates on display at the Museum of every genre with examples of 2 "Brothers" of "Father and son" and inter Regimental transfers but what we didn't have was both examples to the same man. Thank you once again Ruth. Note: the bed plate hooks are rarer to find than the plate itself.

On my daily visits to ebay (an occupational hazard), I came across a silver bugle once owned by a Welsh Guardsman (see photo 5). The inscription on the instrument now badly faded because of heavy polishing (as we do) reads "22217125 Paul Anthony Mockett, Welsh Guards. Bugler Wales 1992." Paul had been a Sgt Squad Instructor at Caterham in the early 50's (see photo 6). I contacted Paul now 90 years of age who told me due to ill health he had had to move his "man cave" known as the "Guardroom" to create a bedroom. The removal of the

contents of the Guardroom was left in the hands of a local antiques dealer.

Because of the lack of buglers in the South Wales Royal British Legion, of which Paul was an avid supporter, to attend funerals, he decided to teach himself how to blow a bugle at the Age of 60! He then attended hundreds of funerals on behalf of the Royal British Legion and for Welsh Guardsmen throughout Wales and England. He was awarded the MBE in 2013 at the age of 72 for his services to the bereaved families. I am pleased to say I was able to renovate the instrument, remembering exactly how I had looked after my own all those years ago.

Another eventful day saw me travelling from Cheshire down to Cheltenham in Gloucester (252 miles) to meet ex Welsh Guards Officer Captain Roddy Sale at his beautiful home. He had offered to donate items of uniform and artefacts from his late Father Lt Col R E W Sale MC and I didn't need asking twice! Amongst the treasures was an officer's tropical mess dress which had belonged to his Father when he was a young

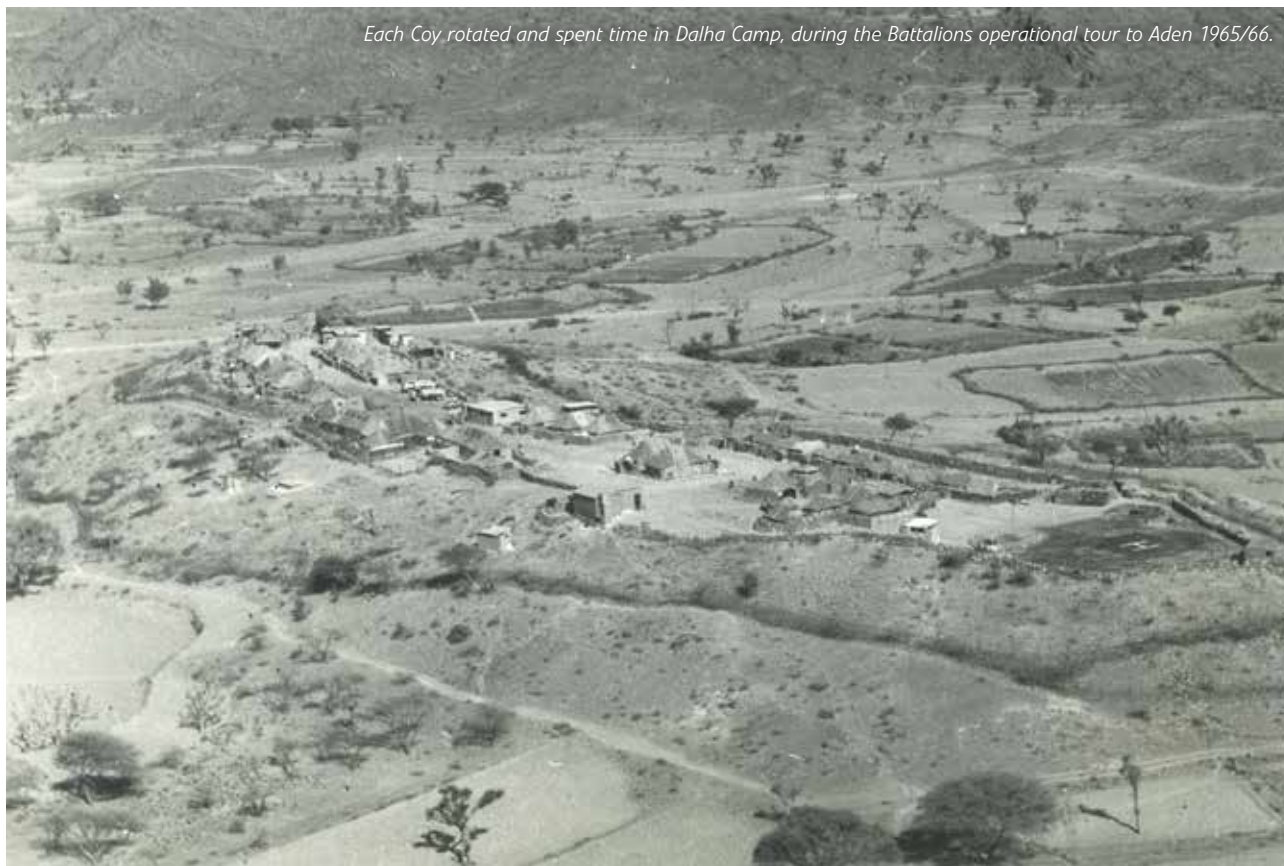
Lieutenant serving with the 1st Battalion in Egypt circa 1930. With a lot of TLC I was able to bring it back to its former glory and this mess dress will now take pride of place on show in the Museum beginning next season after our usual revamp.

As we move steadily forward, albeit at a snails pace, in these uncertain times we still have the age old problem nagging at me and that is the manpower to volunteer and help the Museum stay afloat and better our aims to education the public on our history and all that is Welsh Guards. We all know about the Regiment because we have served in it, but the wider public do not and it is important that we enlighten them as to what we have done and what we will be called on to do in the future to help keep our Country safe from all adversaries.

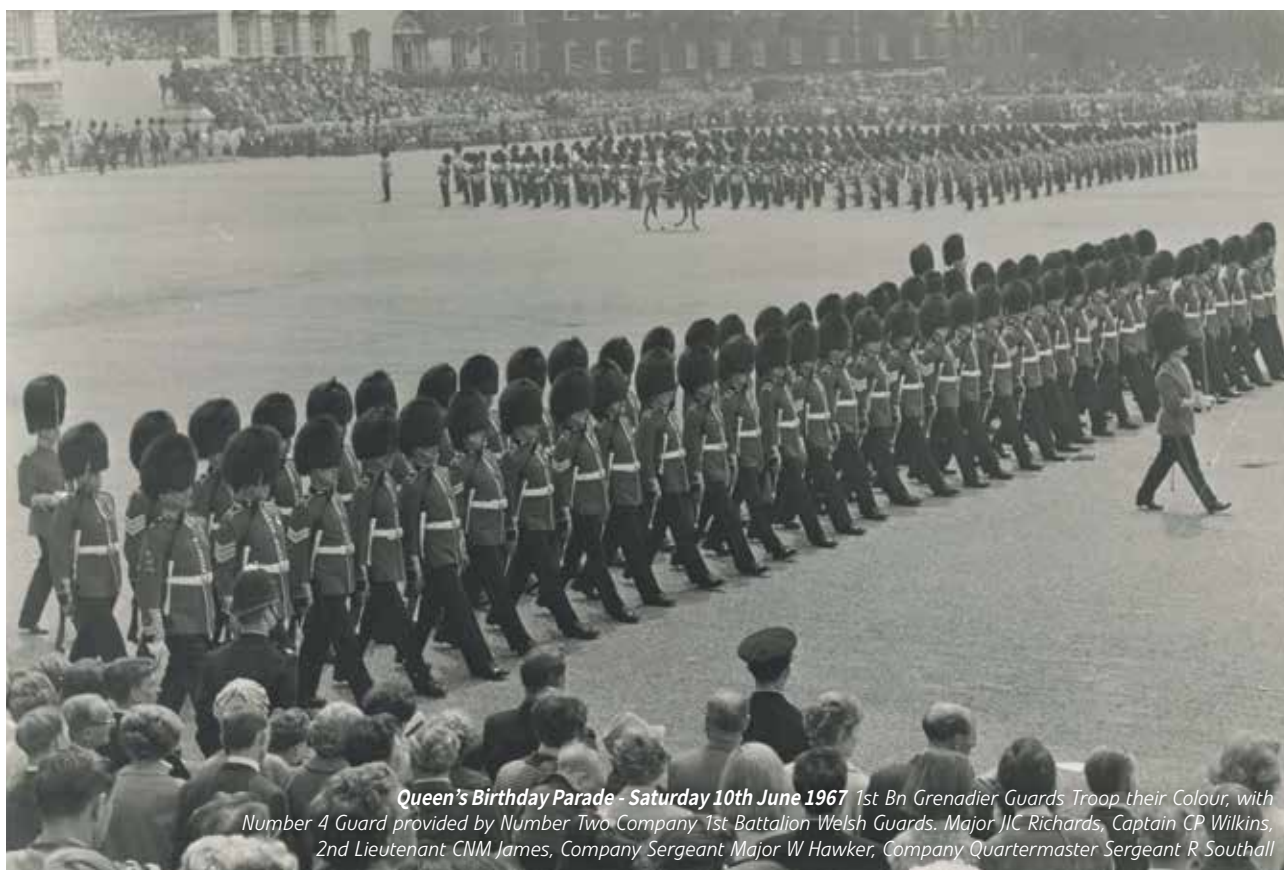
I hope to see many of you next year either at the collection or at some other Regimental event, but wish to finish by thanking the wonderful group of volunteers we have that really do make a world of difference and enable us to remain at such a high

level. I wish you all a very helathy, happy and safe 2022. Warmest regards Stan (67)

1. *Simmo like a man possessed with the power washer and nothing escapes his attention.*
2. *Back to my first job on leaving school in 1959 only my hands were a lot steadier then!*
3. *Mrs. Ruth Gollings, Daughter of 2734020 Guardsman A Jarrett presenting his medals and artefacts to into the safe custody of the WG Collection.*
4. *Two bedplates, one brass the other chrome (circa WW2) belonging to 2734020 Gdsm A Jarrett.*
5. *An ebay find - Silver bugle inscribed 22217125 Paul Anthony Mockett, Welsh Guards. Bugler Wales 1992*
6. *Sgt Paul Mockett's squad, Guards Depot Caterham*
7. *Paul Mockett wearing his full British Legion dress uniform.*
8. *Visiting Capt Roddy Sale to pick up some artefacts and relics to his service and the service of his late Father Lt Col R E W Sale MC.*
9. *Tropical mess dress jacket belonging to a young Lieutenant REW Sale whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in Egypt circa 1930.*



Each Coy rotated and spent time in Dalha Camp, during the Battalions operational tour to Aden 1965/66.



