



107 YEARS ~ 1915 - 2022

WELSH GUARDS

REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE 2022



Cymru Am Byth



**Her Majesty The Queen
21st April 1926 – 8th September 2022**



**Colonel-in-Chief Welsh Guards
6th February 1952 – 8th September 2022**

HM Queen Elizabeth II at the gates of Buckingham Palace taking the salute after the 1981 Queen's Birthday Parade
(Photo credit Reginald Davis/Rex Features)



WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL MAGAZINE

2022

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

His Majesty The King

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

His Majesty The King

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

Jiffy Myers MBE



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk,
London SW1E 6HQ

Contact Regimental Headquarters by Email:

welshguardsrhq@gmail.com

View the Regimental Website at:

www.army.mod.uk/welshguards

View the Welsh Guards Charity website at:

www.welshguardscharity.co.uk

Contact the Regimental Veterans Officer at:

welshguardsrvo@gmail.com



AFFILIATIONS

Royal Navy - HMS Prince of Wales

Australia - 5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment

Bond of Friendship, France - Régiment de marche du Tchad

City of London Livery Company - Worshipful Company of Drapers

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Cover photograph: Number Three Company, Op CORDED, Sgt Davies 47 briefing Brigadier C Swana, Zambian Army.

Operation LONDON BRIDGE

Regimental involvement in the Lying in State, State Funeral and The Committal of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

is covered by a separate detailed stand-alone report which is available to read online on the Welsh Guards Charity website at the following link:

www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/news-post/state-funeral-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii

Welsh Guards Crest



Fig 1



Fig 2

The Welsh Guards Crest as we know it (Fig 1) which contains what is commonly referred to as the "Queen's Crown" has been in use since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Succeeded to the throne on 6th February 1952 on the death of her father, King George VI. Prior to that the Welsh Guards Crest had always contained a Kings Crown as shown in this Welsh Guards Valise Badge from c1939 (Fig 2).

With the Succession to the Throne of His Majesty King Charles III on 8 Aug 22 on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, there is a requirement for the Welsh Guards Crest to be revised once again to incorporate the Heraldic Royal Crown (commonly but incorrectly called a King's Crown) – (Fig 3)



Fig 3

Altering all military cap badges to reflect the change in Sovereign with the associated change in the design of the Heraldic Royal Crown will be done centrally. Warrant Paintings (an A4 sized water colour) of each revised design of cap badge/crest will be commissioned (by MOD PS12) from the College

of Arms and then passed to HM The King for his personal approval. In the Army alone, there are over 70 different cap badges and crests though not all will need to change so it will take some months before the King has approved them all.

Once approved, each approved design of cap badge/crest will then need to be included into a Statement of User Requirement (SUR) together with other Regimental items that need to change as well – e.g., buttons, badges of rank insignia etc. This SUR will inform LEIDOS – the Defence Clothing Contractor – who in turn can then arrange either a contract amendment or new contracts to supply the items. It is likely that this process could take 3 to 4 years. This is not dissimilar to the process after the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 – it wasn't until 1956/57 that the majority of Regiments and Corps were wearing revised badges.

Aside from issued items of uniforms and accoutrements, there will be a requirement also to change all other items used regimentally, including the PRI shop i.e., lapel badges, wall plaques, tie, central crest on poppy wreaths etc – this will take quite some time and will not be completed until current stocks run out and the revised crest is approved and signed off by His Majesty.

Colonels-in-Chief

His Majesty King George V	- August 1915 – January 1936
His Majesty King Edward VIII	- January 1936 – December 1936
His Majesty King George VI	- December 1936 – February 1952
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II	- February 1952 – September 2022
His Majesty King Charles III	- September 2022

CONTENTS

Forewords

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	04
Commanding Officer	07

1st Battalion Welsh Guards

The Prince of Wales's Company	08
Number Two Company	12
Number Three Company	15
Support Company	18
Headquarter Company	23
Officers' Mess Update	39
Sergeants' Mess Update	41

Regimental Band

Distribution of Officers

Distributions of Warrant Officers

Honours and Awards

Training, Exercises and Deployments

Guards Company, Infantry Training Centre	54
RMAS	56
Kenya Liaison Officer	58
Life at the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK)	60
Exercise ASKARI STORM Kenya	62
Op SHADER – No 2 Coy deployment	64
NATO Mission Iraq	65
ZAMBATT VIII (Short Term Training Team) Case Study	67
Op CORDED (Kenya and Zambia)	69
Exercise URBAN INITIATIVE	71
Anti-Tank Platoon cadre	72
Op INTERFLEX	74
African Training Mission Somalia (ATMIS) ...	76
Training Team Uganda (UGABAG)	77

Sports and Adventure Training

Battalion Rugby	79
Battalion Football	81
Battalion Boxing	83
Battalion Golf	87
Regimental Golf	89
Association Golf	92
Polo - The Rupert Thorneloe Memorial Cup	95
Polo – Army Polo Tour to Egypt	97
The Welsh Guards Polo Season	99
Battalion Enduro	101
Battalion Running	102
Clay Shooting	103
Wales 500 Run and Fundraising	105
Lawson Cup – Household Division Athletics	108
Field Sports - Stalking	110

Sailing	113
Open Water Swim	115
Skiing – Ex FROSTED BLADE	117
Skiing – Ex TELEMAR TITAN	119

Battlefield Tours and Remembrance

Regimental Battlefield Tour 2022	121
Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour 2022	124
Regimental Representation at St Charles de Percy	128
Regimental Remembrance Sunday	130

40th Anniversary of the Falklands War

Roll of Honour	134
The Falkland Islands Freedom Scroll	135
Welsh Guards in the Falklands War	136
Wrexham Annual Falklands Reunion	140
HM Tower of London Commemoration ...	144
The Welsh Guards Ride of Respect	146
Anglesey Commemorative Walk	158
The Last Post - Diary of a Bugler	161
HMS Queen Elizabeth Reception	164
40th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Falkland Islands	165

Recruiting, Cadets, Community Engagement

Welsh Guards Recruiting	168
Millfield School Combined Cadet Force	170
Dulwich College Combined Cadet Force ...	172
HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade	175
Cadet Training Centre – Frimley	177
Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force Band	179
Paul Bromwell (24577415) Helping the Community	181

Individual Articles

Battalion St David's Day 2022	184
5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment	186
HMS Prince of Wales	190
Welsh Guards Painting Commissions	192
The Army School of Ceremonial	195
The Welsh Veterans Awards 2022	198
Life at the Army Training Regiment Winchester	202
My Welsh Guards Medal Collection	204
23877354 Harry Holland MM	209
The Guards Parachute Platoon	211
A Baltic Adventure	213
An Outsiders Perspective	216

HM The Queen/Kings Body Guard	217
A Welsh Guardsman in US Central Command	220
The Household Division Late Entry Officers' Association	222
Op SHADER Medal Parade	224
Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Club Dinner	226


Regimental Charity, Welfare and

Regimental Veterans Officers Report	228
Battalion Welfare Office Report	230
WRU Debentures	232
Fundraising (including Kim Burnell Report) .	233
How to donate	236

Welsh Guards Association

Secretary General's Foreword	238
Cardiff Branch Report	241
East Glamorgan Branch Report	242
Llanelli, Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire Branch Report	243
London Branch Report	245
Merthyr Tydfil Branch Report	247
Monmouthshire Branch Report	248
Montgomery, Shropshire and Midlands Branch Report	249
North Wales Branch Report	252
North of England Branch Report	256
Ogmore Branch Report	257
Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch Report	260
Welsh Guards Reunited Branch Report	261
Welsh Guards Collection Oswestry	264
St David's Day 2022	267
Association Biennial Lunch	269
Association Race Day Ludlow	271
Remembering Mike Jones 01	272
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting	274

Forecast of Events	277
In Memoriam	278



Colonel G R Harris DSO OBE, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

FOREWORD



I am sure for all of us the abiding memory of 2022 will be the death of Her Majesty The Queen and the period of national mourning where we saw the Nation come together in a show of unity and displaying deep affection for the Queen. Whilst the Queen's death was terribly sad, we have much to celebrate and remember over her long reign. The Queen's devotion to duty was second to none and we have so much to thank her for, not least being our Colonel-in-Chief for so many years. Our condolences go out to the King and members of the Royal Family for their profound loss and we wish our King every good fortune for his reign. Of course, we have also in Prince William, a new Prince and Princess of Wales a historically unique and important position within the Royal Family.

I am pleased that given our close connection to the Queen and the former Prince of Wales, that the Regiment were so heavily involved in Op London Bridge seeing us deployed in Cardiff, London and Windsor. During the Lying in State we provided four Watches of six hours each and this included the two Royal Vigils. We also provided five half Companies as street liners on the Mall and a marching detachment for the London Procession along with a number of Marshals. Others also involved in different roles as well including the Commanding Officer who commanded Section 2 in Windsor Castle and the Regimental Sergeant Major who acted as a Marshal at the door of Westminster Abbey as HM The Queen entered.

It was good to see how the Regiment rallied so well in a very short period of time with tight preparation schedules. I am grateful to all who took part, not least the many officers who travelled in from as far away as the USA, the Oman and Europe. An outstanding effort by all and I believe we can take pride on how we executed our many different duties.

Before covering other ground, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to our 2022 Regimental Magazine. I believe our magazine goes from strength to strength each year and captures Regimental history for that period, thereby ensuring future generations can look back and understand what occurred in that year. I commend all the many different articles to you and, once again, huge thanks to Major Martin Browne, the Editor and Assistant Regimental Adjutant, for all his dedication and hard work in again producing another tremendous magazine. Editing and putting the magazine together is a very

time-consuming business requiring continuous application. We owe so much to him.

I firmly believe that the Regiment remains in excellent shape. Whilst the Battalion are always busy, I am not sure I have ever seen them quite as busy as they are for a very long time. They have literally been spread to various parts of the globe including Iraq, Cyprus, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia and as I write this the Battalion are preparing a Company for a deployment to Belize. These deployments have differing training requirements and it is testimony to the Battalion's quality and versatility that they have readily adapted to them all. Of particular note has been the commitment to Op INTERFLEX, helping to train Ukrainian soldiers at Lydd training Camp over the summer and in the autumn. Despite all these operational commitments, The Prince of Wales's Company provided a Guard to take part in the Jubilee Pageant in June. With so many deployed in so many theatres,

Battalion Headquarters have had their hands full not just in ensuring they are mounted and successfully deployed but also managing G1 issues, career training and management to name but some. There is much detail in the Battalion sections of the magazine and where a greater understanding can be had of what the Battalion have been up to in 2022.

The Regimental Band continue to be at the forefront of Household Division and Regimental business. We have said farewell to Major Craig Hallett on promotion to become the RCAM Principal Director of Music and welcome Major Lauren Petritz-Watts, MSc, MMus (perf), BMus (Hons), GRNCM the first ever female Director of Music in the Foot Guards. As always, the Band are engaged on numerous fronts. As with others they have been busy this year with the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Platinum Jubilee weekend, the Musical Spectacular on Horse Guards and Op London Bridge. They have also taken

part in many other high-profile events such as the now world-famous Basel Tattoo in Switzerland not to mention events such as the FA Cup Final and providing the musical support for the F40 Commemorative Service at the NMA on 14 June. We remain ever appreciative of what they do for the Regiment and they remain an integral part of it.

It is good to see the Association thriving and I am delighted to see the London and Ogmore branches now firmly active, although they are not alone with many other branches doing the same including Welsh Guards Re-United. It has been a busy year for the Association holding a very successful bi-annual lunch in Cardiff in the spring and after a three-year absence due to COVID, the Association battlefield tour returned to Hechtel and also visited Ypres and the Somme. Over forty attended the tour in September and it was a resounding success and my thanks to Major Lyndon Davies who organised it so superbly. The Falklands 40 Commemorations this year



Op LONDON BRIDGE Vigil Party 1 - Left to Right. Front Row; Lt Col Henry Bettinson, Lt Col Guy Stone LVO, Lt Col John Livesey, Col Giles Harris DSO OBE, Lt Col Mark Lewis. 2nd Row; Maj Joseph Dinwiddie-Choat, Maj Tom Spencer-Smith, Maj Christopher Fenton, Maj Charlie Beare, Maj Evan Mathieson. 3rd Row; Capt Jonathan Leonard, Capt Edward Andersen, Capt Aaron Gould, Capt Simon Burfiend, Lt Felix Syms. Rear Row; 2Lt William Moss, Lt Cameron Clarke, 2Lt Tom Allan

The Welsh Guards Charity Trustees for 2022/23

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has seen many Association members participating not least at the NMA on 14 June and the annual service and parade in Wrexham on 25 June which was very well attended and my thanks to Captain Chris Hopkins for his continued excellent organisation of the day. Particular thanks should also go to Captain Jan Koops and Keith Lewis for organising the Walk of Respect and to Geraint and Jan Hughes for the Ride of Respect, both held in June and both very well attended. I applaud all the Branch Committees who keep the Association active on a daily basis and in particular the Secretary General, Maldwyn Jones, and the Deputy Secretary General, Neil Rice, who do so much in keeping our strong Association together.

It would be wrong for me not to mention Stan Evans and his cohort of dedicated volunteers who run the Welsh Guards Collection in Oswestry. It is a huge commitment but one which they voluntarily fill with great enthusiasm. They have spent the summer creating a new exhibition at the Collection, well worth seeing! I do urge you, if you are in that part of the country, to drop in and see what is a very fine Collection of our Regimental history.

Despite the economic situation and the impact of the war in Ukraine, the Welsh Guards Charity is in a relatively good place thanks to our Trustees and Rathbones, who manage our Charity portfolio. Our Trustees continue to give the Regiment and Charity outstanding service and we would not be in such a healthy place were it not for their dedication and experience. I must pay tribute here and thank Tony Cooper who stood down this year having served twenty five years as a Trustee (May 97 – May 22); he has always been at the heart of Trustees work and his wisdom and expertise will be missed.