Queen's Birthday Parade - Saturday 10th June 1967 1st Bn Grenadier Guards Troop their Colour, with Number 4 Guard provided by Number Two Company 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. Major JIC Richards, Captain CP Wilkins, 2nd Lieutenant CNM James, Company Sergeant Major W Hawker, Company Quartermaster Sergeant R Southall

1st Battalion Welsh Guards Trooping the Colour Windsor Castle
13th June 2020



Oil on Canvas painted by Sean Bolan and measuring 4ft x 6ft, this painting now hangs in the Officers' Mess 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and depicts the unique occasion during the COVID pandemic that 1st Battalion Welsh Guards had the privilege to Troop their Colour privately in front of Her Majesty The Queen whilst televised to millions of viewers worldwide.



1st Battalion Welsh Guards Trooping the Colour Windsor Castle 13th June 2020

Quality prints are available to purchase on the WG Charity website at www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

Sharjah Platoon

In August 1968 Number 5 Platoon departed to Caterham to join 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards for their deployment to Sharjah. The Platoon was commanded by 2nd Lieutenant R E H David and the Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant Peter "Snakey" John QGM, son of ex RSM T John MM.

The Grenadier Guards were convinced that the Welsh Guards contingent were handpicked from across the Battalion as the Welsh Guards beat them in almost all competitions, including military and sports!

Each year members of the Sharjah Platoon hold a reunion. Any members of the original 1968 Platoon reading this and wishing to become involved are asked to contact Captain Chris Hopkins via RHQ Welsh Guards to be added to the mailing list.



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1. 1968 Sharjah Platoon Reunion, Llanelli 22 June 2020. Rear row (L-R): Brian Davies 83, Sam Selby, Ken Williams 17, Chris Hopkins, Trevor Williams 09, Nic Rogers. Front row (L-R): Dave Tucker, Terry Williams 03, Gordon Williams 09, Mike Dunphy, Glyn "Yanto" Evans 55
2. Sharjah Platoon - St David's Day 1969

REPORT TO WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2021

WW1 COMBATANTS AND CASUALTIES

Submitted by: Mr Nick Farr, WGA Associate Member, London Branch & District and WG Reunited.

Great Britain went to war with a small, professional army that was primarily designed to police its overseas empire. The entire force consisted of just over 250,00 Regulars. Together with 250,00 Territorials and 200,00 Reservists, this made a total of about 700,00 trained soldiers. This was tiny compared to the mass armies of Germany, France and Russia. Although many people were shocked and fearful, the outbreak of war was largely greeted with popular acclaim. The public rallied around what they perceived to be a just cause. In 1914, the British had about 5.5 million men of military age, with another 500,00 reaching the age of 18 each year. In the first weekend of the start of the war, over 100 men an hour (3,000 a day) had enlisted. The initial call for 100,00 was far exceeded, almost half a million men enlisted in two months. By the end of 1914 1,186,337 men had enlisted. By the end of 1914, the old regular British Army had suffered massive casualties and lost most of its fighting strength. As the Regular Army's strength declined, the numbers were made up, first by the Territorial Force, then by volunteers from Field Marshal Kitchener's New Army. By the end of August 1914, he had raised six new divisions and by March 1915, the number of divisions had increased to 29. The Territorial Force was also expanded, raising second and third line battalions and forming 8 new divisions, which supplemented its peacetime strength of 14 divisions. The Third Army was formed in July 1915 and with the influx of troops from volunteers and further reorganisation, the Fourth Army and the Reserve Army, became the Fifth Army in 1916.

GROUP SYSTEM OR DERBY SCHEME: By the spring of 1915 the flow of volunteer recruits into the British Army were dwindling, the government tried a half-way house scheme before introducing compulsory military service in 1916. The upper age limit was raised from 38 to 40 in May 1915 but it became clear that voluntary recruitment was not going to provide the numbers of men required. Edward Stanley, 17th Lord Derby played a major part in raising volunteers, especially for the King's (Liverpool) Regiment. After being appointed Director-General of Recruiting in October 1915, men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily, or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The National Registration Act of 15th July 1915 was a step towards stimulating recruitment and to discover how many men between the ages of 15 and 65 were engaged in each trade. The results of those registered showed that there were almost 5 million males of military age who were not in the forces, of which 1.6 million were in 'starred' (protected, high or scarce skill) employment. The War Office notified the public that Voluntary enlistment would cease on the 15th December 1915. The Military Service Act of 27th January 1916 brought conscription into effect. Single men of ages 18 to 41 were liable to be called-up for military service unless widowed with children or ministers of religion. Conscription started on 2nd March 1916. The act was extended to married men on the 25th May 1916, with the age limit eventually being raised to 51. From the outbreak of war, Welsh men had responded to the call to arms, many enlisting into Welsh Regiments, along with the Grenadier Guards.

CREATION OF THE REGIMENT: On the 27th February 1915 Officers from various Regiments soon transferred to the newly formed Welsh Guards. Volunteers were called from the other Regiments of Guards who formed the nucleus of the new Guards Regiment. Over 300 men, including 40 non-commissioned officers and over 200 recruits from Caterham transferred. The total number of Officers posted to the Regiment was 209, with 5,228 O.R. enlisting. On the 18th August 1915, 30th Officers and 1,108 men of the Battalion landed at Le Harve. On the 20 August 1915 the Battalion joined the Guards Division as part of 3 Guards Brigade. A further Off. and 1000 .R. joined the Bn. on 16th September 1915. There were 109 drafts of men to the Bn. during the war, which resulted in 160 Off. and 3,864 O.R. being posted overseas until the Armistice. 14 men served from first to last, without interruption, to return home unscathed.

A FAMILY REGIMENT: Many brothers and cousins answered the call to arms, enlisting into the Welsh Guards. Thomas and Jane Hughes of Henllan, Trefnant had been married for 24 years and had raised 9 children, six sons and 3 daughters. The three eldest sons, who were Police Constables enlisted into



Founding Welsh Guards wearing original cap-badges (above).
Welsh Guard recruits, Wellington Barracks June 1915 (right).



the Welsh Guards separately during the war. Only the youngest of the three eldest sons was to survive. The eldest son Pte. 825 Robert John HUGHES was born in Henllan and was living there when he enlisted aged 28 years and 4 months in Shotton, Flintshire, on the 20th March 1915. He was single and was stationed at Shotton as Police Constable 32. Whilst in the field, he received scalding to his face and hands on the 28th December 1915 but returned to duty on the 15th January 1916. He was KIA on the 21st June 1916 (official date, see below) aged 29 and is buried at Brandenhock Cemetery (Grave Ref. II F6). On the same day his brother, 1491 Pte. Jesse HUGHES was wounded in action, recorded as a GSW to his right arm. The WG Chaplain, HC Thursby Pelham wrote a letter to the Rector, a Mr Humphreys of Henllan Church, on the same day regarding the fate of the two brothers.



Private R. J. HUGHES, 1st Welsh Guards,
Son of Mr. Thomas Hughes, Mason and
Parish Sexton, Henllan.
(Killed in Action).

Dear Mr Humphreys, I am very sorry to tell you that Robert Hughes (one of the sons of the caretaker of your church, I believe) was killed yesterday after noon (20th), instantaneously by a shell. His brother Jesse was also slightly wounded in another part of the trenches. He was hit in the right arm, I have just come from him. He is going to hospital-very much upset about his Brother's death, and worrying, I am afraid, about the effect on his Mother. He asked me to write to you to break the news to his Mother. He will be alright himself before long, and I hope, get home soon. I will write to their Communion's lately-at Easter tide, if not also since then. They were both good soldiers. Since I began this I have buried Robert. I came back from the trenches to do so. His grave is in a proper soldiers cemetery some miles back from the 'lines'. He lies with other Welsh Guardsmen, and his grave will be marked with a cross made by the carpenter of the battalion. Please tell his mother that everything was done as decently as possible and that several of the battalion were at his funeral. Yours sincerely HC Thursby Pelham Chaplain 1 Welsh Guards.

ROLL OF HONOUR.
HUGHES—Killed in action, Private Robert John Hughes, of the Welsh Guards, and formerly Police Constable at Shotton.