We remain truly grateful and touched by the myriad of donations the Charity receives each year both from within and from outside the Regiment and it is very humbling to see so many who do fund raise for us. Fund-raising activities have included Wales 500, Hadrian's Wall Walk, lifting the equivalent weight of RFA Sir Galahad over a month, Pen-Y-Fan Walk / Ascent, a 3 Peaks Challenge, a 14 mile swim in the Thames, Op Ease Springs, sale of smoothies (a great many!) at a major music festival and there are many more in the pipeline. For all those who have donated or are planning to raise funds you have the Regiment's heartfelt thanks. This also includes our cohort of "Friends of the Regiment", who aside from the high value we place on their friendship, do so much to support our


charity. We are truly fortunate to have this group of special people.

Our affiliation with the Drapers Company remains as strong as ever and we were delighted to welcome a few of them on our battlefield tour to Portugal and Spain in May. The Master and Clerk were also able to join us for the Horse Guards Military Spectacular in July. We hope to be able to do more with the Drapers in 2023 once we are on the Blue Line but meanwhile we remain so proud of our affiliation to them and we thank them for all the support they give us.

In drawing to a close, mention must be made of Regimental Headquarters who drive the Regiment on a daily basis. Much of their work goes unseen, although all of it vital. As you all know, Colonel Tom Bonas steps down as Regimental Adjutant in early 2023 after 15 years in the post and having been in the Regiment for 50 years, not a bad milestone! A great deal has gone through his desk as Regimental Adjutant over those years and far too many to list here, but they include many highs and lows which he has managed with equal dedication, professionalism, humanity, and not a little flair too. We remain indebted to him and Vivien and I hope you will all take the opportunity to thank them over the next six months or so before Tom hands over.

Finally, we can look to the coming year with confidence and optimism and with much to look forward to. We will be Trooping for the King's first Birthday Parade for many a year. I commend the magazine to you and wish you all a Happy Christmas.

God Save The King and Cymru Am Byth



Lieutenant Colonel J D Livesey, Commanding Officer

FOREWORD

When I took command a little over a year ago, I did so during a period characterised by operational deployments, with the focus squarely on Op SHADER and the training for Op CORDED. However, Battalion Headquarters briefed me that after July 2022, when both operations had redeployed to the UK, we would have a quieter second half to the year, which worried me. Thankfully, nothing could have been further from the truth.

The tone was set in January, when we were designated the lead for the Security Force Assistance (SFA) Brigade Pilot in East Africa, leading to a myriad of deployments to East Africa. From the invasion of Ukraine and subsequent training mission, Op INTERFLEX, and a multitude of tasks in between, the year became busier and busier. By the time of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's death, the Battalion, well versed in dispersed working and delivering results under pressure, performed magnificently.

The Welsh Guards were front and centre during the period of National Mourning, despite not being on the Blue Line, and met every commitment we were asked to do, and more besides. There is much written in the special stand-alone report on Op LONDON BRIDGE which has been produced by Regimental Headquarters but suffice to say I was incredibly proud of how the Battalion performed, especially our most junior Guardsmen, some of whom were only days out of training.

While the Funeral was all consuming for Defence, all operational commitments continued apace, exemplifying the Household Division's credo of excellence in both elements of our dual role. We had The Prince of Wales's Company, supported by personnel from across Battalion, deployed on Op INTERFLEX and elements of Support Company in Kenya mentoring the African Training

Mission. Concurrently we continued to plan for No 2 Company's deployment to Uganda, which at the time of writing has just recovered and Support Company's deployment to Belize on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR in support of the Household Cavalry Regiment. In addition to the exercise, we will, again, be the Pilot Battalion for the SFA concept in Latin America and the Caribbean, akin to our work in East Africa.

We already have a good feel for what we will be doing in 2023, with an obvious focus on two landmark events: the Battalion will be the lead unit for the Coronation of King Charles III and we will also be the first Guards Battalion to troop their colour for His Majesty.

However, as always, we seek to keep the 'scarlet and green' elements in balance and with deployments to Jamaica for Exercise Red Stripe and The Falkland Islands as the Infantry Company, as well as a potential Battalion exercise in Louisiana in the late autumn. I also have no doubt there will be many more exciting opportunities as we go through the year, which we will grasp with both hands.

Op LONDON BRIDGE, Left to Right; Captain J Leonard, Battalion Adjutant, Lieutenant Colonel J D Livesey, Commanding Officer, Colonel T C S Bonas, Regimental Adjutant, Major T C Spencer-Smith, Second-in-Command





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



Maj Gambarini
COLDM GDS

Maj Starkey COLDM
GDS

Capt Phillips

Capt Wilkinson

2Lt Babbs

2Lt Comaish

2Lt Moss

WO2 Davies 96

CSgt Small

Sgt Hiscock

Sgt Shapland

Sgt Okeke

LSgt Bond

LSgt Collins

LSgt Jones

LSgt Lucas

LSgt Milins

LSgt Noyes

LCpl Divavesi

LCpl Harrison

LCpl Mclean

LCpl Roberts

LCpl Ryan 38

Gdsm Armstrong

Gdsm Aylott

Gdsm Byron

Gdsm Cooper

Gdsm Cummins

Gdsm Davies

Gdsm Dean

Gdsm Edwards

Gdsm Elliott

Gdsm Evans 29

Gdsm Evans 53

Gdsm Griffiths

Gdsm Griffin

Gdsm Gurung

Gdsm Gullick

Gdsm Hawkins

Gdsm Hender

Gdsm Hewitt 20

Gdsm Hewitt 82

Gdsm Hill

Gdsm Hollows

Gdsm Howarth

Gdsm Howard

Gdsm Howells

Gdsm Hutchinson

Gdsm Jackson

Gdsm Jenkins

Gdsm Jenkins

Gdsm Jones 78

Gdsm Jones 30

Gdsm Jones 71

Gdsm Jones 93

Gdsm Kinsey

Gdsm Laqeretabua

Gdsm Lewis-Webb

Gdsm Odonovan-Cronin

Gdsm Parker

Gdsm Prince

Gdsm Rees

Gdsm Ryan 57

Gdsm Salmon

Gdsm Smith 33

Gdsm Smith 35

Gdsm Spence

Gdsm Stubbings

Gdsm Suleman

Gdsm Sutton

Gdsm Tabuanira

Gdsm Thomas 83

Gdsm Underhill

Gdsm Wass-Williams

Gdsm Watkins

Gdsm Weldon

Gdsm White

Gdsm Wright

Gdsm Williams 30

Gdsm Williams 93

Pte Wade AGC (SPS)



2



3



4

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

Members of The Prince of Wales's Company have had another challenging year full of plentiful travel, exciting training and a very successful operational deployment. All of the hard work training last year has paid off, resulting in a successful Op SHADER tour, a well-deserved Christmas break and an Overseas Training Exercise (OTX) in Kenya. Each and every Jamboy, including those that directly supported the Company, have worked very hard and performed impeccably.

Arguably, as with a lot of things in the Army, the 'getting there' for Op SHADER 13 was the most challenging part, especially when mixed with COVID. However, the complexity of the Multinational Environment and politically charged climate meant we, as the United Kingdom Mobility Company (Kurdistan) (UKMC(K)), were kept very much on our toes throughout. During a 6-month period it remained important to balance work with other less operational focused activities that would break up the weeks and months. These included physical challenges such as full and half marathons, that individuals such as LCpl McLean and Lt Phillips performed exceptionally well on, and slightly less energetic Company BBQ's and film/quiz nights. Upon handover to Number 2 Company, the Jamboys, supported by a significant number of others from across the Welsh Guards Battlegroup, it is safe to say JOB (Joint Operating Base) ZORBASH was a better place. We had been busy, completing a significant number of patrols

and crucially leaving having enhanced the reputation of both the Company and the Welsh Guards. Although the whole Company were not out there concurrently for the full period, we managed to rotate throughout the deployment which has resulted in the vast majority of Jamboys gaining operational experience and being awarded medallic recognition. A number of the Company were also recognised for their outstanding performance when in Iraq with Deputy Commander General (1-star) commendations (LCpl Ackey (AGC), SSgt Kittle (REME/LAD), LSgt Okeke, LSgt Edwards 70 and WO2 (CSM) Davies) and Commander British Forces commendations/coins (LSgt Tsorme (REME/LAD, Pte Walsh (RAMC), Cpl Malaney (REME/LAD), Sgt Thompson (REME/LAD), LCpl McLean, LCpl McCarthy (REME/LAD) and Gdsm Hill).

Whilst LSgt Okeke's efforts on Op SHADER 13 were recognised with a 1-star commendation from Brigadier Richard Bell he was also awarded the Welsh Guards Commanding Officers Leadership Award for how



5

he has led his multiple and platoon this year.

Upon return from Iraq the Company had a period of Christmas leave, this time thankfully not spent on the M20 motorway [COVID] testing haulage drivers(!), before returning to work early in the New Year. When back in Windsor the key focus was initially on ensuring those that had been away were up to date on their individual training requirements, were well administered and plans were in place for some green training post tour. The Company were also lucky enough to be presented their medals by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in Windsor. It was a brilliant day attended by a significant number of family members of those that had deployed on Op SHADER 13 and included an opportunity to speak directly with His Royal Highness over a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Concurrently to this the Company had also been

tasked with supporting an Overseas Training Exercise (OTX) in Kenya, deploying with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) Battlegroup on Ex ASKARI STORM (Kenya). Originally a task at platoon level, but later developed into the whole of The Prince of Wales's Company deploying as one of the PWRR manoeuvre companies. The last-minute nature of the tasking meant some seriously quick work was required from the CQMS (CSgt Marsh) to make sure we had the right 'stuff', the CSM (WO2 Davies) to make sure we had the right people ready to deploy once again overseas and the Coy 2IC (Capt Wilkinson) to make sure all members of the Company were appropriately trained for the task. When we arrived in Kenya, we were back to the familiar period of acclimatization having only just cooled down over Christmas; we began preparing for the arduous 3-week exercise. Before joining the PWRR, who had been in Kenya since early January, The

Prince of Wales's Company conducted our own training to quickly try and ensure we were ready to support the PWRR. This period was priceless and combined with the positive way in which all Jamboys leant into the task we quickly became comfortable operating in the heat, at altitude and in the very harsh environment. This was complimented with our own daily safari in the quite remarkable surrounds of Lolldaiga. The whole deployment was a triumph and the performance of everyone was outstanding. Before returning to the UK, we even managed to get in a few days of Adventurous Training including white water rafting, rock climbing, abseiling, mountain biking and even a couple of cold Tuskers.

The flight back from Kenya was more comfortable and efficient than the 7-day delayed C-17 back from Iraq, but again was greeted with a couple of weeks leave. The next task for a small number of Jamboys was in support

of the Jubilee celebrations. A small detachment from The Prince of Wales's Company were quickly fitted for Bearskin and Tunic before conducting days and days of training in Pirbright to support the Pageant parade in London.

During the Summer, The Company have been deployed in Lydd on Op INTERFLEX working under a Scots Guards Headquarters training the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Heavily augmented by Gdsm and NCOs from across the Bn, we created a bespoke team with the required breadth and depth of knowledge to deliver targeted and relevant training to Ukrainians. Aimed at increasing survivability and lethality, the intensive course covers five phases, Skill at Arms training to ensure weapons are handled safely, Fieldcraft, so they can sustain themselves in an operational environment, Urban Operations and medical training before culminating in Battle Exercises to rigorously test their ability fight. The



6

training course concludes with the final phase, live firing, they will conduct numerous ranges to confirm their marksmanship out to 200m including a series of moving target ranges to best prepared them for the challenges ahead. To date, the Coy has trained over 400 Ukrainian civilians, soldiers and conscripts each with a passion to stop Russian aggression and fight for their country. All involved have found it a hugely gratifying task.

For some of the younger and more junior Jamboys the past 12-months will have immersed young 18/19-year-olds into the Welsh Guards with Pre-Deployment Training, an operational tour, a conversation with the future King, deployment on

one of the most challenging light role overseas exercises the Army delivers and marched down the Mall being watched by millions - not a bad first year.

As the year draws to a close, there are a number of changes in personnel. The Prince of Wales's Company looks very different now, as all three platoon HQs have changed in the past couple of months, Maj Starkey has moved on to a comfortable desk job in the Land Warfare Centre (LWC), Captain Wilkinson moves on to become General Ben Bathurst's ADC in NATO HQ (Brussels) and CSgt Marsh is now CSM of Number 3 Company.

The performance of the Company during the past

year is one that all Jamboys should be proud of and is primarily thanks to a remarkable mix of effort and positive attitude cemented in professionalism; all of which has resulted in a group of people that always meet each challenge head on with a high level of confidence and pride.