Pte. 1491 Jesse HUGHES enlisted 24th May 1915 aged 27 and 4 months in Birmingham, he was not married. After recovering from his wounds he returned to the Bn. although his family reported he was not able to move his wounded arm freely! Jesse was KIA on the 28th November 1917 in the Battle of Cambria (famous for the introduction of tanks in the battlefield). He was 29 years old and has no known grave and is remembered on the Cambrai Memorial in France (Panel 3) which commemorates more than 7,100 servicemen, 60 of them Welsh Guards who died in the battle between November and December 1917. Their graves are unknown. L/Sergt. 3659 Hugh HUGHES was attested on the 10th December 1915 aged 24 and 4 months in Liverpool under the Derby Scheme giving his occupation as a Police Constable. He had married on the 29th December 1916. Hugh was mobilized on the 2nd January 1917 and was promoted to L/Cpl. on the 29th January 1918, Cpl. on the 25th October 1918, L/Sergt. on the 11th January 1919. He was posted to France on the 23rd October 1917 in Draft 69 of 100 men. He received a GSW to his left hand on the 5th April 1918. Hugh was discharged on demobilisation on the 31st March 1920, his total service was 3 years and 123 days, and he re-joined the Liverpool Police Force. As with a number of other ex-soldiers, who had re-joined the Police force, he went on strike in the infamous Police strike of 1919. 954 Police Officers of the 1,874 in the Liverpool force went on strike regarding the particularly poor conditions which were well known in other police forces. No policeman who went on strike across the country were reinstated and all lost their pensions. Hugh divorced, and remarried, their first child, a daughter Heather, was born in October 1932, a technical draughtswoman, who was tragically killed on her moped in a road traffic accident aged 26 years old. A second child, a son Roland, was born in June 1939, who still lives in the Merseyside area, had 5 children and a number of grandchildren. After the war Hugh worked as a security guard for the National Coal Board, he was a reserve Policeman during WW2 and was credited for saving the life of a Post Office telephone linesman who was found lying unconscious in a manhole suffering from gas fumes. Hugh died aged 94 at the end of 1985.



1. Pte. 825 Robert John Hughes in hospital bed recovering from wounds January 1916. 2. Press reports of his death. 3. Pte. 1491 Jesse Hughes. 4. L/Sergt. 3659 Hugh Hughes, note wounded stripe on left sleeve and 2 years overseas service chevrons on right sleeve.

INDUSTRIAL WARFARE: Industrialisation played a major role in WW1. New military machinery could be produced at a much larger scale and at a much faster rate than before. With innovation technology, this led to the rise of rifled breeched loading infantry weapons capable of high rates of fire, high velocity breech-loading artillery, chemical weapons, armoured warfare, metal warships, submarines and aircraft. For the first time in a major conflict, more soldiers were to die from wounds than sickness. In the 2nd Boer War (Oct 1899-May 1902) over 60% of the 21,882 recorded deaths were caused by disease.

Between 27th February 1915 to 11th November 1918 the Welsh Guards suffered 822 casualties. 6% died due to sickness and disease, 28% died of wounds and 66% killed in action.

At the start of the war, it had been of movement, high drama and high casualties. From the beginning of 1915, war began to take on a different appearance, one more akin to siege warfare. The objective, however, was not a fortress but defensive trenches or mere ditches and dugout into no-mans-land, fortified by barb wire and any movement covered by machine guns and artillery. This Trench stalemate created new battlefield conditions, but this time under industrial conditions, with no opportunities for withdraw or pause. It is a misconception to think that soldiers were in the front line all the time, or that they were under constant attack or 'for ever going over the top'. The majority of their time was spent in the reserve, support or front line trenches, which over time caused a continuous drain of casualties.

TRENCH ROUTINE: There was a general pattern with each Battalion in the Brigade spending 4 days in the front line, 4 days in support and 4 days in Divisional reserves. Other than when a major action was underway, trench life was very tedious and physical work. Officers had to ensure there was a balance between the need for work against the enemy, building and repairing trench defences and for rest and sleep. In times of battle or extended alerts, routines would be broken, but such times were a small proportion of the time in the trenches. The main enemies were the weather and boredom. Table 1 (below) shows the Trench Roster for the 3rd Guards Brigade from 18th June to 6th July 1916 and the positions of the reserve Bn's.

TABLE 1 - 3RD GUARDS BRIGADE - TRENCH ROSTER FOR 18th JUNE - 6th JULY 1916

| UNIT | DATE | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1st Grenadier Gds. | R | R | R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R | R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R | R | R | R | R.R | R.R | R.R |
| 4th Grenadier Gds. | R.R | R.R | R.R | R | R | R | R | R.R | R.R | R | R | R | R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R.R | R | R | R |
| 2nd Scots Guards | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L | L | L | L | L | L | L | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L | L | L | L |
| 1st Welsh Guards | L | L | L | L | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R | L | L | L | L | L | L.R | L.R | L.R | L.R |

R = Bn. holding Right Sub - sector. Headquarters in X.9. near IRISH Farm. L = Bn. holding Left Sub - sector. Headquarters in LA BELLE ALLIANCE. R.R = Right Reserve Battalion, CANAL BANK. L.R = Left Reserve Battalion. Headquarters and 2 Companies TROIS, 2 Companies CANAL Bank. Brigade Headquarters CANAL BANK C.25.d.2 1/2.4. Battalions are shown in the trenches on the night on which they went in.

Table 2 shows the casualties of the Bn. whilst in the line, by day, between 18th June to 6th July 1916 which includes the raid on Mortaldje, July 1st - 2nd July 1916. A total of 124 Welsh Guards. POW Coy. suffered 1 Off. killed, 1 wounded, O.R. 2 killed and 23 wounded. No2 Coy. O.R. 2 killed and 12 wounded. No3 Coy. O.R. 2 killed and 30 wounded. No4 Coy. 1 Off. wounded, O.R. 6 killed, 30 wounded and 1 missing.

TABLE 2.- CASUALTIES BY CAUSE AND DATE - 18TH JUNE TO 6TH JULY 1916

| JUNE/JULY 1916 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | TOTALS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|--------|
| OFFICERS KIA | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| OFFICERS WOUNDED | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| OTHER RANKS KIA | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 20 |
| OTHER RANKS WOUNDED | 1 | 7 | - | 5 | 4 | - | 2 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 6 | 36 | 29 | 2 | - | - | - | 96 |
| OTHER RANKS MISSING | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| TOTALS | 4 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 43 | 37 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 |

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES: The front line, support and reserve trenches were the most dangerous place to be. Behind them was a mass of supply lines, training establishments, stores, workshops, headquarters in which the majority of troops were deployed. The trenches were the domain of the infantry, with the support of mortars and machine-gunners, engineers, medics and forward artillery observers. Many trench positions were held for few days before the next advance into no- man's-land and the new trenches were sometimes no more than 18 inches deep.

LIVING CONDITIONS: Trench life was a squalid affair, with so many men living in a constrained space. Scraps of food, empty tins and other waste, the nearby presence of a latrine, the general dirt of living half underground and being unable to wash or change clothes created conditions of severe health risks, not to mention the risk of being killed or wounded by artillery bombardment or sniper, machine gun fire. Vermin, rats and lice were very numerous; disease was spread by both, and by maggots and flies that thrived on the nearby remains of decomposing human and animal corpses.

SENTRY DUTY IN THE FRONT LINE: He has marched three to five miles, carrying his rifle, a hundred and twenty rounds of ammunition, a heavy pack, a spade and a bag of rations. If it is cold and raining he is sweating under the weight of the load he is carrying. On reaching the trenches his feet sink into glue like mud. His post is a step cut in the side of the trench which will allow seven or eight men to sit on. At night, he stands on the step, rifle in hand, bayonet fixed, staring out into no-man's-land for an hour until relieved. He may be able to rest for a couple of hours or he is detailed to digging or revetting the frontline. During the day, he may get longer intervals for rest. When it rains, his feet and clothes are wet. He is eventually relieved by another unit after 4 days or so, and marches back to billets with his load, minus the rations, but plus a considerable weight of mud and water. He rests in a dilapidated barn or rests in another trench, which may have the luxury of several bits of tin as a roof. Apart from enemy sniping, enemy trench raids and shells blowing up trenches in the front line, he is also often bombed or shelled during the days and nights that follow. Death or injury was all around. On the 27th September 1918 during the attack of Flesquieres a Welsh Guards party carrying Lewis Guns and ammunition from the reserve trenches to the front line, were hit by a stray shell, killing or wounding 18 men. On the morning of the 6th November 1918, 5 days before the armistice, the Bn. were in reserve billets at Amfroipret. The War Diary states that during a heavy barrage a shell landed amongst No4. Coy killing 4 and wounding another 27 men. Later reports reveal that 13 Welsh Guards were killed in action and 6 died on wounds on that day.



Welsh Guards in reserve trenches, September 1916 at Guillemont.

MAJOR OFFENSIVES: The Battalion's first action was at the Battle of Loos which commenced on the 25th September 1915 and ended on the 27th October 1915 when the Guards Division were withdrawn. On the 27th September the Welsh Guards went into the attack, resulting in 171 casualties. This equated to 14% of the strength of the Bn., 45 were killed in action, 9 died of wounds, 117 wounded, missing, or Prisoners of War. There were more major engagements as the war progressed which resulted in large casualty numbers. In the Somme area, the Bn. suffered 427 casualties between the 10th-25th September 1916, 110 killed in action, 23 died of wounds and 294 wounded or missing. At Cambrai (Gouzeaucourt) on the 1st December 1917, of the 370 men in the attacking waves, 248 were casualties in the first three minutes, of whom 64 were killed. During the 23rd-25th August 1918 the Bn. were attacking the enemy near St Leger, the Bn. suffered 142 casualties of which 29 were killed in action, 3 died of wounds a further 110 men were wounded or missing. On the 27th September 1918 the Bn. was assaulting the Canal du Nord which resulted in 87 casualties, 15 killed in action, the others wounded or missing. The Welsh Guards last action of WW1 was on the 6th November 1918 at Bavai. There were 94 casualties, 14 killed in action, 6 died of wounds and 74 were wounded or missing.