1. *The Prince of Wales's Company complete in Erbil, Iraq, Op SHADER 13*
2. *L-R: Gdsm Ryan, LCpl Ryan and Gdsm Hender on Erbil airbase in front of a Civilian Armoured Vehicle (CAV)*
3. *CSM Davies (left) and Capt Wilkinson taking some time out with a brew in Kenya*
4. *Sgt Williams instructing operating in the urban environment*
5. *Sgt Shapland teaching final bound drills*
6. *1 Platoon on their 'prep week' in Lolldaiga training area before starting Ex Askari Storm*



NUMBER TWO COMPANY

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



Maj	Major	LSgt	Prothero	Gdsm	Davies 40	Gdsm	Jones	Gdsm	Peacock
Capt	Haines-Henderson	LSgt	Roberts	Gdsm	Davies 82	Gdsm	Kemp	Gdsm	Phelan
Lt	Brown	LSgt	Siviter	Gdsm	Davies 89	Gdsm	Kiley	Gdsm	Phillips
Lt	Cadogan	LSgt	Griffiths	Gdsm	Fury	Gdsm	Krajewski-Moore	Gdsm	Podmore-Criddle
Lt	Cross	LCpl	Owen	Gdsm	Fry	Gdsm	Logan	Gdsm	Sandiford
2Lt	Allan	LCpl	Mchugh	Gdsm	Gallier	Gdsm	Marshall	Gdsm	Scott
WO2	Greaves	LCpl	Sanders	Gdsm	Griffiths 06	Gdsm	McCoy	Gdsm	Smith 26
CSgt	Edwards	LCpl	Pugsley	Gdsm	Griffith 97	Gdsm	Mcphee	Gdsm	Smith 46
Sgt	Doyle	LCpl	Williamson	Gdsm	Hamer	Gdsm	Meaden	Gdsm	Smith 48
Sgt	Harris	Gdsm	Antink	Gdsm	Harries	Gdsm	Miles	Gdsm	Stringfellow
Sgt	Parry	Gdsm	Ball	Gdsm	Hughes 21	Gdsm	Moceyawa	Gdsm	Taylor-Garmey
Sgt	Williams	Gdsm	Bartlett	Gdsm	Hughes 28	Gdsm	Morgan	Gdsm	Thomas 04
LSgt	Burrows-Jones	Gdsm	Blackstone	Gdsm	Hughes 78	Gdsm	Norton	Gdsm	Thomas 35
LSgt	Duffell	Gdsm	Brooks	Gdsm	Hunt	Gdsm	Manuku	Gdsm	Twaite
LSgt	Jones 88	Gdsm	Bruce	Gdsm	Jenkins	Gdsm	O'Flatherty	Gdsm	Warrender
LSgt	Jones 57	Gdsm	Chamayere	Gdsm	John	Gdsm	Owen 48	Gdsm	Williams
LSgt	Love	Gdsm	Cassidy-Ballard	Gdsm	Johnson	Gdsm	Owen 63	Gdsm	Wilson
LSgt	Pritchard	Gdsm	Coles	Gdsm	Johnstone	Gdsm	Parker	Pte	Thapa AGC (SPS)



by Major A L Major, Company Commander

The Men of the Island of The Mighty have had an exceptionally busy year that has seen every single individual deploy overseas on operations and exercise. Following a demanding Pre-Deployment-Training package, Number Two Company deployed to Erbil in Northern Iraq on Op SHADER 14 at the end of November 2021. As a Company minus group with attachments from across all three Services, Number Two Company formed the nucleus of the United Kingdom Mobility Company.

In this role the company was primarily responsible for providing force protection to Coalition Force Advisors as they worked to develop Kurdish Security Forces in the region. This routinely saw Number Two Company patrolling in Civilian Armoured Vehicles (CAV) two or three times a day in and around Kurdistan. In contrast to previous tours, the security dynamic within Kurdistan meant that the patrols were relatively straightforward. The main threat posed to the company throughout Op SHADER 14, was to the fixed base location at JOB (Joint Operating Base) ZORBASH from one-way un-manned aerial vehicles and indirect fire. Number Two Company were extremely

fortunate to take over from The Prince of Wales's Company who had worked extremely hard to build a very strong reputation with our Coalition Partners. Unfortunately, during the first week of the Op SHADER 14, a 36hr long thunderstorm left large parts of the camp requiring significant refurbishment – who said it doesn't rain in the desert! Op SHADER 14 challenged us in different ways from previous tours, but regular rotations meant that everyone in the company benefitted from the experience and was able to develop their soldiering skills. It also gave the company a really good opportunity to conduct low level training in preparation for future career courses. The company

returned from Kurdistan in June 2022 before taking some well-earned leave.

Away from operations Number Two Company has played an important role in wider battalion activity. In late March, Number Two Company sent a platoon with The Prince of Wales's Company to Kenya to take part in Ex ASKARI STORM. This is the most demanding conventional live-firing exercise currently conducted by the British Army, utilising Battle Group assets such as artillery and aviation to make the training as realistic and challenging as possible. As a result, it was a great opportunity to get some of the Number Two Company soldiers that could not

deploy on Op SHADER away to focus on developing their basic soldiering skills to the highest possible standard. It is a credit to those that were attached to The Prince of Wales's Company that they were the strongest performing company within the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) Battle Group!

Number Two Company's presence in East Africa widened with a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) task to Zambia, which saw Lt Brown, Sgt Harris and LSgt Jones 88 deploy to deliver pre-deployment training to the Zambian Army. Away from Africa four members of Number Two Company deployed to the Falkland



Islands to support the Irish Guards. This was another great opportunity to complete some demanding training, but also appropriate that Welsh Guardsmen were present to mark the 40th anniversary of the war. Number Two Company has played a key role in the delivery of training to Ukrainian Soldiers as part of Op INTERFLEX. Though this task has been entirely UK based, those from the Company that have taken part in it, have all acknowledged that it has been one of the most rewarding things that they have done during their careers. The dedication that they have put into this task is having a very real and tangible affect in the conflict in Ukraine and ultimately helping our Ukrainian brothers in arms defend their country. With the Company so dispersed it has been difficult to conduct as much Adventurous Training as we would normally like to. Luckily that hasn't stopped the Guardsmen from thinking outside of the box for interesting ways to challenge themselves, with four members of the Company

cycling from London to Paris in support of the Royal British Legion, which was a brilliant effort!

St David's Day and Christmas were both celebrated in Erbil and while they were not quite as energetic as they might normally have been, the company still found the time to come together and celebrate with some non-alcoholic beers and a barbecue kindly cooked and served by Company Sergeant Major Greaves.

Op SHADER gave us a perfect opportunity to focus on growing the company and this has paid dividends with Gdsm Williamson and Gdsm Pugsley promoting to Lance Corporal after a strong performance on the TAC course run at Household Division Parachute Regiment Centralised Courses (HDPGCC). LCpl Griffiths performed very well on the Section Commander's Battle Course (SCBC) and has duly promoted to Lance Sergeant and LSgt Jones 57 has just completed the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course (PSBC) at Brecon. LSgt Parry was selected to promote to



Sergeant and will take over 4 Platoon in due course. At the time of writing, both Gdsm Antick and Gdsm Johnstone were in the top third of their TAC course and LSgt Duffle is due to complete PSBC in Brecon. Planning for the future and developing our people is probably the most important thing we do and as readers can see Number Two Company will be in safe hands for whatever the future brings. We say goodbye to a number of individuals, including Lt Cross and Sgt Harris as they move up to instruct at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) in Catterick. They will be well placed to shape the development of the next generation of Welsh Guardsmen, a role they will be outstanding in! We also lose Capt Powell as he moves on to take command of the Anti-tank platoon. We wish them all the best for the future!

Despite having only recently returned from Operations, the Company is already incredibly busy. Support to Op INTERFLEX will continue throughout the Autumn with Number Two Company

personnel deploying to Uganda on a Short-Term Training Team (STTT) task and to Belize on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR. In the background to these activities the Company will be slowly refocusing on conventional soldiering with a Cambrian Patrol Team looking to win a gold medal and a Company exercise in November to shake out the cobwebs and remind ourselves that first and foremost we are Infantry Soldiers. These activities will set the conditions for Ex RED STRIPE in January 2023, which will see Number Two Company deploy to Jamaica for three months to conduct a Jungle Warfare exercise alongside members of the Jamaican Defence Force. This will be an outstanding opportunity to challenge ourselves in the most demanding environment and will ensure that we remain ready for future opportunities overseas.

1. *Number Two Company making their mark*
2. *Joint Operating base (JOB) Zorbash, Erbil*
3. *Members of the Company at the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park*
4. *St David's Day in Erbil*



NUMBER THREE COMPANY

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



1

Maj Campbell Schofield

Capt Powell

Lt Haynes

2Lt Jones

WO2 Marsh

CSgt Jayne

CSgt Brown

Sgt Forde

Sgt Bloxham COLDM GDS

Sgt Davies

Sgt Majkut IG

Sgt Williams 91

LSgt Buretini

LSgt Duval

LSgt Everett

LSgt Jones

LSgt Moseley

LSgt Roos

LSgt Retallick

LSgt Sandison

LSgt Williams 88

LCpl Davies 37

LCpl Davies 14

LCpl Dyer

LCpl Goss

LCpl Lee

LCpl Goodwin

LCpl Pitt

LCpl Toombs

Gdsm Adams

Gdsm Ashford

Gdsm Caufield-Dollard

Gdsm Cattel

Gdsm Collins

Gdsm Bradshaw

Gdsm Dade

Gdsm Davies

Gdsm Dallimore

Gdsm Green

Gdsm Graham

Gdsm Healy

Gdsm Hoyle

Gdsm Hughes

Gdsm Jones 62

Gdsm Jones 88

Gdsm McBride

Gdsm Morgan

Gdsm Newth

Gdsm Osman

Gdsm O'Brien

Gdsm Perring

Gdsm Ryan

Gdsm Roberts

Gdsm Seward

Gdsm Sinclair

Gdsm Smith

Gdsm Taylor 67

Gdsm Taylor 20

Gdsm Wetherick

Gdsm Walker

Gdsm Winney

Gdsm Wilkinson

Gdsm Williams

Gdsm Young

Pte Thompson AGC (SPS)

by Major T R Campbell-Schofield, Company Commander

In this article a year ago, my predecessor noted that the focus for Number Three Company was training and operational deployments and this has very much continued to be the case in 2022. It has been a remarkable but very busy year with the company split between multiple overseas operational theatres, conducting excellent training at home and also assisting with UK-based operations.

The year began with pre-deployment training for Op CORDED 9, the British Army's contribution to cross-government counter-illegal wildlife trade activities. The aim of this operation was to deploy a small team to Zambia over a four-month period, to train park rangers in counter-poaching techniques. This would involve working at reach with stretched lines of communication to battalion headquarters (4,932 miles away in Windsor!), in austere and remote conditions. Clearly, the huge amount of experience and high calibre of soldiers in Number Three Company made us the obvious choice for this task.

The pre-deployment training ran from January to March and was focused on preparing a 31 strong team formed from a nucleus of company headquarters as well as members the Recce and Sniper platoons. We were also joined by attached arms from the Intelligence Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Logistics Corps and Royal Military Police who were to be key enablers when we deployed. The training consisted of medical lessons, counter-poaching lessons and a large number of ranges to qualify us on the Sharpshooter rifle. Once these were complete the team deployed to Kenya for one month to conduct further training prior to our



movement on to Zambia for the remaining three months of the tour. Despite the large amount of operational experience within the company, this tour proved to be unique for everyone on it. Living in a national park, surrounded by African wildlife as well as training our Zambian partners and enjoying the sights of Zambia was a fantastic adventure. Our tour concluded with adventurous training in Livingstone with a range of

activities from white water rafting, bungee jumping, and canyon swings being conducted.

The remainder of the company back in Windsor consisting mostly of the Anti-Tank platoon conducted training in earnest. An Anti-Tank cadre was run from April to May to ensure that the platoon remains current in its primary role and the platoon also conducted Ex IRON'S TRAIL, a weeklong



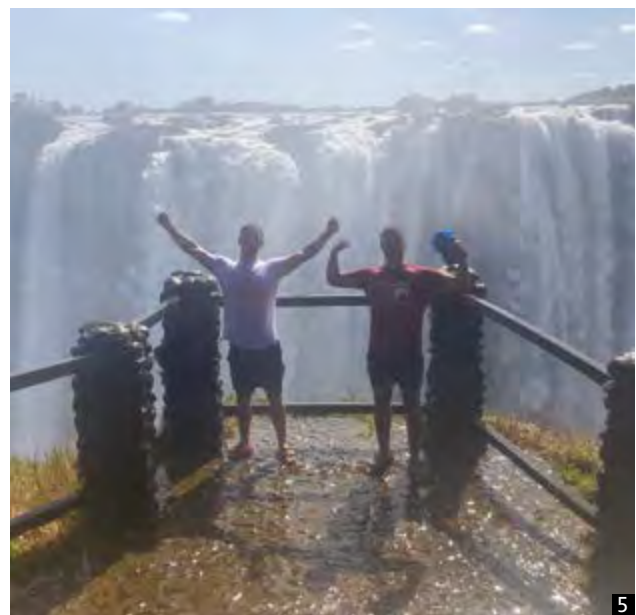
tracking exercise. Tracking is the secondary role of the Anti-Tank platoon and this will have no doubt prepared them well for future exercises. Additionally, the company rear group has also supported the battalion on other tasks such as Op INTERFLEX, the training of Ukrainian soldiers at scale and undertaken adventurous training and sport including rock climbing and fishing.

In the last year there have been some very significant personnel changes within the Company. In March, CSM Evans departed the Iron Men to take over as Drill Sergeant handing over in the short term to WO2 Green. Having filled every rank from Gdsm to WO2 within Number Three Company, this very much marked the end of an era for the Iron Men! Almost simultaneously, Major Young moved to MOD Main Building and handed over the Major Campbell-Schofield. We also bid farewell to the Second-in-Command, Capt Davidson who has moved over to the Irish Guards as Operations Officer. Captain Theo Haynes has now taken over as recce

platoon commander ably supported by CSgt Brown who has taken over from CSgt Bladen. Captain Powell has now taken over as Anti-Tanks platoon commander and the Sniper Platoon remains under the command of Sgt Forde. Lastly, upon our return from Op CORDED, CSM Green handed over to CSM Marsh who will be in the chair for the foreseeable future.