THE IMPERIAL WAR GRAVE COMMISSION: The mass deaths of British and Imperial soldiers created a crisis of commemoration. How could the bereaved come to terms with the mass losses, when they were buried so far from home, or had disappeared completely? Never had a nation, let alone an Empire as vast and multicultural as the British Empire, attempted to commemorate all its war dead from a given conflict. Space does not allow a detailed report of its formation and principles, but much credit should be given to Sir Fabian Ware KCVO KBE CB CMG who was shocked to find that there was no system in place to bury the dead or mark their final resting places. Early in the war, as a commander of a mobile ambulance unit he focussed exclusively on the graves of those who had died. The British Army Department of Graves Registration and Enquiries was created, with Ware at its head and The Imperial War Grave Commission was founded by Royal Charter on 21st May 1917. In 1960 its name was changed to THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVE COMMISSION.

Those who served in the armed forces and whose death occurred during the official war period, the 4 August 1914, the day of declaration of War by Great Britain and the 31st August 1921, the official end of the war are commemorated. Those who died in combat, injury or sickness during this period and those who died post-discharge as a result of their death having been aggravated by active service are commemorated. Further deaths followed outside this period that are not commemorated by the CWGC, as shown in the table 3, which were caused as a result of service in WW1. A soldier serving with the Welsh Guards had a 1 in 5 chance of either killed in action or to die of wounds.

TABLE 3.- TOTAL CASUALTIES BY CAUSE AND YEAR

| RANK | CAUSE | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922/25 | TOTALS |
|--------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Off. | Killed in Action | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 | - | - | - | - | 25 |
| Off. | Died of Wounds | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Off. | Died of Sickness | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Off. | Other Causes | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| O.R. | Killed in Action | 50 | 190 | 175 | 113 | - | - | - | - | 528 |
| O.R. | Died of Wounds | 25 | 62 | 66 | 78 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 235 |
| O.R. | Died of Sickness | 2 | 2 | 11 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 58 |
| O.R. | Other Causes | - | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 13 | 46 |
| TOTALS | | 83 | 266 | 263 | 235 | 12 | 7 | 17 | 20 | 903 |

FIRST WELSH GUARD TO DIE: was Pte. 1210 William George MATHIAS. He was one of many Police Constables who enlisted into the Welsh Guards and served in the Glamorgan Constabulary (No. 397) enlisting at Bridgend on the 17th April 1915. William was admitted to hospital on the 5th May 1915 with influenza and died on the 20th May 1915 aged 30 years and 5 months, from pneumonia. Footnote. On the 22th November 1918 the title of GUARDSMAN was given by the King as an honour granted *"as a mark of His Majesty's appreciation and pride of the splendid services rendered by the Brigade of Guards during the war."*

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST WELSH GUARDS KILLED: Two boys from a village near Blandford, Dorset enlisted on the 1st April 1915. Henry Edward Davidge gave his age as 18 years and 9 months and his occupation as an agricultural labourer. His friend, William Reed, gave his age as 18 years and 4 months. Sadly both died and their real ages then became apparent. Pte. 970 DAVIDGE was 17 years of age when he was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on the 27th September 1915, Pte. 971 Reed was 16 years of age and died on 7th October 1915 from gunshot wound to the abdomen he received the day before. Pte. 1467 Joseph ROSE gave his age as 34 years and his occupation as a labourer when he enlisted in Cardiff on the 16th May 1915. He was killed in action on the 21st June 1916 aged 43 years and is buried at Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, near Ieper. The Youngest Officer was 2/Lieut. POWELL, William Edward George Pryne Wynne, who served with the B.E.F from 16th August 1918 (draft 96) and was killed in action on 6th November 1918, 5 days before the Armistice trying to rush a light machine gun. He was 18 years of age and was originally buried at Buvignies, a small village behind the front lines. At the end of the war his grave was relocated to Maubeuge - Centre Cemetery in France Row C. 46. His death, as the only son and heir to the Nanteos Estate, ended the hereditary line of the Powell family name, which was also the case for many British families, rich or poor. The eldest Officer was 2/Lieut. BALLARD, Charles Edward Penfold who served with the B.E.F from 9th August 1917 (draft 62) and was posted to No 3 Coy. On the 10th March 1918 he was killed by a shell striking the entrance of his dugout near the Bn. HQ some distance from the front line. He was 49 years of age, married and is one of 8 Welsh Guards buried at Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux.



Pte. 1467 Joseph Rose grave in Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, near Ieper. One of 34 Welsh Guards buried in the cemetery.



W E G P W Powell at a young age and Memorial Plaque located near the altar at St. Pardarn Church in Llanbadarn, Fawr.

WOUNDED IN ACTION: A report by TJ Mitchell and GM Smith published in 1931, documenting the Medical Services, Casualties and Medical Statistics in WW1, revealed that 39% of all wounds occurred in the feet and legs; 31% in the hands and arms; 17% in the face, head or neck; 6.5% in the back; 4% in the chest and 2.5% in the abdomen. Flesh wounds accounted for 79% of all wounds that received medical attention. The report claimed, that over 80% of those wounded were returned to duty; some on several occasions. (See Table 4 below) A soldier could have received multiple wounds, but would only be recorded as 1 wound. 2361 Pte. John Owen PRITCHARD DCM enlisted at Liverpool on 10th November 1915 giving his occupation as a Carter. He was aged 20 years and 2 months He was wounded on 10th September 1916 during the Battle of Ginchy (The Somme) with a GSW to his left arm and buttocks. After recovering, he re-joined the Bn. and saw action at the Battle of Passchendaele. He was awarded the D.C.M for his actions on 19th July 1917 after the Bn. had taken over the front line by Boesinghe Chateau. The enemy shelling had been continuous and severe on all approaches to the line. Acting as guide to one of the relieving platoons, he was wounded in fifteen places, in completing his task after walking three miles to lead the platoon into the front line. Less than two months later he was back in action at Bourlon Wood in the Battle of Cambrai. He was killed in action on 28 November 1917.

TABLE 4.-TOTAL NUMBER OF A RECORDED WOUND 2032

| | 1 WOUND | 2 WOUNDS | 3 WOUNDS | 4 WOUNDS | 5 WOUNDS | TOTALS |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| RECORDED | 1308 | 274 | 45 | 9 | 1 | 1637 |

Pte. 2306 (2730131) Joseph MAGGS, was 24 years old when he enlisted into the Welsh Guards at Mountain Ash on the 6th December 1915. He gave his occupation as a haulier and was born in Pontypool. Joseph was one of the 95 men sent out to the Bn. in Draft No.16 on the 10th July 1916. 2 months later he was one of the 205 casualties the Bn. sustained at Ginchy when he received a GSW to his left leg. After his evacuation to the UK as a result of his wounds, he was returned to France once healed, in Draft No.74, one of 190 men. On the 10th August 1918 Joseph, who was an orderly to Lt. Toby Mathew, were both wounded by enemy activity and shelling of the front line. Joseph was severely wounded with shrapnel wounds to his face, and GSW to his right leg and left hand. Part of his nose and nostrils had been torn off and the rest of his remaining nose was severely damaged. Starting in March 1920 until February 1921, his nose was rebuilt by New Zealander Sir Harold Delf Gillies in a series of operations using skin grafts. Harold Giles was the first to develop plastic surgery operations to restore parts of the face that had been destroyed by war. The operations were a great success, but Joseph was discharged from the Army on 26th January 1921 'No longer fit for Military Service'.



Sequence of photographs showing the wounds to Joseph's nose before treatment, during and after treatment.

TABLE 5.-WOUNDED RETURNED TO DUTY - TOTAL DIED 150

| | 1 WOUND | 2 WOUNDS | 3 WOUNDS | 4 WOUNDS | 5 WOUNDS | TOTALS |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| KIA | 71 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 78 |
| DOWNS | 42 | 4 | 1 | - | - | 47 |
| DIED | 23 | 2 | - | - | - | 25 |
| TOTALS | 136 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 150 |

Sergt. 64 Isaac DAVIES, from Flint enlisted into the Coldstream Guards (12765) aged 28 years and 6 months on the 18th September 1914. He gave his occupation as an Iron Worker and was single. Having transferred to the Welsh Guards he quickly rose through the ranks and was appointed Sergeant on the 4th September 1915. He was recorded as being wounded on 3 occasions. The first was on the 2nd July 1918 with a light GSW to the forehead. He suffered from shell shock on the 10th July 1916 and was released from hospital after 24 days of treatment. On the 13th October 1917 he was wounded with a GSW to the head and left shoulder, left leg and shell wounds to the right buttock and leg, which resulted in part of his right leg being amputated in France. Isaac was evacuated back to England on the 17th November 1917 and admitted to the Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital, Whitchurch, near Cardiff. Due to gangrene his leg was re-amputated, in the middle thigh area on the 25th February 1918. After further treatment and with his wounds healing, he was discharged from hospital on the 28th May 1918 and discharged from the Welsh Guards on 31st January 1919, as being, 'No longer physically fit for War Service' He was awarded a pension of 22/9 shillings, equivalent approximately in today's money of £35.00 a week.



Pte. 889

Charles John Pritchard.



Private W. J. DAVIES, Welsh Guards, missing since the big battle at Loos in September, was employed at the Fernhill Colliery. Mrs W. J. Davies, 45, Caroline-street, Blaenrhondda, Treherbert, would be glad to hear from any of his comrades.

MISSING IN ACTION: In battlefield conditions it was not always known the fate of an individual. These men were officially recorded as 'missing'. Official enquiries were made via neutral channels to see if the man was a Prisoner of War, or that the enemy had definite knowledge that he was dead. After six months had elapsed, the man's death, would be presumed, as either KIA or DOW to have taken place on the last day he was known to be alive. 27 Welsh Guards, posted as missing, but confirmed as, Prisoners of War, all were repatriated after the armistice. Opposite right, Press cutting with the wife of Pte. 835 William John DAVIES seeking information on her husband after he was reported Missing In Action following the Battle Of Loos, 27th September 1915. He was officially confirmed as KIA on the 8th December 1915, and has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panel 10.

Above left, Pte. 889 Charles John PRITCHARD, enlisted on the 29th September 1915 at Bargoed. He was a Collier, married with one child, and was 23 years old. He was part of the 3rd draft to the Bn. on the 15th October 1915 of 2 Off. and 50 O.R. He was reported as Missing In Action on the 10th September 1916, and later confirmed as a Prisoner of War. Charles was repatriated on the 22nd November 1918 and discharged on the 9th September 1919. On the 17th September 1919 Charles re-enlisted into the South Wales Borders. (80411).

ATTRITION OF WAR: Towards the Armistice, battle experience lead to orders being amended to ensure that the Bn. would leave behind a number of men when going into action, to form a nucleus for rebuilding, in the event of heavy casualties being suffered. A total of 108 men of all ranks, consisting of a mix of instructors, trained signallers and other specialists, were to be left out. By the beginning of October 1918 reinforcements to the Bn. had almost ceased, the last Draft 106 (29th October 1918) of 1 Officer and 50 O.R. It was necessary to husband the men the Bn. possessed. Instructions of minute details had been issued on how the Bn. should be structured, as long as there was a minimum available strength of 642 to go into battle. In October 1918 the total strength of the battalion was 715, yet the actual fighting strength, men fit, to march into battle, was 399. The others being employed at Division and Brigade HQ, on courses, on leave, sick etc. In total there were 109 drafts to the Bn. made up of 183 Off. and 4512 O.R. a total of 4,695 men. This included men returning to duty after recovering from wounds or sickness. The last draft, the day before the Armistice, saw 3 Officers and 265 O.R. join the Bn.

SICKNESS: Although soldiers were lost due to physical injuries sustained during their time in the front line or battle, others suffered from disease, from poor living conditions, food shortages, and lack of personal hygiene in the trenches. Soldiers were admitted to hospital with sickness and medics found themselves fighting a war against disease as well as injury. Lack of medicine and pharmaceutical knowledge meant that many diseases had no cure. **TRENCH FOOT:** This was an infection which made soldiers' feet turn red or blue in colour. It was a major problem and was caused by the wet, cold and unsanitary conditions, with men standing in waterlogged trenches for long periods without being able to move their legs or remove their socks. As the condition worsened it would make their legs numb and lead to gangrene and often amputation. The only solution was for the soldier to be able rinse their wounds in lukewarm water, dry their feet, and change their socks several times a day. **TRENCH FEVER:** The cause was a bacterium found in body lice. Body lice would grow in the soldiers' clothing by clinging onto the seams of cloth. In order to get rid of the lice, soldiers would run flames along the seams of their clothes. It was easily transmissible amongst soldiers and lasted for a period of five days. The symptoms included muscle aches, headaches, high temperatures, sores on the skin and continuous attacks of fever. Soldiers could contract the disease more than once. **TRENCH MOUTH:** A combination of poor oral hygiene/emotional stress and poor diet, lack of rest and heavy smoking caused enduring gum pain that eating, swallowing and even talking was frequently difficult. Often painful swellings in the glands in the throat and neck occurred. **INFLUENZA:** This devastating disease resulted in more deaths than war battle casualties. Victims would develop a deadly type of pneumonia and would suffer headaches, aching muscles, a persistent cough, fever, weakness, a sore throat and blood poisoning, death would normally incur within days. **DIABETES:** Often ended in death for many sufferers, as the discovery of insulin was still 20 years away. Soldiers suffering from the disease had to follow strict diets which limited their food intake to some extent. There was no cure and death would soon follow after diagnosis. **HEART DISEASE:** A Heart defect was extremely difficult to detect and diagnose in wartime. Hereditary heart disease in adults was common and Officers and soldiers were discharged if they were suspected of having heart problems.

VENEREAL DISEASE: The First World War served as a breeding ground for sexually transmitted diseases. At the time, the cure for VD was very expensive, time consuming and largely ineffective. **TUBERCULOSIS:** There were two stages to TB. The primary and the secondary stage. It was very rare to diagnose the primary stage, but if diagnosed with the secondary stage, then they were at high risk of suffering from lung failure. Symptoms included a cough, blood spectrum, weight loss and a high temperature. There were no effective medicines to treat the disease. **SHELL SHOCK:** This term described the post-traumatic stress soldiers suffered during the war. Symptoms included insomnia, inability to walk or talk and panic attacks. There was speculation that the explosions of bombs caused shockwaves in soldiers' brains. Also, it was believed carbon monoxide from explosions damaged the brain tissues. 61 Welsh Guards died of some form of illness between 1918-1925, who served in WW1. 25 died during 1918, with 2 dying on the Armistice Day, 11th November 1918.

Pte. Alfred James 128 BARLOW. MM, a railway porter enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (12541) in January 1906 at Bristol at the age of 18 years, for 3 years service in the Army. He was mobilized from the reserves on the 5th August 1914 and served with the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) from 19th October 1914 to 3rd December 1914 when he was evacuated back to the UK suffering from Frostbite. On transferring to the Welsh Guards he served with the Bn. from 17th August 1915 until the 2nd November 1918, being evacuated back to the UK after receiving a gun shot wound to the head on the 20th October 1918. Alfred was admitted to Runcorn Vicarage Hospital and died in the early hours (2.30am) on the morning of the day of the Armistice of Bronchial Pneumonia aged 32. His wife, Eva Theresa was present at his death. They had married in October 1909. On the 19th May 1919 the Ministry of Pensions awarded her a pension of 33 shillings and 9 pence a week, (approximately £50 a week in today's money) for her and her 4 children, a daughter aged 7, twin boys aged 5 and a son aged 2. Pte. Barlow is buried in the Bristol (Arnos Vale) Cemetery.

| REPORT OF DEATH (All deaths are at once to be specially reported to the Officer Commanding the Corps, and to the Officer Commanding the Station on this portion of the Form, which is also to be used for all communications regarding a death or burial. | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-------------------------------------|-----|----------|--|--|--|
| Regtl. No. | Rank | Name and Corps | Age | Religion | Disease | Time and Place of Death | Period after which Interment may take place. |
| 128 | Pte | Barlow Alfred 1st. Welsh Guards. | 32 | C.E. | Bronchial Pneumonia | 3-3055, 11-11-1918 Runcorn Vicarage Aux. Hospital, Runcorn. | 48 Hours. |
| To Officer in Charge Records, Welsh Guards, Buckingham Gate, London. | | | | | R.A.M.C. Medical Officer in Charge. 1st Western General Hospital | | |



L/Sergt. 1245 Frank Trott in
Police uniform

| POST OFFICE | | TELEGRAPHS. | | Office Stamp. |
|---|---|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Handed in at | Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Words | Charges to 1917 | |
| 3-35 | FAZAKYRLEY LPOOL OHMS 35 | | | |
| WITH FORM MUST ACCOMPANY ANY ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM. | | | | |
| TO | O I / C RECORD OFFICE WELSH GUARDS F BUCKINGHAM GATES LONDON | | | |
| SGT - 777 REGRET 128 PTE BARLOW A 1 ST WELSH GUARDS DIED RUNCORN VICARAGE HOSPITAL 11/11/18 SUFFERING FROM PNEUMONIA WIFE PRESENT AT DEATH KINDLY INFORM DEPOT = WOUNDED LIVERPOOL + | | | | |

L/Sergt. 1245 Frank TROTT was born in Bristol before moving to Pontypridd. He worked as a plate layer for a railway company and then served with the Glamorgan Constabulary in Porthcawl. Frank enlisted into the Welsh Guards on the 24th April 1915 aged 26 years and 6 months in Bridgend. Frank was wounded in the chest whilst defending a German counter-attack and after treatment at a hospital at Rouen was evacuated back to Britain in September 1916. After convalescing, Frank helped train new recruits to the Regiment before being discharged to the reserves in June 1918. On his release, he re-joined the Police Force and married on the 21st October 1918 in St. John's Church, Newton Nottage, Bridgend. Less than a month later Frank succumbed to pneumonia, which was complicated by the wounds he had received on the Somme. He died on 11th November 1918 and was buried 3 days later in the churchyard of the church he had been married in, just a few weeks before.

THE SILVER WAR BADGE: was instituted in 1916 and awarded to military personnel who had served at home or overseas during the war and who had been discharged under King's Regulations. The most common reason was on account of being 'permanently unfit for further military service' due to wounds or sickness. It was awarded in retrospect to men discharged in 1914 or 1915 who met the criteria. The issue of badges ceased on the 31st January 1919 and no man discharged after that was eligible for a badge. The SWB also served a practical purpose. Men of military age who were not obviously in the Armed Services were often accosted or insulted by civilians for shirking their patriotic duty. The badge served as an outward symbol that the wearer had served the country honourably. A total of 827 SWB were awarded to soldiers' who served in the Welsh Guards in WW1. 358 men were discharged due to sickness, 429 due to wounds and 40 for other reasons not stated. Of these men, 697 served overseas.

BURIAL OF THOSE WHO DIED: Some died alone, killed by a chance shell, grenade or bullet, many died together as they attacked or defended against attack. Men died of wounds they had suffered, at the medical facilities along the casualty evacuation chain. Men killed by a sniper, or shell explosion in the front line would have been identified by comrades, NCOs or Officers and probably buried close to the front line. Very often the bodies of men KIA or DOW during an attack could not be brought in because the area was under enemy fire. When the fighting ceased, the bodies would be buried if possible, in cemeteries or burial plots still close to the front line. Identification would often be through pay books, tags, and other physical means by men who many not of known the individuals. Many thousands of small burial plots were created on or very close behind battlefields. Plots were often destroyed as the grounds were shelled and the location of many graves that had been registered and known, were made uncertain. Cemeteries were created at most of the places where Clearing Stations and the less mobile Base Hospitals were located. In most case of these burials a Chaplain was in attendance. Some of these cemeteries suffered from shellfire or other war damage, particularly as those laid out in 1914-1917 were overrun by the enemy and then with the counter-attacking by the Allies in 1918. After the end of the war, parts of the battlefields were taped into grids and searched at least six times for remains.