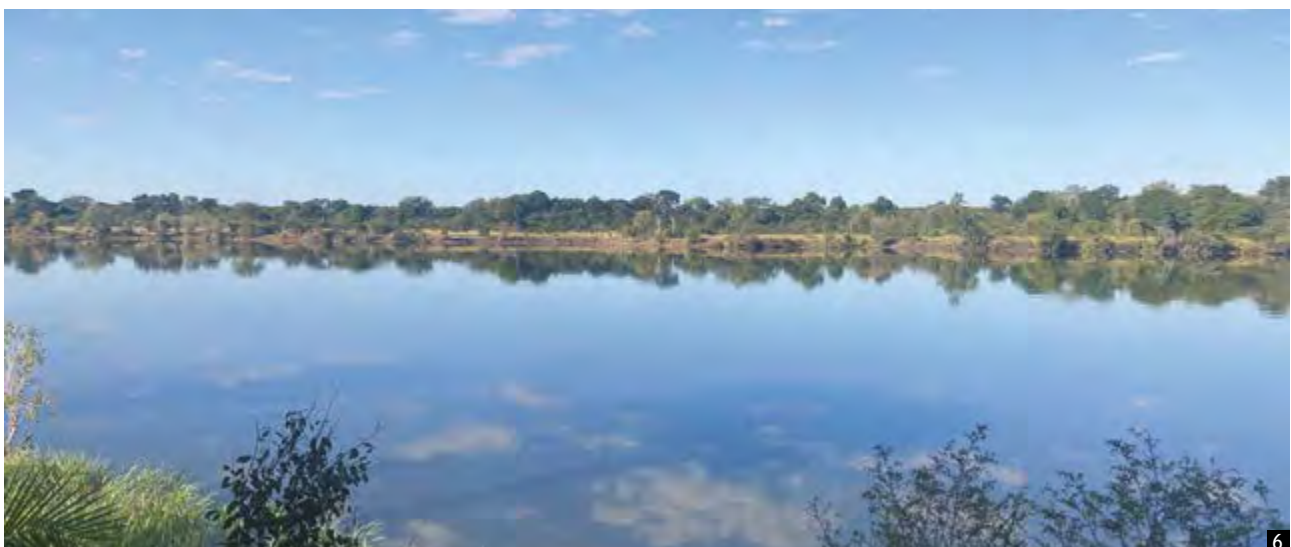


4



5

1. *The Op CORDED 9 team 31 Service Personnel from six different cap badges*
2. *Maj Campbell-Schofield with Mr Lamek Mumbwa, head of Chunga Ranger School*
3. *Enjoying the African scenery, Giraffe and Mount Kenya*
4. *Medical rehearsals in Zambia*
5. *Gdsm Newth and Osman at Victoria Falls or Mosi oa Tunya, The Smoke that Thunders*
6. *Stunning scenery in Kafue National Park*



6



SUPPORT COMPANY

NAC OFNA OND GWARTH - FEAR NOTHING BUT DISGRACE



1

Maj Graves MERCIAN
Capt Burfiend
Capt Richardsdon
WO2 Pheasey
WO2 Deren
CSgt (DMaj) Rees
Sgt Lewis
Sgt Percival
Sgt Hughes
Sgt Potts (Drum Sgt)
Sgt Van Eyssen
Sgt Viavialevu
LSgt Evans
LSgt Davies
LSgt Gassama
LCpl Jones 92
LSgt Matthews

LSgt Morgan
LSgt Skates
LSgt Siwale
LSgt Waqanisaravi
LCpl Burchill
LCpl Dennis
LCpl Durkan
LCpl Lynch
LCpl Namakadre
LCpl Qaranivalu
LCpl Todd
LCpl Turner
Dmr Allen
Dmr Blake
Dmr Bouguenon
Dmr Brain
Dmr Charles-Davies

Dmr Cheshire
Dmr Evans 10
Dmr Flipping
Dmr Hillman
Dmr Hughes 91
Dmr Maund
Dmr McCarthy
Dmr Nolan
Dmr Price
Dmr Roberts
Dmr Rokovada
Dmr Sarpak
Dmr Sayce-Upton
Dmr Thomas 11
Dmr Thomas 75
Dmr Thompson
Dmr Wood

Gdsm Bastable
Gdsm Berry
Gdsm Cadd
Gdsm Crimes
Gdsm Cobb-Evans
Gdsm Constance
Gdsm Davies
Gdsm Evans 85
Gdsm Greenaway
Gdsm Heffernan
Gdsm Hughes 65
Gdsm Jones 14
Gdsm Jones 20
Gdsm Morgan
Gdsm Morgan
Gdsm Nightingale
Gdsm Olsen

Gdsm Oram
Gdsm Parker
Gdsm Parry
Gdsm Paterson
Gdsm Purnell
Gdsm Qumivutia
Gdsm Smith
Gdsm Stott
Gdsm Tweddle
Gdsm Wall
Gdsm Williams
Gdsm Winnan
Pte Gurung AGC (SPS)



2

By Warrant Officer Class 2 K Cunningham, Previous Company Sergeant Major

It has been a productive and rewarding year for Support Company. The battalion's main focus was on Operation SHADER 13 and 14, however there were many other notable deployments and commitments. Support Company, as always, have been present in every aspect of the Battalion's commitments supporting, performing, and delivering specialised excellence.

Over this period, the company HQ had seen its own 'changing of the guard'. Major Charles-Jones finished his tenure as Company Commander and Maj Viktor Graves of the Mercian Regiment appointed in his stead. WO2 Cunningham appointed in the role as the Company Sergeant Major, and CSgt Pheasey being appointed as the Company Quarter Master Sergeant. A great team, fresh, experienced, and eager to lead Support Company on the many adventures that lay ahead.

Over the year, Support Coy deployed to many theatres, with the platoons all partaking in the various deployments. These opportunities allowed the platoons to hone their skills, work together, and seize opportunities to see unique parts of the world and learn its history.

As well as supporting the battalion in all these theatres both the Machine Gun and Mortar Platoons managed to deliver their annual training cadres, this saw the company

maintain its specialist weapons currency and competency. Both platoons are proud of these cadres and have spoken about them in detail in their own words. 2021 was rounded off with Support Company being attached to the 1st Battalion the Irish Guards during their UK Standby Battalion commitments, being stood up, but ultimately not used during the storms at the end of 2021. This important task prepared us to provide military aid to civil authorities (MACA) tasks anywhere in the UK should it be required.

Support Company has also seen its fair share of tasks in 2022 to date. Many members of the company have been supporting the UK's mission in training Ukrainian soldiers as a part of Operation INTERFLEX, which has been a tremendously rewarding experience for all involved. Also deploying soldiers into Kenya, Zambia and Uganda

on short term training tasks. Looking forward, the company will deploy on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR in Belize and conduct jungle training with the Household Cavalry Regiment. The Company will also be working on a new concept in Belize in the form of Persistent Engagement, looking to work with and assist the Belizean Defence Force (BDF) and local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). So, all in all a busy yet exciting year, new experiences gained, new faces welcomed, and new challenges ready to be seized, we look forward to what the rest of the year has to offer!

1. Gdsm Qumivita Carrying his partner on the MG cadre
2. Sgt Viavialevu conducting lessons on the MG Cadre in Brecon



3

The Corps of Drums

by Sergeant S Potts, Drum Sergeant

Having conducted both the Machine Gun and Mortar Cadres the previous years the Corps of Drums were in a good position to get members of the Platoon away on the various deployments happening throughout 2022 and as a result, we were able to have a member from the Corps of Drums involved in every deployment – something we are extremely proud of.

Our initial focus at the start of the year was to train in support of Op SHADER (Iraq), by conducting live fire ranges and essential role-specific training. In the interim, along with other members of Support Company, the platoon was tasked to provide support to UKSF as civilian role-players during their counter terrorism training package, an experience thoroughly enjoyed by all. In February 22, Op SHADER deployments began with the Drum Major supporting training to the Iraqi Officers in Baghdad whilst the remainder of the Platoon deployed to Kuwait to perform at the British Embassy for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations – a well-received, high-profile occasion where the Drummers displayed

their skills and outstanding professionalism.

The platoon then deployed to Iraq to support 2 Coy for the remainder of their deployment. Those members of the Platoon that were unable to deploy on Op SHADER were still able to deploy overseas supporting the Jubilee celebrations in Uganda adding ‘a real sense of Britishness to the occasion’. On return from operations and all now safely back in the UK, we are back to training for future deployments and also for the fast-approaching rotation of State Ceremonial Public Duties.

- 3 & 4. Corps of Drums display at the British Embassy, Kuwait for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, March 22
5. DMaj Potts leading the Platoon on Parade



4



5

Mortar Platoon

by Sergeant G T Van Eyssen

Upon return from a well-deserved summer leave period, the Platoon exercised on live firing ranges in preparation for deployment on another Operation, Op SHADER, this time in the middle east. Pre-deployment training can always be demanding, but it gets all platoon members up to the standard to deploy on Operations.

As a platoon, we gain the most training benefit from live firing the mortars. Training live enhances the activity making it much more realistic, taking the platoon to a higher level. All members within the platoon must deal with real issues and gain the experience of correcting those situations in real-time and not notionally. Once both pre-deployment training and live firing of the mortars was completed, it then saw the platoon broken up to deploy on Op SHADER. The deployment saw the mortar deploy into different roles in support of 2 Coy with members deploying to Cyprus, Kuwait and Iraq. The roles consisted of drivers, commanders, force protection teams and various admin roles that enabled 2

Coy to do their job effectively in Iraq. The deployment earned operational medals for members of the platoon whilst gaining the experience of working in a complex and hostile environment.

We were fortunate enough to gain multiple new recruits into the Platoon straight out of Catterick. Therefore, we needed to get them up to speed and qualified on the Mortar as soon as possible. This year we conducted the Mortar Cadre on Salisbury Plain, which was a great success. It provided a fantastic opportunity for the Junior Gdsm to practice all the dry training we had done in camp, whilst allowing Coy HQ to observe potential candidates for future promotion courses.

The experiences over the last year have been demanding but extremely rewarding and have clearly shown our capacity to operate outside of the traditional 'Mortar Men' role. This versatility was demonstrated by the numerous LSgts and Sgts who were fundamental in the instruction delivered to Ukrainians on Op INTERFLEX. It has stretched the platoon and made it stronger through professional development and knowledge. Experiences like these are always needed and wanted so we can maintain our high level of professionalism as mortar men and as infantry soldiers within a light-role infantry battalion.

In the future, the mortar platoon will receive new

guardsmen fresh from ITC Catterick and conduct another mortar cadre to train and qualify new members joining the platoon. Other activities planned for the next training year will see the platoon deploy to Kenya and Belize. Training will continue into the new year as we move onto public duties and 'Trooping the Colour', and then deploy to the Falklands in Aug 23. This will be challenging, but we will maintain our high standards as the '1st Battalion Welsh Guards Mortar Platoon'.

6. A Mortar Team getting their bombs away during their final exercise of the Cadre
7. Gdsm Smith 85 delivering Fire Control Orders on the Cadre



6



7

Machine Guns Platoon

by Sergeant Hughes 34, Platoon Sergeant

It has been a busy year for the machine guns platoon deploying on multiple operations and training exercises across the world, members of the machine guns have seen four different countries this year, Zambia, Cyprus, Kuwait and Iraq. Whilst being exceptionally busy the Platoon has been fortunate enough to welcome plenty of new faces.

Normally the Support Weapons Platoons would gain slightly more experienced Guardsmen, however the new members of the Platoon arrived straight from Catterick and have certainly raised the bar in all respects. Therefore, a large proportion of this year in and around the various taskings has been centred on training and ensuring everyone is proficient on the weapon system.

Throughout the year we have seen several members of the Platoon conduct promotional courses. Sgt Viavalevu conducted the MG Platoon Commander / Platoon Sergeants course, he was the only NCO on a course full of Captains and passed with flying colours. Both LCpl Turner and Gdsm Namakadre completed promotional courses and LCpl Durkan completed a Physical Training Instructors (PTI) course.

Other activities saw the platoon compete in various sports; one being boxing with Gdsm Purnell making us particularly proud having had four fights since joining the battalion he was given the opportunity to be trained by professional boxer Gavin Gwynn in Wales and is now

the cruiser weight Household Division champion.

May 22 saw the machine guns platoon conduct its five-week annual cadre. This consisted of two weeks of learning the theory and having a basic understanding of the machine gun's role especially the complexities of SF (Sustained Fire). After passing the weapon handing tests on the SF kit we then deployed to Brecon for a further three weeks where the platoon did a week of live fire ranges comprising of build-up shoots and the SF Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT). The platoon then spent the last two weeks conducting blank fire training, including navigation exercises, casualty extraction, basic infantry skills, sighting gun lines and performing rolling gun lines; all the skills required to be an effective machine guns platoon. The finale of the course was a short final exercise where all our new skills were put to the test. During this time Gdsm Namakadre and Gdsm Bastable stepped up and preformed section commander roles and Gdsm Cobb-evens and Gdsm Olson 2IC roles – they performed admirably.



Each year we award the hard work of the best gun pair. This year Gdsm Morgan 71 and Gdsm Jones 20 won the award. The platoon now looks forward to future exercises and operations in Kenya, Belize and Jamaica.

8. Guardsman Morgan 71 rushing link forward to the gun-line



HEADQUARTER COMPANY

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

Lt Col Livesey	CSgt Crew	LSgt Collins 45	LCpl Asamoah	Gdsm Jenkins
Maj Spencer-Smith	CSgt Davies 83	LSgt Francis	LCpl Lewis 39	Gdsm Jones 58
Maj Mackie RHG/D	CSgt Evans 588	LSgt George	LCpl Rowe	Gdsm Lamond
Maj Campbell	CSgt Stallard	LSgt Horrell	LCpl Rowlands-Bell	Gdsm Macglauchlin
Maj Sixsmith IG	CSgt Vuevueika	LSgt Howells 27	LCpl Tucker	Gdsm Mcminn
Maj Faerestrand RAMC	SSgt Rogers RLC	LSgt Howells 28	LCpl Kell RLC	Gdsm Minto
Maj Sexton AGC (SPS)	SSgt Kittle REME	LSgt Jones 78	LCpl Limbu 22 RLC	Gdsm Mitchell
Capt Leonard	SSgt Nukutabu AGC (SPS)	LSgt Jones 73	A/LCpl Harrower RLC	Gdsm Murphy
Capt Blair COLDM GDS	SSgt Hammond RAPTC	LSgt Lewis 51	LCpl Leech REME	Gdsm Nagata
Capt Gould LANCS	Sgt Davies 83	LSgt Love	LCpl Rai 64 REME	Gdsm Parker
Capt Minihan	Sgt Frowen	LSgt Mason	LCpl Thomas 10 REME	Gdsm Parry 23
Capt Parkinson	Sgt Jones 89	LSgt May	LCpl Gurung 38 RAMC	Gdsm Roberts 300
Capt Parry 19	Sgt Langley	LSgt Mottram	LCpl Lillie RAMC	Gdsm Roberts 50
Capt Hughes 78 GREN GDS	Sgt Lucas	LSgt Muteti	LCpl Morgan RAMC	Gdsm Rowberry
Capt Owen 75	Sgt Morgan 65	LSgt Nuku	LCpl Pickman RAMC	Gdsm Rowlands 75
Capt Stephens RSigs	Sgt Morgan 44	LSgt Patel 10	LCpl Rogers RAMC	Gdsm Taylor 67
Revd Nightingale	Sgt Pienaar	LSgt Pickersgill-Jones	LCpl Patel AGC (SPS)	Gdsm Thomas 42
2Lt Godden AGC (SPS)	Sgt Rowlands 39	LSgt Purvis	Gdsm Adams	Gdsm Watkins
WO1 Cope	Sgt Soko	LSgt Putty	Gdsm Arnold	Gdsm Williams 964
WO2 Johnson	Sgt Limbu 41 RLC	LSgt Stevens	Gdsm Ceesay 47	Gdsm Williams 93
WO2 Hughes 39	Sgt Rai 20 RLC	LSgt Stirling	Gdsm Clarke	Gdsm Williams 664
WO2 Evans 31	Sgt Jackson REME	LSgt Sullivan	Gdsm Cleave	Gdsm Williams 02
WO2 Qaimuri	Sgt Pell RAMC	LSgt Tancock	Gdsm Collins 09	Gdsm Wright
WO2 Cunningham	Sgt Bowler AGC (SPS)	LSgt Thomas 76	Gdsm Collins 44	Pte Bromley-Morris RLC
WO2 Green	Sgt Evans 09 AGC (SPS)	LSgt Williams 60	Gdsm Edwards 60	Pte Gurley RLC
WO2 Hepburn GREN GDS	Sgt Langman AGC (SPS)	LSgt Pun RLC	Gdsm Emmanuel 13	Pte Tanner RLC
WO2 Jefferies	Sgt Richardson AGC (SPS)	LSgt Watts RLC	Gdsm Evans 16	Pte Usiagwu RLC
WO2 Thomas 90	Sgt Young QARANC	LSgt Tsorme REME	Gdsm Faulkner	Cfn Davis REME
WO2 Moffat RLC	LCoH Massey LG	LSgt Phombo AGC (SPS)	Gdsm Herbert	Cfn Dobbin REME
WO2 Carlin REME	LSgt Coy	LSgt Cunliffe AGC (SPS)	Gdsm Hughes 61	Cfn Hill REME
CSgt Bladen	LSgt Clowes	Cpl Sen RLC	Gdsm Hopkins 25	Cfn Smith 26 REME
		Cpl Ajiroba AGC (SPS)	Gdsm Huttin	Cfn Storr REME
		Cpl Brown AGC (SPS)	Gdsm Jefferson	Pte Imran AGC (SPS)



Headquarter Company

by Major A Campbell, Company Commander

Having been Company Sergeant Major of Headquarter Company 2007-2010, I was under no illusions of the level of “cat herding” I would be facing as the incoming Company Commander. With his usual high levels of diligence and professionalism I was given the best start to the job with an in-depth handover from Maj Darren Pridmore, who leaves us to take over as Executive Officer of the 1st Battalion London Guards. All members of the Company wish him well in his future endeavours.

In preparation for drafting this article, I reread some past issues and various words and phrases kept jumping out at me- “challenging, agile, can-do attitude, flexibility, enthusiasm”- to name but a few. All used to describe both the individuals and the overall attitude of Headquarter Company personnel. This year’s report will be no different, as again all members of the Company have stepped up to the mark to support the Battalion in all its endeavours, wherever it has been deployed. Personnel have deployed overseas on both Op SHADER 13 and 14, to Africa on Op CORDED, as part of ZAMBATT STTT

(Zambian Battalion Short Term Training Teams), Ex ASKARI STORM and as part of Land Regional Hub Kenya. In the UK, members of the Company have been heavily involved in Op INTERFLEX and most recently on Op LONDON BRIDGE.

On top of all the deployments and exercises above, life goes on in Combermere Barracks. The deployment of so many members of the various departments has placed added strain on those left behind to man the battlements, and it is to their credit that there has been little to no drop in output. We have maintained our

vehicle fleet and weapons at over 90% availability throughout, assurance visits and inspections have been passed, inoculations and hearing tests are kept up to date and most importantly we carry on being fed! In addition, we as a Company have ensured that we have passed all mandatory annual training to enable us to deploy in support of the Battalion whenever, wherever we are needed.

As it is every year there has been considerable churn within the Company, some of which will no doubt be mentioned in the departmental articles. The

QM(T) Capt John Brown SG leaves the army for a second career in the Metropolitan Police. Capt Andy Griffiths has taken up a Staff post in Brecon with Headquarters 160 Brigade. Both RQMS(M) Peters and RQMS(T) Heath have left on promotion to WO1 and take up posts as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Cadet Training Centre Frimley Park and the Honourable Artillery Company, respectively. WO2(CSM) Thomas 90 has moved on having spent most of the year deployed to Kuwait on OP SHADER. The Master Tailor, WO2 Wilks has taken up post as RQMS at RHQ.

In their stead we welcome Maj Richie Sixsmith IG as QM(M), Capt Jimmy Blair COLDM GDS has taken a side-pace right from MTO to QM(T) and is replaced by Capt Jack Owen who has recently commissioned. Capt John Parkinson has moved from Training Officer and is replaced by Capt Mike Hughes GREN GDS as OC PCDW (Performance, Coaching & Development Wing (what

was previously referred to as the Training Office). WO2's Johnson and Hughes 39 have taken over as RQMS(M) and RQMS(T) respectively.

To summarise, I took over Headquarter Company during an extremely busy period with close to 50% of available workforce deployed within the UK or overseas. Despite this morale was high and remains so. The various

departments within the Company are well staffed, well trained, and well led and are looking forward to returning to LONDIST in the New Year.

1. HQ Company Commander, Maj Andy Campbell showing the team how it's done
2. Sgt Jones 89, and his moustache, warming up
3. The Master Tailor, LSgt Putty smashing the 2 Miler
4. The Quartermasters leading the way
5. Previous Coy Comd, Maj Darren Pridmore presenting Jubilee Medals to the troops
6. Company Commanders handover complete!





Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Platoon

by Warrant Officer Class 2 AM Cunningham, Regimental Signallers Warrant Officer

This year has been a very diverse year for the CIS Platoon. A year which has seen most of the Platoon employed in roles within and outside of the G6 world, as 1WG was deployed on many operations and taskings across the globe. This year has seen personnel deployed to, Iraq, Cyprus, Kuwait, Belize, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia, Falklands, Kenya and several locations throughout the UK. This is testament to the diverse skillset which members of the CIS Platoon hold.

This year has seen the continued development and growth of the platoon, as we still see an injection of high calibre soldiers coming across into that dual capacity role as soldier and signaller. The CIS Platoon has had many changes in key personnel with a new Regimental Signals Officer (RSO), Regimental Signals Warrant Officer (RSWO), Company

Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS) and Bowman System Manager (BSM) being appointed, with no less than 7 other newly appointed Regimental Signallers (RS) & Regimental Signals Detachment Commanders (RSDCs).

As we now come away from Op SHADER and Op CORDED, the CIS Platoon

is still heavily engaged in Op INTERFLEX, the UK's commitment to training 10,000 Ukrainian Soldiers. We are also preparing members of the Platoon to deploy to Belize and Jamaica on Ex MAYAN WARRIOR and Ex RED STRIPE, which are providing great opportunities for members of the Platoon to test themselves in some of the harshest and most

difficult environments (Jungle) to establish lines of communication.

What does the future hold for the platoon? Well as the Army grows and develops with modern technology, we must grow and modernise ourselves. We will be using methods unseen by most of the platoon, in how we will operate at reach (Globally)

using digital and satellite methods of communication. This will give us the ability to talk and track our people over 6,000km's away, like we recently did when members of the Battalion were deployed to Zambia.

As we move into 2023, we are continuing to develop and grow in green initiative equipment, reducing our thermal signature and energy consumptions, by using solar and hydrogen powered generators to name just two.

The future looks bright for the CIS Platoon as we use the period under London District to build and grow our capabilities as individuals but also as a collective, so when we come back into the

Field Army we are a highly trained, forward thinking and proactive Platoon as we aim to be the example setters not only across the Household Division but across the Infantry.

1. *Member of the CIS Plt Supporting the Company Commander During CT2 (Collective Training 2)*
2. *Gdsm Williams 02 Keeping himself current and competent on just one of a few weapons systems we operate*
3. *CSgt Stallard Transferring from the Royal Signals to 1WG and Appointed as BSM*
4. *LCpl Rowlands-Bell from the CIS Platoon conducting a leg of the Wales 500*
5. *Gdsm Williams Getting Stuck into the Mortars Warrant Officer as he prepares for the Battalion Boxing Team Event*





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Performance, Coaching and Development Wing (PCD Wing)

by Captain M Hughes, Grenadier Guards

Upon taking Command of the Battalion, Lt Col Livesey quickly identified areas where the lived experience, and therefore the performance and welfare, of our soldiers and officers could be drastically improved. The first step was to reinvigorate and reinvent the training wing. The Performance, Coaching and Development Wing (PCDW) was born. A small team was established, comprised of Capt Hughes, WO2 Hepburn, Sgts Langley, Soko and Corporal of Horse Massey.

The renaming of the wing was intentionally made to change the perception from an organisation that is used as a glorified booking cell to one that is laser focussed on developing our people both personally and professionally. The wing was moved from a small office in Battalion Headquarters to a larger building adjoining the education centre, a vital

component of the plan. After 3 weeks of long days and hard work the team had turned what was run down into an environment that engendered professionalism and purpose. Stud walls were built and painted, windows replaced, and new carpet fitted. The wing now consists of 2 large classrooms, complete with interactive training devices

and the requisite IT support, a refreshed lecture theatre with projector and screen, an outside training area with an all-weather model pit, and an open plan office for the PCDW team.

In-line with the composite way of working the Battalion has adopted, the wing staff make regular use of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) within

the Companies. Drawing from the experience of soldiers who have been instructors on the relevant courses, using their knowledge, skills and experience (KSE) to inform how best to prepare our soldiers going forward and also appraising them of the realities of the courses. In addition to preparing the participants, it also allows the Battalion to filter who



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we place on the courses. Not only is this key to ensuring that the Battalion is well represented but also the secondary effect of raising the quality line for those going in the future.

Continuation and development coaching.

Concurrently to the geographical changes to the wing, Capt Hughes and WO2 Hepburn took the opportunity to travel between various units and training establishments to identify best practices and learn how we could improve our training. The start point was using the Defence Systems Approach to Training (DSAT) as a handrail for programming the courses. Using the DSAT model allowed the wing to develop their own training quality manual which focuses on 3 pillars, built on the foundation of individual and group coaching. The Guardsman continuation development and coaching; and the pre and post tactics courses. All underpinned

by the desire to empower the individual and support the chain of Command in developing our soldiers.

The pathway for new Guardsmen has changed completely in the last six months. It has taken a far more X-Battalion format; two weeks before any Guardsmen are due to arrive from the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) the Adjutant will organise a Video Telephone Call (VTC) between the PCDW Chain of Command, Regimental Careers Management Officer (RCMO), Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) and the ITC training team, this allows any training shortfalls and G1 concerns to be included into the three-week training programme they will undergo. The first 2 weeks covers mandated arrival briefs, kit issue, camp orientation, map reading, military knowledge, a dietary and fitness development program, numeracy, literacy, as well as a learning difficulties assessment and daily PT.



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The final week is with the Communications Information Systems (CIS) Platoon completing the Basic Radio Users (BRU) course. Once completed they are sent to the relevant companies ready to be upgraded to a Class 1 soldier. Companies receive soldiers that are immediately employable

and deployable. The soldiers and their chain of command will receive an individual development plan to follow with recommendations for areas of improvement.

Pre tactics preparation coaching. The Junior Non-Commissioned Officer course is a main priority for



1WG. The unit is critically undermanned at the LCpl level, but also the quality of 1WG personnel attending the course was below par, this gave the wing a considerable challenge; increase the amount of personnel we send on the course whilst also ensuring they are of the right quality. The Battalion pre-course was completely changed and is now an 8-week, progressive programme. It consists of a foundation week, assessing the start standard of the candidates and issuing a SWOT (Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and Threats) based individual development programme. This development plan allows Platoon sergeants and commanders a chance to track the candidate's progress. After the start week candidates are with the wing every Thursday; travelling to Pirbright for PT on the area followed by an afternoon focussing on tactics, military knowledge, and the orders process. For others who are put forward to attend any of the Infantry Battle School (IBS) courses the programme is the same although more SME experience is drawn from the Companies to facilitate the course, in addition to a week on SENTA (Sennybridge Training Area). The final week on all pre-courses is a week of screening, all candidates undertake the same physical and theoretical tests that they will undertake on the respective courses. The Battalion has already seen the benefit of these courses with members of the Battalion currently on the JNCO course posting much improved results.