WELSH GUARDS BURIALS: 25 Off. and 528 O.R. were killed in action. Of these casualties, 16 Off. and 266 O.R. are buried in 47 different cemeteries in France and Belgium. Of the 7 Off. and 235 O.R. who died of their wounds, 5 Off. and 215 O.R. are also buried in these cemeteries. There were 4 Off. and 104 O.R non-battlefield deaths, mainly from sickness, some from natural causes, and other reasons not necessarily accurately reported. 72 saw active service with 24 being wounded. 17 are buried abroad.

Director of Graves Registration & Enquiries.

Desire to forward as requested a Photograph of
the Grave of:—

Name Hansen.

Rank and Initials L/Cpl. F. N.

Regiment Welsh Guards.

Position of Grave Brandhoek.

New Military Cemetery No

Nearest Railway Station Vlaametinghe, or
Ypres

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote
the number HLG/34/712 and be addressed to:—

Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,
War Office,

Winchester House,

St. James's Square,

London, S.W. 1.



L/Cpl. 1197 Frank Norman HANSEN, from Newport, enlisted on the 20th April 1915, was single and gave his occupation as a Labourer. He DOW on 3rd July 1916 and is buried in Brandhoek Military Cemetery, grave reference (II. F. 12). Following a request from his mother, to the Graves Registration, they supplied a photograph of his grave, the wooden cross being replaced by a CWGC headstone at a later date.

BRANDHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY was approximately 5 miles from the front lines and was within a comparatively safe area from shell fire. Field ambulances were posted there continuously and the Military Cemetery was opened in May 1915 in a field adjoining the dressing station. This cemetery contains the largest number of Welsh Guards burials, 2 Off. and 32 O.R. 29 were KIA and 5 DOW.

REVISED COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Army Form W. 3372.

REPORT No. 7.

SCHEDULE No. 100/10

Commune: GOUZEAUCOURT.

PLACE OF BURIAL GOUZEAUCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57c. W. 6. a. 4. 4.

This Report cancels all previous Reports.
The following are buried here:—

| Regiment | No. | Name | Rank and Initials | Date of Death | Graves Erected or G. R. U. I. | Graves No. |
|--|------|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | MEMORIAL NOT (cont'd) | | | | |
| 17/248 R.G.A. | | Believed to be buried in this Cemetery | | | | |
| | | 101641 VARNHILL | HER. B. | 27-9-18 | E. 17 | ✓ |
| 10/E.R.R.C. | 2168 | WATTS | RM. B. | 4-4-18 | E. 17 | ✓ |
| "Killed near this spot on the 1st December 1917" were the undermentioned Officers and men of the | | | | | | |
| WELSH GUARDS " | | | | | | |
| | | RODERICK HARGRAVES | CAPT. R.S. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | LIEUT. R.W. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | 2/LT. A.C. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | 3/LT. T.H. | | | |
| | | 3283 GILLES | PTE. G. | | | |
| | | 1843 GILLES | PTE. B.E. | | | |
| | | 2343 BAKER | PTE. G.H. | | | |
| | | 3093 CORREY | PTE. G.O. | | | |
| | | 2010 WOODLEY | PTE. W.T. | | | |
| | | 2264 DRESSING | PTE. W. | | | |
| | | 2168 WILLIAMS | PTE. K.F. | | | |
| | | 2313 LERO-TUSON | PTE. A.W. | | | |
| | | 3893 DRAPER | PTE. A.H. | | | |
| | | 3861 HOPE | PTE. H. | | | |
| | | 3604 HENRIKSEN | PTE. J.F. | | | |
| | | 1870 HILL | PTE. T.G. | | | |
| | | 1760 EDWARDS | PTE. W. | | | |
| | | 3693 JONES | PTE. T.O. | | | |
| | | 3483 JONES | PTE. F. | | | |
| | | 2092 JONES | PTE. W.P. | | | |

REVISED COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Army Form W. 3372.

REPORT No. 7.

SCHEDULE No. 110/10

Commune: GOUZEAUCOURT.

PLACE OF BURIAL GOUZEAUCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 57c. W. 6. a. 4. 4.

This Report cancels all previous Reports.
The following are buried here:—

| Regiment | No. | Name | Rank and Initials | Date of Death | Graves Erected or G. R. U. I. | Graves No. |
|--|-----|--|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | MEMORIAL NOT (cont'd) | | | | |
| | | 3590 CHIFFINIS | PTE. R.W. | | | |
| | | 2977 HEMERY | PTE. W. | | | |
| | | 1660 FRINCO | PTE. J. | | | |
| | | 3002 EDWARDS | PTE. J. | | | |
| | | 3616 BOSWELL | PTE. W.T. | | | |
| | | 3448 BOSWELL | PTE. T. | | | |
| | | 3601 ROBERTS | PTE. R.O. | | | |
| | | 2092 FARMHILL | PTE. K. | | | |
| | | 3580 JONES | PTE. T. | | | |
| | | 3560 JONES | PTE. R.P. | | | |
| | | 3135 O'BRIEN | PTE. K. | | | |
| Of the above the following are buried in this Cemetery:— | | | | | | |
| | | RODERICK | CAPT. R.S. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | 2/LT. A.C. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | 3/LT. T.H. | | | |
| | | RODERICK | 3/LT. T.H. | | | |
| | | 3283 GILLES | PTE. G. | | | |
| | | 1843 GILLES | PTE. B.E. | | | |
| | | 2343 BAKER | PTE. G.H. | | | |
| | | 3093 CORREY | PTE. G.O. | | | |
| | | 2010 WOODLEY | PTE. W.T. | | | |
| | | 2264 DRESSING | PTE. W. | | | |
| | | 2168 WILLIAMS | PTE. K.F. | | | |
| | | 2313 LERO-TUSON | PTE. A.W. | | | |
| | | 3893 DRAPER | PTE. A.H. | | | |
| | | 3861 HOPE | PTE. H. | | | |
| | | 3604 HENRIKSEN | PTE. J.F. | | | |
| | | 1870 HILL | PTE. T.G. | | | |
| | | 1760 EDWARDS | PTE. W. | | | |
| | | 3693 JONES | PTE. T.O. | | | |
| | | 3483 JONES | PTE. F. | | | |
| | | 2092 JONES | PTE. W.P. | | | |
| Also 12 UNKNOWN WELSH GUARDS buried | | | | | | |
| | | Plot 1, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 2, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 3, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 4, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 5, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 6, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 7, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 8, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |
| | | Plot 9, Row 1, Graves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. | | | | |

Grave Registration Report Form detailing the known and unknown graves of Welsh Guards buried in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, France, and Welsh Guards known to have been killed near the cemetery on the 1st December 1917.



UNIDENTIFIED WELSH GUARDS BURIALS: On the 1st December 1917 the Bn. were given the briefest of orders to capture the Gonnellieu ridge and the high ground to the south, near the village of Gouzeaucourt, and the town of Cambrai, in France. None of the promised Tank support arrived, there had been no time for proper reconnaissance, and no proper maps. As the advance began at 6.30am the leading companies were caught by star shells and then enfilading machine gun fire. Within three minutes 4 Off. and 60 O.R. had been killed, and 184 men wounded.

Gouzeaucourt village was captured on the 12th-13th April 1917. It was lost on the 30th November 1917 and recaptured the same day. It was lost again on the 22nd March 1918 and retaken on 8th October 1918. The GOUZEAUCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY was begun in November 1917, taken over by the Germans in 1918 and used again by Commonwealth forces in September 1918. The Graves Registration Report Forms (shown on opposite page) confirms that 4 Off. and 27 O.R. were killed near the cemetery on the 1st December 1917. (Footnote. Some names are incorrectly spelt). It also reports that 3 Off. and 7 O.R. identified corpses are buried in the cemetery and 18 unidentified Welsh Guards KIA on the 1st December 1917 are also buried in various plots. It is likely that the graves of those unidentified, were destroyed in the ebb and flow of battles and any means of identification had been destroyed.



CWGC JOINT OR COLLECTIVE WAR GRAVES: Joint graves containing two war dead of co-mingled remains or a single grave dug to extra depth but containing two separate burials are commemorated by single headstone. Adjoining graves spaces containing two war dead, whose remains are co-mingled are commemorated by two headstones, one for each casualty, that are touching. Collective graves contain three or more war dead and are either a single grave containing co-mingled remains, a single grave containing individuals at different levels, adjoining grave spaces which contain multiple burials, the remains of all of which are co-mingled or a trench grave, a burial of multiple dead, shoulder to shoulder, within a continuous trench. Trench graves are marked by headstones almost or actually touching each other. Each burial will have an individual grave number.

LAGNICOURT HEDGE CEMETERY, in France, was begun in June 1917 and used until November 1917. Plot I was completed by the Guards Division in September 1918. This cemetery contains the graves of 67 First World War Commonwealth casualties, one of which is unidentified and 15 burials of other nationalities. There are 3 Coldstream, 2 Scots, 1 Irish and 9 Welsh Guards graves. The Cemetery contains 2 collective graves of Welsh Guards KIA on the 15th and 16th September 1918. On the 15th September 1918 after 3 days in the reserve line the Bn. were relieved by the 2nd Bn. Scots Guards. During this relief a shell landed amongst a platoon from No2 Coy. killing 5 men and wounding a further 9 men. The Bn. diary reports that enemy activity was quiet on that date. The five men killed were Pte. 3317 Charles COLDRICK from Colne who enlisted aged 18 years on 3rd January 1916. Pte. 3564 Clifford COSH was 21 years 6 months and from Cardiff who enlisted on the 11th December 1916. Pte. 3679 George PAYNE a labourer from Newmarket was approaching his 19th birthday on his enlistment on the 2nd February 1917. The remains of these 3 Welsh Guards are interned in a joint grave I. B. 7. The second joint grave, I. B. 10 contain the remains of Pte. 987 Pte. Joseph INMAN, a Police Constable from Swansea who enlisted on 12th April 1915 aged 24 years and 5 months and had been wounded on 2 previous occasions. 1265 Pte. Burgess BEACH, from Llanover a labourer aged 18 years and 6 months enlisted on the 24th April 1915. He was wounded with a GSW to his right foot on 16th September 1916 during the battle of the Somme. Some 6 days before this L/Cpl 2004 Herbert TIMBERLAKE a painter from Wrexham was wounded in the shoulder on the 10th September 1916. He had enlisted on the 29th September 1915 aged 26, he was the father of 5 children.