Post tactics and development coaching.

During the SHAPING phase of the PCDW it was clear that although SP (Service Personnel) had completed the relevant courses there was a gap in the "business as usual" part of their knowledge. The more everyday tasks of Battalion life in a position of leadership is now focussed on once individuals successfully complete one of the promotions courses. The post-tactics course is one day a week over four weeks. In conjunction with the education centre, they will cover report writing, JSP 101, the discipline process and the roles and responsibility in and out of camp.

Although still in its infancy the Performance, Coaching and Development Wing has drastically changed how 1WG views training. A more wholistic, rigorous and realistic wrap to all ranks of the Battalion, remembering that professional and personal development must continue throughout an individuals career and during the transition out of the Service.

1. *Concrete Hill*
2. *Gdsm Taylor during Tac Course preparations*
3. *Training for the Tactics Course 2 Miler*
4. *Casualty Evacuation Training*
5. *CSgt Small assessing 9-Liners*
6. *Gdsm Puglsey demonstrating why he is now LCpl Pugsley*
7. *Quick Battle Orders (QBOs) on Hankley Common*



Quartermasters Department

by Major R Sixsmith Irish Guards, Quartermaster

To say it's been a busy year would be stating the obvious, or at least it is to everyone in the department and wider battalion. There seems to be no end to fresh faces and places that have been visited since the last update. The Quartermasters Department had engagement across the whole of the Op SHADER footprint.

Major Andy Campbell (QM) was deployed as Officer Commanding the National Support Element (OC NSE) in Baghdad for a number of months before returning to Combermere Barracks and handing over the keys of the camp to Major Richie Sixsmith (Irish Guards) who comes from being on Loan Service with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces. On behalf the department we wish Andy well in his new role as Officer Commanding Headquarter Company. Since my arrival I have been lucky enough to find myself recce'ing future activity in Kenya and Jamaica much to the bemusement of Andy who only managed Otterburn!

SSgt Foody RLC (Royal Logistics Corps) returned from a stint in Kuwait straight into deploying equipment and personnel on Op CORDED

(anti-poaching in East Africa) and assisting the new Quartermaster with settling in. SSgt Foody has now departed to Chicksands and in his place, we welcome SSgt Rogers.

The re-shuffle at the top does not stop there, after an innings of 32 years Capt John Brown (SG) Technical Quartermaster decided to call it a day. John has already secured a position with the Met Police and will start his basic training all over again. On behalf of the battalion and department we wish John and his family the very best for his new endeavours. In his place we welcome Capt Jimmy Blair (COLDM GDS) who has moved across from being the Mechanical Transport Officer, Jimmy arrived after a steady stint in Iraq where he had time to smash all coalition forces in a Canadian

led Vimy Ridge memorial march competition.

There was some excellent news just before Christmas with both Regimental Quartermaster Sergeants being selected for promotion to WO1. WO2 Steve Peters, RQMS Maintenance being selected as Regimental Sergeant Major of Frimley Park Cadet Training Centre

and WO2 Rob Heath, RQMS Technical selected as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Honourable Artillery Company. In their place we welcome WO2 Rikki Johnson who moves across from being Drill Sergeant into the Maint slot and WO2 Dean Hughes, Recruiting Warrant Officer to Tech. Both have very big boots to fill but both are making an impact in their





given specialist realms. It has been a real baptism of fire with non-stop activity. Both have been involved in Op SHADER (Iraq), Op CORDED (Africa), Op INTERFLEX (cleaning thousands of AK weapons for Ukrainian forces) and improving the lived experience in Combermere Barracks.

The Mechanical Transport Platoon have been in the thick of it throughout, from collecting 'Grey' fleet cars for Op SHADER 14 Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX), through to renting all the hire cars in Slough in support of Op INTERFLEX they have been busy throughout this year. As well as supporting the rest of the Battalion, significant numbers have also managed to deploy on Op SHADER, primarily in supporting roles in Kuwait and Cyprus. At the centre of everything they have done has been CSgt Evans, the heart of the platoon, his ability to solve problems and to do so with a smile on his face is

astounding and something we should all aspire to, his work during Op BRIDGE was second to none and the Welsh Guards would not have had the success they did without him.

The remainder of the department have been involved in everything and as always remain the life blood of the battalion without whom things would cease. The Tailors Shop are gearing up for the transition to LONDIST and the inevitable surge in Home Service Clothing adjustments, along-side LSgt Horrell who is ordering specials like his life depended on it. They are steered by the steady hand of LSgt Iggy Putty as WO2 Leighton Wilkes, Master Tailor has moved onto Regimental Headquarters as the RQMS. Gdsm Murphy from the tailor's shop found time between sewing medal mounts to become a Household Division boxing champion, Gdsm Williams 64 has found time to complete

the requisite courses and some time to sun it up in Kenya. The Pioneer Sergeant, LSgt Stevens and his understudy Gdsm Hughes seem to have moved and reorganised every section of the camp as well as throwing up gazebos across the estate.

LSgt Muteti and LSgt Patel continue to play ammunition storeman ping pong, their skillset is highly sought and means they must be available to make sure we don't misplace even one round. Sgt Pienaar continues to make sure Health and Safety is top of the G4 agenda. LCpl Limbu has arrived as the clothing storeman and along with Pte Usiagwu they have transformed the way in which we collect and distribute clothing issues. LSgt Rana another member of the RLC attached personnel was dispatched to every corner there was a Welsh Guardsman, his dangerous goods consignment knowledge was well used, and he has now

left for a well-deserved rest. Gdsm Arnold is balancing accounts well above his pay grade and we're pushing him hard to gain promotion, which shouldn't be a problem given the PT tempo where all in the department are showing their physical resilience.

Finally, CSgt Davies 83, G1098 must get a special mention, he along with a team from across the battalion completed an absolute epic undertaking in running 500 miles around the coast of Wales. His feet were well and truly tested but we soon had him back to work making sure we have everything in the right place.

1. *The Quartermasters Department*
2. *The MT Platoon*
3. *The Tailor's Shop - LSgt Putty and Gdsm Murphy*
4. *The Mechanical Transport Warrant Officer heading off to conduct his Role Fitness Test WO2 (RQMS(T)) Hughes enjoying PT far too much!*
- 5.



Gym Life

by Staff Sergeant (Staff Sergeant Instructor) D Hammond, Royal Army Physical Training Corps

The bounce back into Battalion Physical Training following the COVID 19 pandemic has been one that the Battalion has taken in its stride since my arrival back in June 2020.

With the various deployments on the forecast of events the Battalion were very keen to jump back into full time training and make physical fitness a priority. This included preparation for deployments to the Falklands, Iraq and several other Short-Term Training Tasks which made for an exciting 12-month training program ahead.

In the early stages of the training year the Battalion focussed its efforts on "Building the Foundation", a term used to describe much of the basic strength work and low-level aerobic conditioning work required before progressing into a more specific training cycle, and with pre-deployment

training fast approaching this was an important stage in the program.

As an attached arm delivering physical training daily within the Battalion it became very clear that my abbreviations were not welcome, and it certainly took some time getting used to! The Sergeant Major and Warrant Officers were quick to remind me of these shortfalls and naturally this public display of care meant I needed to return the favour with a few extra sessions chucked in for good measure. This obviously made PT even more interesting for those involved.

It goes without saying that 2021 was an incredibly

exciting year to be part of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and this provided a unique opportunity on Op SHADER 12. This opportunity saw the Battalion gym staff being invited to design, upskill and deliver the current strength and conditioning practices to the 1st Military College Iraq. SSgt Hammond & LCpl Dennis were employed within NATO to help develop these Physical Training curriculums. A deployment that created some huge attraction and showcased the real capability and adaptability of the unit. A great success all round!

Another noteworthy mention goes to LCpl Tucker, the Gymnasium Second in Command, for his efforts and commitment during this

incredible period. One that culminated in him being nominated for the Drapers Award because of the success seen in the Rehabilitation Platoon, Battalion Physical Fitness Stats and Sport, all of which were delivered to an exceptional standard.

The previous 12 months have been a great success in the Battalion & the Gymnasium is very much looking forward to seeing what progress can be made in preparation for deployments to Africa and Jamaica in the upcoming year.

1. SSgt Hammond and LCpl Dennis in Baghdad
2. LCpl Tucker
3. The Gymnasium staff

Light Aid Detachment (LAD)

by Warrant Officer Class 2 C J Carlin, Artificer Quarter Master Sergeant

Over the course of the last year, the Light Aid Detachment (LAD) of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has been committed to multiple Operations all over the World.

From June 2021 to June 2022, members of the LAD deployed to Iraq attached to The Prince of Wales's Company and Number 2 Company enabling Equipment Support (ES) & G4 support. SSgt Kittle and LCpl Thomas provided Armourer support, enabling the inspections, repairs and maintenance of weapon systems held by SHADER in Ebril, Baghdad and Kuwait. A total of 7 Vehicle Mechanics (VMs) deployed during both Op SHADER's enabling the maintenance, inspection and repair of both the military and civilian CAV (Civilian Armoured Vehicle) fleet. Obtaining spares and calibrated tools proved difficult with the logistical difficulties encountered. With a meagre budget and using nothing but REME charm, relationships were

built with local mechanics and contractors enabling a greater repair capability than would have been available using the 'system' alone.

In April 2022 Craftsman Davis was deployed as part of Op INTERLINK to Lublin in Poland, attached to 45 Commando Royal Marines. Whilst deployed, he assisted in the maintenance of CAV and MAN SV (MAN Support Vehicle) under the oversight of a Class 1 Vehicle Mechanic from 1Bn REME. Whilst deployed, Cfn Davis was able to get out and explore the local area including a World War 2 concentration camp at Majdanek. He also assisted in the loading of Wolfhounds onto flatbed train carriages at the railhead at night. A daunting task well executed by a Junior Tradesman.

From March 2022 till June 2022, LSgt Tsorme was deployed to Zambia on Op CORDED 9 with No 3 Coy. During the deployment, LSgt Tsorme maintained the fleet of Civilian Land Cruisers used by No 3 Coy helping the Zambian Army, Police and Air Force.

When in camp, he also maintained the LFG's and generators providing all means of life and morale to No 3 Coy. With one hand he giveth, with the other he taketh away... In typical LSgt Tsorme fashion, the red belt of PTI power came out and early mornings became pain filled.

The sheer number of commitments requiring intimate support from the LAD has seen them operate,

at times, as a REME Wksp rather than a Light Role LAD. With overlapping commitments such as Op FIRIC, Op SHADER 13, Op SHADER 14, Op CORDED 9, OP RESCRIPT and multiple exercises, manning has been pushed to its limits. Consequently, tradesmen have been required to operate 1UP and in some instances 2UP, to ensure effectiveness. This was always done with minimal fuss and maximum enthusiasm, a pleasure to see.

The LAD, rightly, takes pride in its ability to deploy small repair teams in place of Fitter Sections, whilst still maintaining high standards of equipment support. Personal and professional development has been key





to success, with all members of the LAD working together to improve the capabilities of the team by developing more junior members in engineering situations not previously encountered. This teamwork and Esprit de Corps has resulted in multiple individuals receiving recognition such as Commanding Officer's Coins,

Deputy Commander General British Forces, Iraq Coins and Commendations.

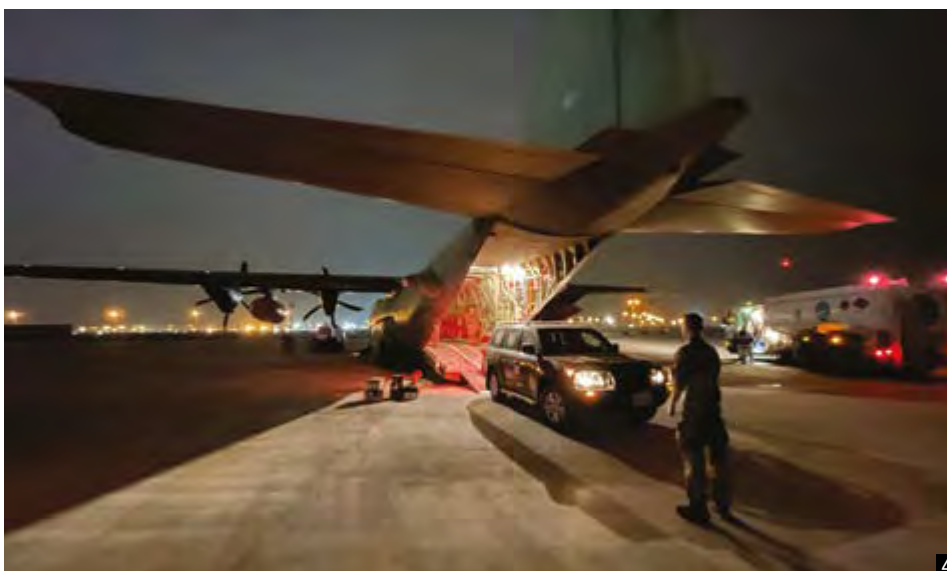
Delivering ES and improving Equipment Care across 1WG is at the core of the LAD. They have consistently delivered the highest equipment availability within 11 Security Force Assistance (SFA) Brigade, ensuring the



equipment remains in the hands of the user. They have also compiled a series of Equipment Care videos, these videos are available to the entire Battalion and assist when conducting Equipment Care training and have become the standard of delivering Equipment Care at reach.