BURIAL RETURN.

1500

KONGOVERAL 189-553/5

REGISTERED OFFICE,
FRANCE & BELGIUM
CANCELLED BY

LONDON CEMETERY AND EXTENSION, LONGUEVAL, FRANCE: The original London Cemetery at High Wood, was begun when 47 men of the 47th Division were buried in a large shell hole on the 18th and 21st September 1916. Other burials were added later, of men who had died on the 15th September 1916. The cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from surrounding battlefields and buried in the London Cemetery Extension. Buried here, are 11 Welsh Guards who were KIA on the 10th September 1916 during the Battle of Ginchy. 5 Welsh Guards buried in the field, were exhumed as 'an Unknown British Soldier' and re-buried in a Collective Grave, 9. E. 10-1 5, after identification of artifacts found on, or near their body remains. (See Burial Return form on opposite page detailing the means of identification). Sergt. 62 Robert John RICHARDS from Swansea, a shop assistant, enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (19197) on the 7th September 1914 aged 25 years and 5 months before transferring to the Welsh Guards. Sergt. 29 Albert John Oliver HUMPHREYS also enlisted into the Grenadier Guards (16089) on the 8th October 1912 aged 18 years of age before transferring and gave his occupation as a moulder in the steel and iron works. He was awarded the Military Medal for 'Bravery in the Field' which was published in the London Gazette, dated 29th July 1916. Pte. 715 John MONK a collier, was not married and aged 19 years when he enlisted on the 9th March 1916. Pte. 533 William WATSON from Castlefield, York, enlisted at the age of 19 years and 5 months into the Grenadier Guards (21315) before transferring to the Welsh Guards. He gave his occupation as a miner and was not married.

On the 27th September 1918 the Bn. was assaulting the Canal du Nord which resulted in 87 casualties, 15 KIA. Three of those KIA were Cpl. 61 Albert Lawless who had enlisted on the 2nd September 1914 into the Grenadier Guards (18429) aged 22 years and 4 months, he was married and his occupation was a grocers assistant. He transferred to the Welsh Guards on the 27th February 1915 and was promoted to Cpl. on the 3rd May 1916, Pte, 3220 Frederick George Hallett, a labourer, married, enlisted on the 21st February 1916. Pte. 3823 Thomas James Moore was a butcher, married and was 26 years and 6 months old when he enlisted. Their remains were exhumed from the battle field after the end of the war and laid to rest in a combined grave in LOUVERAL MILITARY CEMETERY, DOIGNIES.



Original grave marker and final resting place in LOUVERAL MILITARY CEMETERY, DOIGNIES, France.

HEADSTONES OF THE FALLEN: Most of the headstones were made from Portland Stone. To find the right words for cemeteries the Imperial War Graves Commission turned to Rudyard Kipling, whose own son had died on the Western Front and whose body was never found. For the Stone of Remembrance, he selected a short phrase from the Bible, 'Their Name Liveth For Evermore'. For graves of soldiers whose bodies couldn't be identified, the words, 'A Soldier of the Great War' would be added on their headstone. Underneath were the words 'Known unto God' added at the end, each soldier being acknowledged as an individual, a real person. Some relatives of those who died were unhappy with the policy forbidding repatriation of remains back to the UK. To appease them, and acknowledge religious considerations, personal messages became a feature. Families could choose to inscribe a message, and often encouraged to pick lines from a text of prayer. More personal messages were also permitted, however the graves commission retained power of rejection and there was a limit of '66 letters'. Personal inscriptions were initially charged at 3 and a half pence per letter, but this was changed to a voluntary contribution after many families were unable to afford payment. Also, some relatives refused to believe or accept that their love one had died, and therefore submitted no added personal inscription!

WAR MEMORIALS: After the war ended, memorials were built to bear the names of those who could not be identified. 313 Welsh Guards, 10 Off. and 303 O.R. have no known grave and their sacrifice is remembered on 8 different memorials in France and Belgium. The ARRAS MEMORIAL, (France) commemorates 35,000 servicemen who died in the Arras sector between spring 1916 and August 1918. 18 Welsh Guards are commemorated who were KIA in March 1918. The CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, (France) commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen who died during the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917. 61 Welsh Guards who died, mainly in December 1917 are commemorated. The LOOS MEMORIAL (France), commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who fell in the area, from the first day of the Battle of Loos in 1915 to the end of the War. These include the 5 Off. and 52 O.R. who died during the BN. first action on 27th September 1915. The THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, (France), the memorial to the 'Missing for the Somme', bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in this sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. 110 Welsh Guards who died during September 1916 are honoured. The MENIN GATE is one of four memorials to the missing in the Belgian Flanders sector which covers the Ypres Salient area. This site was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. 22 Welsh Guards are commemorated, 20 who died in July 1917 and 2 whose graves were lost, who had died in July 1916. The TYNE COT MEMORIAL bears the names of 35,000 men, including 35 Welsh Guards who were KIA in October 1917. The VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period of 8th August 1918 to the date of the Armistice. 10 Welsh Guards KIA between the end of August - October 1918 are commemorated.

| WELSH GUARDS | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| CAPTAIN | PRIVATE | PRIVATE |
| PALMER A.R.D.S.O. | ARROWSMITH H. | HOUSE E.J. |
| LIEUTENANT | BOWEN W.A. | JACOBS H. |
| MAWEY E.G. | BRIDGES W.R. | JONES R. |
| RANDOLPH J. | CLARKE A.A. | LANGABEER R.E. |
| SUTTON H.J. | CLARKE E. | LLEWELLYN E. |
| SECOND LIEUT. | CLEMENTS W.E. | MARKLONE G.C. |
| SMITH R. | CRADDOCK J. | MORGAN A. |
| LGE SERJEANT | DAVIES D.H. | MORGAN H. |
| OWEN M. | DAVIES T. | MORGAN T. |
| CORPORAL | DAVIES W.J. | PALMER A. |
| HUNT F.C. | DUNFORD H.D. | PLAISTON H.A. |
| LGE CORPORAL | EAST T.V. | POUND H.J. |
| EMANUEL J. | EDWARDS D.J. | REED W. |
| HANBY A. | ELLIS E. | REEVES E.L. |
| HOUVER A. | ELLIS H.J. | ROW H.D. |
| LEWIS A. | EVANS B. | ROWLANDS D. |
| | EVANS D.W. | ROWLANDS E.L. |
| | EVANS W.E. | SOLMAN G. |
| | GRANT D.C. | THOMAS W. |
| | GUPPY E. | IN-YANNI |
| | HARDING E. | TANNER W. |
| | HENWOOD W.T. | WILKES R. |
| | HOPKIN S. | WOSSELD H.J. |



Welsh Guards commemorated on the Loos Memorial (above). Thiepval Memorial commemorates 110 Welsh Guards who have no known grave (right).

DEMOBILISATION: The process and timing depended on the individuals terms of service. Soldiers of the regular army, who were still serving their normal period remained in the Army until their years were completed. Men who had volunteered, or were conscripted and had scarce industrial skills (including miners) were released early. Those who had volunteered early in the war were given priority treatment. The British Army still had commitments to fulfill, and it was practically impossible to process all the men in a short period of time. British forces decreased from about 3.8 million at the Armistice to around 900,000 in late 1919 and down to 230,000 by 1922. On the 28th December 1918 the Welsh Guards demobilisation commenced with the dispatch of 8 policemen and 5 minors from the Bn. and on the next day 213 miners and 4 policemen. The Bn. was then reduced to half strength and the last draft, which was composed largely of young miners, had gone home within a few weeks of their arrival. The Battalion returned to the United Kingdom on the 12th March 1919.



French Postcard of the Allied Victory parade in Paris 14th July 1919. Colour Party Cpts. P Battye and Keith Menzies. Escort D/Sgt. 351 Dunkley, Sgt. 41 Evans, L/Sgt. 25 Lawson MM.

The author of this report has interpreted information that he has researched from various sources which may be different to those held by the Regiment. The information has been submitted in good faith and accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies or mis-information.