During its commitments the Battalion has been subject to 3 separate LEA (Land Equipment Assurance) in different theatres this year. In all cases, the LAD has guided the Battalion throughout, ensuring successful conclusions with results recorded in the top 10% and multiple best practices identified. Alongside these commitments the LAD has taken time to successfully represent the Battalion, Corps and Army at various sporting events and also raise money for the Welsh Guards Charity.

In recognition for their efforts the LAD has been awarded a 1UK XX Commander Equipment Support Commendation.



1. Op SHADER 13
2. Op SHADER 14
3. LAD members complete half marathon in Iraq
4. New CAV (Civilian Armoured Vehicle) arrives in Theatre



Catering Department

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

Yet another busy but rewarding 12 months for the Catering department. The year started off with LCpl Kell and Pte Tanner supporting specialist units on their selection cadre up in the highlands of Scotland. This was closely followed by LSgt Watts and LCpl Harrower deploying on Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya ensuring the 2 Rifles Battle Group (BG) were fed and watered properly.

Finishing off a very busy 2021 Sgt Rai deployed on OP NEWCOMBE supporting all air movements in and out of Gibraltar, Pte Gurley deployed on Ex RHINO CHARGE in support of 11 Brigade Headquarters in Combined Arms Staff Trainer (North) - CAST(N) and Pte Bromley-Morris received a temporary assignment to the British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) for 6 months.

2022 would be no different to 2021; it started with LSgt Watts and Pte Tanner preparing to deploy on Op CORDED supporting 3 Company on their Counter-Illegal Wildlife deployment. The Prince of Wales's Company being sent to Ex ASKARI STORM with the 1

Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) Battle group with LCpl Kell sent to support their catering department. LSgt Pun and Pte Gurley fed the Anti Tanks Pl on their Cadre and shortly after Sgt Limbu and Pte Gurley supported the Machine Gun Cadre. LCpl Kell was trawled to Ex EAGLE OWL in Nevada whilst Sgt Rai and LSgt Pun went and aided the Wales 500 charity event which saw them cater 24 hours a day for 5 days. Sgt Limbu deployed to Kenya to activate the Land Regional Hub Kenya for future operations in Africa, and last but not means least to end this busy year of deployments for the chefs it saw Pte Bromley-Morris deploy on Op CABRIT in Estonia for 3 months to

be replaced by Pte tanner in September.

Whilst all the deployments have been taking place the following chefs have also completed their career courses; Sgt Limbu and Sgt Rai have completed their Unit Catering Managers Course, their Military Training and Military Education for the SNCO Army Leadership Development Programme (ADLP), LSgt Pun has completed MT and ME for JNCO ADLP and LCpl Kell has completed his Chef Class 1 Course and PNCO Cadre.

A team consisting of Sgt Rai, LSgt Pun and Pte Gurley competed at the annual Ex ARMY SUSTAINER at Grantham in the Open Field

Challenge competing against all the other units in both the regulars and reserves finishing as runners up, they are already looking to attend next year and finishing top.

What an absolute outstanding year for the catering department with deployments and more to come next year; Ex Mayan Warrior, Ex Cerburus, OP CABRIT and the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) annual deployment exercise.

1. Competing at Ex Army Sustainer, (L-R), LSgt Pun, Pte Gurley and Sgt Rai

Regimental Administrative Office Department

by Major M) Sexton Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support)

The Regimental Administrative Office (RAO) department 1WG has had a very busy year and a significant churn in personnel over the past 12 months including a new Regimental Administrative Officer (RAO) and Detachment Commander.

This year has seen members of the Detachment deploy to the Falkland Islands as part of the Falklands Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) and to Iraq on Op SHADER as well as providing support on Rear Party whilst the majority of the Battalion was deployed. The Detachment has also seen AGC Human Resource (HR) specialist staff deploy singularly to Kenya, in support of the Land Regional Hub (K) Enablement team, HR staff support to Op INTERFLEX at Lydd and

on Op SHADER as part of the NSE team located in Kuwait. This has provided critical experience to the Detachment for deployments and the work that goes on to make it happen and it will hold them in good stead over the next 12 months.

Members of the Detachment have also been involved in various Adventure Training activity as well as Sports, with Pte Thompson completing her Rugby Coaching Course, SSgt Nukutabu playing for the AGC

Corps Volleyball team and representing the Army Men's Netball Team against London Knights Men's. LSgt Cunliffe, LCpl Patel and Pte's Thapa and Gurung have represented 1WG at Squash, Cricket and Football respectively. Sgt Bowler completed a Marathon and took part in the DANCON March (the famous Danish Army March they organise at all deployed locations) whilst deployed on Op SHADER 14.

With new members of the Detachment now in situ, it

promises to be a busy year as the Battalion re-roles, and we look to increase our presence and support of the Battalion but also on the sporting front and Adventure Training.

1. *The AGC Detachment, L-R: Cpl Brown, LCpl Patel, LSgt Cunliffe, Pte Gurung, Sgt Bowler, Pte Thompson, Maj Sexton, Pte Wade, SSgt Nukutabu, Cpl Ajiroba, Sgt Evans 09*





The Regimental Aid Post

by Maj N H Faerestrand, Regimental Medical Officer

The Regimental Aid Post (RAP) has had a hugely varied and rewarding year supporting the Battalion. It has been delivering medical care and medical training in the most challenging and austere environments; everywhere from the Jungle of Uganda to the cold of the windswept Falkland Islands of the South Atlantic. Wherever the Battalion has served so have the medics, always on hand when needed. Indeed, such has been the pace of support tasks that some members of the RAP team have deployed on multiple occasions. LCpls Morgan and Gurung remain the most well-travelled of the current team, having spent time deployed on Op SHADER, to the Falklands, Kenya, and Uganda with Belize yet to come.

That is not to say the other team members have been resting on their laurels and taking it easy. LCpls Rogers and Lillie have spent time assisting in the critical task of training Ukrainian Soldiers on Op INTERFLEX, developing and strengthening the visitors' soldiering skills including that of vital lifesaving first aid lessons.

The influence of the RAP on Battalion life doesn't stop there, however, with LCpl Pickman working hard in the guise of a PTI, putting the members of

the Battalion through some gruelling but enjoyable PT sessions. Obviously, all this hard work wouldn't have been as successful without good leadership and orchestration. Sgt Pell and LSgt Wiffen have worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the less glamorous but essential senior leadership role to get the maximum output from the close-knit team.

The year's work culminated for the RAP with the sombre occasion of the funeral of the late Monarch Queen Elizabeth

II. From the outset the RAP provided a willingness to be ready for whatever tasks may come. As a result of this approach, the RAP was dispersed to many locations over a hectic 10 days of Op LONDON BRIDGE. The team found itself delivering first aid in MOD Main Building, supporting the guns of the King's Troop RHA in Hyde Park and Windsor, driving and staffing ambulances on ceremonial duties in London and finally, providing medical support to the procession along the Long Walk to final

rest in St Georges Chapel. It was an incredible privilege for all the team to have a small part to play in such an historic event.

1. *LSgt Wiffen, providing medical cover during HM The Queen's State Funeral in London.*
2. *LCpl Lillie providing medical cover during the deployment to Kenya earlier in 2022.*
3. *LCpl Pickman providing medical training as a background activity during the ranges at Brecon*
4. *LCpl Gurung providing air medical cover in Zambia*



by Major A L Major, President of the Mess Committee

'Strictly Between Ourselves'...With the Battalion heavily committed across the world from the deserts of Kurdistan to the plains of Zambia, it has been tricky to find a time when all of the Officers' Mess has been in one place at the same time! Despite this, we've actually had some great events over the last 12 months, which have perhaps been more fun due to the fact that the Battalion has been so busy and so dispersed.

In a drive to improve the Officers' Mess cellar, George Cadogan kindly organised a fantastic wine tasting evening in early December. The hope is that this will continue on a regular basis and combined with the traditional young Officers' trip to the Guy de Chasse estate in Champagne, will ensure that the Officers' Mess cellar is suitably stocked so that we are able to enjoy ourselves as and when we choose.

One of the most anticipated

events was the surprise dinner kindly organised by Ed Andersen to celebrate Colonel Tom's time in post as the Regimental Adjutant. All those that Colonel Tom had recruited during his time in post were invited to the dinner and the turnout was fantastic with nearly a full house at the Cavalry and Guards Club which went on into the early hours of the following morning. Our thanks to Ed Andersen for pulling the dinner together and keeping it a surprise from Col Tom,

who had a 'suspiciously' well-prepared speech for a dinner he didn't know about, within a regiment that doesn't do speeches. Bringing all of the Welsh Guards Officers that Col Tom had recruited together, was not only great fun and a great opportunity to catch up with both those serving and those that have moved onto fresh pastures, it was also a great reminder of how much time and effort Colonel Tom has put into shaping the future of the Welsh Guards Officers' Mess and indeed the

regiment as our Regimental Adjutant. It was therefore a truly great night to say thank-you to him. Luckily for the few that were unable to attend or celebrate to a suitably decadent level due to work commitments the next day – fear not! The delay to Col Tom's departure means there will be ample scope to arrange another event over the next 12 months!

With the Summer months approaching and Op SHADER and Op CORDED coming to an

end, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to organise an Officers' Mess trip to the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot. Making the most of our very convenient location at Combermere Barracks, we started the day with a Champagne reception in the Officers' Mess before moving to Royal Ascot, where we set up a picnic for the remainder of the day, complimented with some of the Mess Silver to add some style. Despite catching the back end of some thunder storms the day was a fantastic success and the intent is to make this an annual function. Having used this year as something of a tester, the ambition is to open it up to the wider Welsh Guards Officer brotherhood serving outside of battalion next year.

Sadly, the situation in Ukraine curtailed our planned Summer Ball. However, Maj Starkey organised a brilliant Ladies' Dinner Night, which was attended by all those not involved with the Op INTERFLEX task (. It was another great event to come together as a Mess and find out what everyone had been up to over the last year. It has also set the scene for the planned Christmas Ball in December 2022 which will no doubt be suitably decadent to make up for gap caused by COVID!

The year finished on a sombre note following the death of our late Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. While this was a day that sadly we all knew would one day arrive, it nonetheless felt like a huge shock. Despite this very sad occasion, it was great to see so many

Welsh Guards Officers come together at very short notice to represent the finest traditions of the Regiment in a manner that Her late Majesty would have been proud of!

1. *Royal Ascot Champagne Reception at the Officers' Mess*
2. *Majors Spencer-Smith and Charles-Jones at Colonel Tom's Leaving Dinner*
3. *The Officers' Mess at Royal Ascot*
4. *Wives and Girlfriends of the Officers' Mess at Ascot*





THE WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS



1

by Warrant Officer Class 1 D Cope, Regimental Sergeant Major

The past twelve months has been an exceptionally busy but very rewarding time for the Sergeants' Mess. Since the turn of the year a lot of our members have been deployed on Op SHADER 14 across Iraq, Kuwait and Cyprus. But also, we have seen members of the mess deployed on Op CORDED in Zambia, Op INTERFLEX in Lydd and Ex ASKARI STORM in Kenya. Each deployment has seen the mess being central to its success and our mess members gaining vital experience which will benefit both them and the Battalion as we move forward.

Two big events staged in the Mess have been the annual St David's Day celebrations and an Op SHADER 13 medal parade. After two years of not being able to celebrate or be together St David's Day, our national day, was extra special this year. The night prior saw our Welsh Guards Association members form up in the bar surrounded by serving members with many a story to be reminisced and a beer or two shared. This continued into the next day where, as a Regiment, we came together and for many the two years wait

due to COVID was well worth it. St David's Day 2022 will go down as one of most memorable for all involved especially with the Mess bursting with members past and present. We have of course also held our traditional annual Christmas Party and Summer Ball and the Mess was the venue for the 72nd Welsh Guards Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club Dinner.

The Sergeants' Mess made up the core of the of the Battalion Lawson Cup Athletics Team and special

mention must be given to SSgt Hammond from the Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC) for his standout performances in numerous events on the track. CSgt Crew, CSgt Rees, Sgt Hughes 34 and LSgt Nuku performed extremely well as part of the Battalion Pace Sticking team which took part in the World Championship event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Of note we have seen some special presentations gifted to the Mess. The first saw us receive the Union Flag

which covered the coffin of Baroness Thatcher on her funeral, it was presented by her son Sir Mark Thatcher. The main reasons behind us receiving this was the role Lt Col Nicky Mott MBE and WO1 Billy Mott OBE had played in his late mother's funeral and her links to the Battalion during the Falklands War. Additionally, the Regimental Trustees commissioned a painting of Maj Carl Taylor whilst holding the prestigious appointment of Academy Sergeant at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst – see separate article in the

publication. Both amazing presentations will sit proudly in our mess with the rest of our wonderful history.

A huge congratulations must go to both WO1 Heath and WO1 Peters who have been promoted. WO1 Heath has taken on the role of Regimental Sergeant Major of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) and WO1 Peters takes over from WO1 Owen as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the National Cadet Training Centre (CTC) at Frimley Park. We welcome WO2 Hepburn from GREN GDS who has taken over the role of Second in Command of the Performance Coaching Development Wing (PCDW). Additionally, congratulations to WO2 Cunningham 76, Marsh and Qaimuri who have been selected for promotion to Warrant Officer Class Two and have taken over their new roles. All new warrant officers on promotion are now issued with their silver leek cap badge and warrant officer brasses and going forward these will now be retained on discharge as a gesture of thanks and appreciation and in acknowledgement of the significant achievement of reaching Warrant Officer rank.

During the last year, we have said farewell and dined out the following members: WO1 Davies, WO1 Owen, WO1 Peters, WO1 Ridgeway-Buckley, WO2 Parry 95, WO2 Scarf and Sgt Jones 09.