The author thanks Gareth Hughes (grandson of L/Sergt. 3659 Hugh Hughes) for his co-operation and for forwarding information regarding the Hughes brothers.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2022

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--|
| JANUARY | | |
| FEBRUARY | | |
| MARCH | Tue 1st | St David's Day with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards Windsor |
| APRIL | Mon 18th | Household Division Championships Spring Golf meeting, Worplesdon GC |
| | Fri 22nd | Association Annual General Meeting, location TBC |
| | Fri 22nd | Biennial Lunch, Angel Hotel, Cardiff |
| | Thu 28th | Colonel in Chiefs (Golf) Cup, 1st/2nd Rounds at Worplesdon GC |
| MAY | Sun 8th | Welsh Guards Association Handicap (A Day at the Races) Ludlow |
| | Sat 21st | Queen's Birthday Parade - Major General's Review |
| | Wed 25th | Association Golf Meeting - location tbc |
| | Thu 26th | Welsh Guards Club Dinner, Cavalry & Guards Club, London |
| | Sat 28th | Queen's Birthday Parade - Colonel's Review |
| JUNE | Thu 2nd | Queen's Birthday Parade - Trooping The Colour |
| | Wed 8th | Welsh Guards Club Committee Meeting |
| | Sun 12th | Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Service, Pangbourne |
| | Tue 14th | Royal British Legion Falklands 40th Commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum |
| | Tue 21st - Fri 24th | Welsh Guards Falkland Islands Memorial Ride of Respect |
| | Wed 25th | 40th Falklands Memorial Service and Reunion - Wrexham |
| | Wed 29th | Association Golf Meeting - location TBC |
| JULY | Tue 5th | Household Division Beating Retreat |
| | Wed 6th | Household Division Beating Retreat |
| | Thu 7th | Household Division Beating Retreat |
| | Sun 10th | Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Annual Summer Luncheon |
| | Wed 27th | Association Golf Meeting - location TBC |
| AUGUST | Wed 31st | Association Golf Meeting - location TBC |
| SEPTEMBER | Thu 8th | Household Division Championships (Summer Meeting) at Army Golf Club |
| | Fri 9th-Sat 10th | Household Division Golf Autumn Meeting at Royal St George's |
| | Sat 10th - Wed 14th | Association Battlefield Tour |
| | Thu 22nd | Colonel in Chiefs (Golf) Cup Semi Finals/Final at Worplesdon GC |
| | Sat 24th - TBC | Association Darts & Shoot Competition, Maindy Barracks |
| OCTOBER | TBC | Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Club Annual Dinner |
| NOVEMBER | Tue 1st | Association Secretaries Meeting Maindy Barracks, Cardiff |
| | Sun 13th | Regimental Remembrance Parade London |
| DECEMBER | | |

Please monitor the Welsh Guards Charity website and Welsh Guards Social Media for updates and additions to this forecast

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths
of the following members of the Welsh Guards Association:

22831216 David Walter Bannister

Died: 28th November 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 82
Served: 1955 to 1978

23523202 Gdsm Keith Bartlett

Died: 18th November 2021, Aged: 80
Served: 1957 to 1960

25057188 Gdsm Simon Bartlett

Died: 4th December 2020, Aged: 44
Served: 1992 - 2001

22217754 Gdsm Robert Belson

Died: 23rd August 2021, Aged: 86
Served: 1953 to 1956

Major JTH Coombs

Died: 9th May 2021, Aged: 75
Served: October 1966 to February 1980

Richard Panton Corbett Esq

Died: 17th May 2021, Aged: 83
Served: 1956 to 1958

Nicholas John Cunliffe-Lister, 3rd Earl of Swinton

Died: 21st March 2021, Aged: 81
Served: 1957 to 1959

23556523 Raymond David Davies

*Died: January 2021, Aged: 81
Served: 1958 to 1960

24221422 CSgt Anthony Brian Davies

Died: 26th September 2021, Aged: 66
Served: September 1970 to October 1993

***22831721 Mervyn James Delve**

Died: 14th April 2021, Aged: 81
Served: February 1957 to February 1961

***23523219 Harry Derrick**

Died: 19th January 2021, Aged: 80
Served: 1959 to 1962

***22831817 Michael Philip Edwards**

Died: 28th November 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 80
Served: 1957 to 1960

***23908639 William David Elliott**

Died: 1st November 2021, Aged: 71
Served: 1964 to 1969

***23877275 John Evans**

Died: 20th January 2021 (COVID-19), Aged: 80
Served: 1961 to 1970

***24431887 David Evans**

Died: 10th January 2021 (COVID-19), Aged: 62
Served: 1976 to 1993

24863775 Denis Elwyn Evans

Died: 17th May 2021, Aged: 56
*Served: 1989 to

***24506713 David Anthony Evans**

Died: 23rd August 2021, Aged: 58
Served: June 1979 to February 1993

Lieutenant Colonel S Fordham OBE

Died: 10th June 2021, Aged: 78
Served: 1963 to 1993

2740928 Kenneth Fredrickson

Died: 29th January 2021, Aged: 93
Served: 1945 to 1948

22831070 LSgt Anthony John Gething

Died: 21st May 2021 (COVID-19), Aged: 84
Served: 1954 to 1958

22217914 WO2 Reginald John Goode

Died: 9th June 2021, Aged: 84
Served: November 1953 to February 1977

22217393 Dmr Terence Henry

Died: 23rd January 2021, Aged: 84
Served: May 1951 to May 1952

25177517 Sgt Gavin Mark Hillier

Died: 4th March 2021, Aged: 35
Served: September 2003 to 4th March 2021

24402088 LCpl Michael Stephen Horton

Died: 14th September 2021, Aged: 63
Served: 1975 to 1993

***2738519 John Howell Hughes**

Died: 8th January 2021, Aged: 96
Served: December 1942 to June 1947

***23285578 Brian Erline Johns**

Died: 7th October 2018, Aged: 80
Served: 1956 to 1958

***22831926 Kenneth Glynne Jones**

Died: 12th March 2021, Aged: 81
Served: 1958 to 1961

***23523223 Brian Robert Jones**

Died: 10th January 2021 (COVID-19), Aged: 79
Served: 1959 to 1982

*Denotes missing some detail which we have been unable to ascertain

23523187 Thomas Henry Jones

*Died: December 2020, Aged: 80
Served: 1959 to 1981

23523552 Raymond Thomas Jones

*Died: in 2021, Aged: 82
Served: October 1960 to September 1965

***23124828 Oswald Colin Cranmer Jones**

Died: 11th November 2020, Aged: 83
Served: 1952 to 1955

***24125185 Richard Thomas Jones (aka Dicky Mint)**

Died: 22nd October 2021, Aged: 71
Served: June 1969 to April 1980

***23929615 David Meurig Lewis**

Died: 15th January 2014, Aged: 64
Served: September 1965 to March 1978

22831662 Sgt William Roy MacCallum

Died: 5th November 2021, Aged: 83
Served: November 1956 to November 1965

Ian William Ruthven Malcolm Esq

Died: 27th February 2021, Aged: 87
Served: 1952 to 1954

***24876324 Matthew James Morris**

Died: 26th November 2011, Aged: 39
Served: 1WG 1989 to 1995 RMP 1995 to 2005

24302752 WO2 Brian Lindsay Owen

Died: 25th November 2020 (COVID-19), Aged: 66
Served: 1972 to 1994

***24252500 Arthur Owen**

Died: 9th March 2021, Aged: 68
Served: 1971 to 1993

24841112 Matthew Peter Parr

Died: 21st April 2021, Aged: 51
Served: 1987 to 1994

2739251 LSgt William Powell BEM

Died: 30th September 2021, Aged: 96
Served: February 1944 to November 1947

The Reverend WLA Pryor

Died: 25th September 2021, Aged: 82
Served: 1957 to 1959

***23523495 Peter James Reardon**

Died: 28th June 2020, Aged: 87
Served: 1960 to 1969

***24844070 Neil Anthony Roberts**

Died: 18th January 2021 (COVID-19), Aged: 49
Served: 1988 to 1996

Michael James Evitt Robinson Esq FRICS

Died: 29th July 2020, Aged: 81
Served: 1958 to 1960

22594436 Gdsm Arthur George Rowland

Died: 3rd February 2021, Aged: 89
Served: October 1951 to October 1953

Simon Nicholas Ben Sayce Esq

Died: 16th April 2021, Aged: 79
Served: July 1961 - July 1965

22831657 William James Scott

Died: January 2021, Aged: 81
Served: 1956 to 1968

***23879442 Alan John Southard**

Died: 20th May 2021, Aged: 75
Served: 1963 to 1972

23929704 LSgt John Wallace Steele

Died: 4th April 2021, Aged: 82
Served: 1966 to 1989

22831679 Gdsm William Treasure

Died: 24th October 2021, Aged: 83
Served: December 1956 to December 1959

23929772 Gdsm Douglas Tyssul Tilley

Died: 15th May 2021, Aged: 74
Served: 1966 to 1973

2738263 Gdsm Brindley Llewellyn Waters

Died: 27th December 2020, Aged: 98
Served: 1942 to 1945

23586044 Gdsm James Webb

Died: 10th September 2021, Aged: 82
Served: 1958 to 1959

Major G White MBE

Died: 7th August 2021, Aged: 88
Served: 5th March 1953 to 17th October 1987

22491959 Gdsm Dennis John Wilkes

Died: 20th December 2020, Aged: 87
Served: 1951 to 1953

24898786 Barry Williams

Died: 20th February 2021, Aged: 50
*Served: 1989 to

24863002 Phillip Williams

Died: 26th March 2021, Aged: 49
Served: February 1989 - August 1993

24636017 Edward Mark Wynne

Died: 10th March 2021, Aged: 58
*Served: 1984 to



1. Gdsm Turner being awarded the Commanding Officer's Coin for outstanding effort, commitment and integrity.
2. LCpl Viavalevu being

3. awarded the Commanding Officer's Coin for outstanding effort, commitment and integrity Gdsm Woosnam receiving

4. the "Guardsman's Guardsman" award voted for by the rest of his peers. Capt E Griffiths being presented with the

Accumulated Campaign Service Medal by Lieutenant General RW Wooddisse CBE MC, Commander Field Army



5. CSgt Small being presented with the General Officer (GOC) Commanding London District Commendation for exemplary and dedicated service to Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command by the Commanding Officer.

6. SSgt Hammond RAPTC being with presented the General Officer (GOC) Commanding London District Commendation for exemplary and dedicated service to Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command by the

7. Commanding Officers Leadership Award presented to Sgt Lewis 88 (Sp Coy)
8. Commanding Officers Leadership Award presented to LSgt Lucas (2 Coy)
9. CSgt C Greaves being promoted to WO2 on

10. Sg Brown (Recce Plt, 3 Coy) being presented with the Commanding Officers award for Leadership by the Commanding Officer.