The Mess seniors are:

WO1 (RSM) Cope, WO2 (RQMS M) Johnson, WO2 (RQMS T) Hughes, WO2

(DSgt) Evans, WO2 (DSgt) Jefferies, WO2 (RCWO) Moffat RLC, WO2 (ASM) Carlin REME, WO2 (PCDW 2IC) Hepburn GREN GDS, WO2 (CSM) Davies 96, WO2 (CSM) Greaves, WO2 (CSM) Marsh, WO2 (CSM) Qaimuri, WO2 (CSM) Cunningham 89, WO2 (MorWO) Deren, WO2 (RSWO) Cunningham 76, A/ WO2 (RWO) Green and WO2 Thomas.

As the Regimental Sergeant Major, I am extremely proud of the Sergeants' Mess and all its members. The last year has been extremely demanding not just in terms of workload but the strain and pressure on families and personal lives. But all our mess members from the most junior up to the senior warrant officers have been nothing but exceptional. As I approach my last six months in this appointment I can only look back with pride and admiration for what we have achieved and continue to achieve – thank you.

1. HRH The Prince of Wales presenting CSM Davies with his Accumulated Campaign Service Medal
2. The dining out of WO1 Peters, WO2 Parry 95 and WO2 Scarf
3. The Household Division Sergeant Majors on parade for the State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen. Back Row (L-R): WO1 D Bailey RSM 1 GREN GDS, WO1 L Paxton RSM 1SG, WO1 D Cope RSM 1WG, WO1 C Lavery RSM LONDON GDS, WO1 D Griffiths RSM 1IG, WO1 R Dacey RSM 1COLDM GDS. Front Row (L-R): WO1 C Kirkwood SG, AcSM RMAS, WO1 A Stokes MVO COLDM GDS, GSM Londist, WO1 D Roper GREN GDS, Supt Clk H Div
4. WO1 (RSM) R Heath promoted by the Major General on St David's Day





BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS



1

Maj Petritz-Watts
WO2 Grimwood
WO2 McGowan
CSgt Mercer
CSgt Noble
CSgt Smout
CSgt Snell
Sgt Clark
Sgt Hart
Sgt Lightfoot
Sgt Milward
Sgt Petchey

LSgt Barnett
LSgt Brady
LSgt Cole
LSgt Dann
LSgt Ellen
LSgt Gurney
LSgt Hirst
LSgt Lockwood
LSgt Lovell
LSgt Mason
LSgt Milne
LSgt Shepherd

LCpl Armstrong
LCpl Austwick
LCpl Cook
LCpl Elder
LCpl Howard
LCpl Miles
LCpl Oyeniran
LCpl Ramplin
LCpl Smith
LCpl Stowell
LCpl Trott
Musn Boyd

Musn Bucknell
Musn Coleman
Musn Davies
Musn Herman
Musn Howard
Musn Musto
Musn Plant
Musn Warrington
Musn Williams



by Musician Ben Coleman

From the regular Changing of the Guard to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, 2022 was an incredible year for the Band of the Welsh Guards. We saw pomp and ceremony take us all over the country, in acts of remembrance and also overseas to Switzerland, for the spectacular Basel Tattoo.

In January, Lance Sergeant Stephen Shepherd gave a world-class recital in the Guards Chapel featuring music by Bela Bartok, Charlotte Harding and Jean Charles Richard. Enjoyed by all, this fine musician exemplified the musical precision and passion for which the Band of the Welsh Guards is renowned. It was a performance that struck all the right notes, beginning an exciting year for the band.

Further excitement came in February with the release of a series of recordings of

the band. The recordings consisted of compositions by our previous Director of Music Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) Craig Hallatt and other composers, including Rob Wiffin OBE and Ian Mitchell. The music is freely available to listen to and download for non-commercial purposes at <https://www.householddivision.org.uk/wgbmusic22>

Later on in February, Musician Kirstin Milne took part in the London District indoor rowing championships, successfully

beating tough competition to win her category in the individual events. A team from the Band of the Welsh Guards also participated in the team event, taking the opportunity to engage in some healthy competition with our peers in other London District units.

Following our success in both musical and sporting arenas, the band undertook a performance at the Church of St James, London at the end of March for a very special Welsh Mass. The band shared the floor with many inspiring

officials and talented stars, such as Huw Edwards of the BBC and Guto Harri, the Downing Street Director of Communications.

April brought about a change in command as Lt Col Hallatt moved on to a new role as SO1 Army Music at the Royal Corps of Music Headquarters. In his place, the Band of the Welsh Guards welcomed our new Director of Music, Major Lauren Petritz-Watts. Major Petritz-Watts takes her place in history as the first female Director of Music of a Household Division Band



5

and the band are privileged and honoured to be working with her.

Beyond routine Public Duties, the band has had several opportunities to perform at unique events. Most spectacularly, performing to a crowd of 84,897 people at the 150th FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium this year. The Massed Bands of the Coldstream, Irish and Welsh Guards formed 150 to celebrate this momentous occasion. What's more, since 2012, only one football team has played at more FA Cup

finals than the Band of the Welsh Guards!

In May, the Band performed at a Garden Party held within the Buckingham Palace Gardens on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. The Earl and Countess of Wessex were in attendance, greeting and spending time with guests. The Band performed a variety of music as guests revelled in the beautiful May sunshine.

Trooping the Colour is another regular staple in our musical diet and its return to

Horse Guards Parade was a welcome one after two years of Covid disruption. This year was also particularly special as it marked the Queens Platinum Jubilee Weekend, in which the Band of the Welsh Guards played a central role and had thoroughly enjoyed it. The week began in slightly unusual fashion, supporting the voices of the Armed Forces Children's Choir as they competed in the Britain's Got Talent Semi-Final, before ending in a spectacular show for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Marylebone Music Festival was held on the 26th of June this year, wherein the Band of the Welsh Guards had the distinct pleasure of performing for the second year in a row. Our programme was filled with exciting pieces of music including Looking up Moving on by Philip Sparke and Dragon Prelude by Rob Wiffin.

Another pleasurable return for the Band of the Welsh Guards was to a performance at the Cartier Queen's Cup. Held in early June, the



6



7



honours board reads as a Who's Who of Polo, with notable winners including HRH The Prince of Wales in 1986. Supporting the occasion with a short Beating Retreat, the Band spent the day watching the glorious game and re-learning the difference between a chukka, a mallet and a divot!

July was a busy month, with the Household Division Bands hosting the Military Musical Spectacular on Horse Guards Parade. This event was a

celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her tireless service to the United Kingdom and the countries of the Commonwealth. The band then travelled overseas to Basel, Switzerland, for the world-renowned Basel Tattoo. This was an intense experience for everyone in the band, with a total of 11 shows in 8 days, all in the blazing summer heat! The display's intricate movements were expertly put together by Sgt Milward and was combined with a fantastic

musical arrangement of music from the James Bond films by Sgt Andy Lightfoot.

In August Lance Sergeant Emma Dann and Musician Liam Boyd travelled to Cyprus for Skydiving Adventurous Training. Over an intense two-week training period they developed their ability and love for the art of falling with style as they made it on to 10 second free fall.

With all the year's celebrations and positivity, no one could have expected the very sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on the 8th of September 2022. The nation was in mourning. The Massed Bands of the Household Division began rehearsing for the funeral procession, at which the Band of the Welsh Guards found themselves at its heart. This solemn occasion was witnessed on an international level, with dignitaries from all over the world attending. The

band were proud to have been representatives of the Welsh Guards as we all paid our respects on that unforgettable day.

1. *The Band's Fanfare Team at the Britains Got Talent Semi-Finals*
2. *Director of Music Major Lauren Petritz-Watts*
3. *Lance Sergeant Stephen Shepherd performs in the Royal Military Chapel, The Guards Chapel*
4. *Sergeant Liam Compson performs one of his original works alongside Lance Sergeant Tiffany Ellen*
5. *The Band performs at the 150th FA Cup Final*
6. *On the band stand in the gardens of Buckingham Palace*
7. *Lance Sergeant Emma Dann and Musician Liam Boyd on Adventurous Training in Cyprus*
8. *The Massed Band of the Irish and Welsh Guards during the funeral procession of Her Majesty Elizabeth II*
9. *Captain Adrian Beckett and Sophie Rayworth joint compered the Military Musical Spectacular performed by the Massed Bands of the Household Division on Horse Guards Parade*





1

The Basel Tattoo

by Lance Sergeant Adam Hirst

The Band of the Welsh Guards had a summer packed full of performances at a range of high-profile events. They varied from taking part in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend, to performing on Britain's Got Talent and at the 150th FA Cup final. Having undertaken all these events within the UK, the opportunity to travel to Basel, Switzerland, for the second largest Military Tattoo in the world was the perfect finale to a superb summer.

Basel Tattoo, in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, would require something special and Sergeant Andy Lightfoot had just the trick up his sleeve. He produced a unique musical arrangement featuring the patriotic British songs Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory mixed with Monty Norman's

legendary James Bond score. Set to a marching display choreographed by Sergeant James Milward, in which the band would pay homage to Her Majesty the Queen, and the band were ready to go.

On arriving in Basel, the band were met by our liaison officer Thomas, who is now

a close friend of the band. A true gentleman, he would go far beyond what was asked of him, making sure that our two weeks were as pleasant as possible. Our changing room, the Boxclub Basel, would become our base for the length of the tattoo. Adorned with photos of famous faces from the world of boxing and, to our good fortune, a washing machine and tumble dryer!

Joining us on the tattoo were the Band and Drill team of his Majesty the King of Norway's Guard, the Central Band of the Swiss Army, the United States Air Force Drill team, the Top-Secret Drum Corps and a Military Band from Bulgaria as well as bagpipers from across the globe. Rehearsals started immediately and the heat of summer baked down on the Tattoo arena as the massed bands and pipes gradually

sank into the softening tarmac. As rehearsals went on charismatic Swiss conductor Christoph Walter impressed all with his arranging and conducting skills. All of the ensembles were well rehearsed with great music and even better drill, however putting the different styles of drill into one format took some negotiation. Although no counting was taking place I would put good money on there being over 10,000 bottles of water consumed during the Tattoo.

Outside of the Tattoo, the opportunities to unwind and enjoy the city were plentiful. A keen favourite of the band was floating down the Rhine. An activity made even better as we could start drifting a short walk from our accommodation and disembark next to the Tattoo arena! With over 40



2

museums, plenty of outdoor swimming pools and a bustling cafe culture, it was easy to make the most of the limited amount of down time. Just a few minutes from our accommodation was the Basel Zoo. Although it was enjoyable to visit, we could not help but feel sorry for the animals as the heat ramped up to 38 degrees celsius.

Following the nightly Tattoo performances, the cast of the Tattoo had the opportunity to unwind in the cast bar. A small music venue with an affordable bar at one end, the stage provided opportunity for ensembles made up by the cast members to show their versatility. The Band of the Welsh Guards proved to be immensely popular, providing music in various formations of pop bands fronted by Sergeant Liam Compson and Lance Sergeant Tiff Ellen. Sergeant Matt Hart was also in high demand. Drawing on his civilian DJ skills, he brought great energy to the opening and closing nights - hitting the decks and providing high quality entertainment until the early hours.

Halfway through our time at the Basel Tattoo came the opportunity to do what a Guards Band does best; march through the city streets playing with that full, refined sound that lets all around us know that the pride of Britain has arrived. The Basel Tattoo parade starred all the cast of the show plus many other ensembles from across Switzerland. In 34 degrees celsius and with two performances of the Tattoo

to follow that day the band hit its element. A fine sound from start to finish, the band impressed everywhere we marched. "After a long week of rehearsals, it was a privilege to entertain the tens of thousands of people that lined the streets" said the Band's Principal Trombone, Colour Sergeant Andrew Mercer. "We brought a small element of changing the guard to Switzerland and got a fantastic reception for doing so".

The Tattoo offered a fantastic opportunity to showcase two of our soloists, Lance Corporal Ed Austwick on Saxophone and Lance Corporal Ben Smith on Flugal Horn. To stand in front of 8,000 people and perform at the highest level is a huge achievement, to do it consistently over 11 performances in 9 days is a sure sign of being world class.

Towards the end of our time in Basel, the band engagement team, led by Lance Sergeant Tiff Ellen, had the opportunity to share their passion for music with the next generation of musicians. Whilst the brass quintet entertained the children at the children's day, LSgt Ellen and her team showed them bearskin caps and tunics as the kids got to take in the different cultures involved in the Tattoo.

Being able to share some of the Tattoo experience with the Regimental Adjutant and his wife was also very special for all in the band. "I congratulate each and every one of you for what you do for the Regiment and how



you promote our standing in the wider community, whether in Basel or back in the UK" said Colonel Bonas. Having always been incredibly supportive of the Band it was a real pleasure to share our experience in Basel with the Colonel and his wife.

It was a fantastic tour of Basel and the band were immediately won over by the city. The Band of the Coldstream Guards have long been a popular favourite of the people of Basel but as we returned to the UK it became clear that the loyalties of

Basel may have shifted in the direction of Wales.

1. The Band form up for an official photograph
2. Lance Sergeant Tiffany Ellen and Musician Kirstin Milne with a member of the public
3. Musician Milne with a member of the public
4. Drum Major Paul Carson of the Irish Guards leads the band out into the arena
5. Lance Corporal Ben Smith and Musician Luke Warrington pose with a highlander dancer
6. Sergeant Matt Hart backstage before the first performance of the Tattoo
7. The Massed Bands of the Basel Tattoo line up for the finale





DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS

DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICERS as at 1 January 2023

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Colonel-in-Chief	His Majesty The King
Colonel of the Regiment	His Majesty The King
Regimental Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel G R Harris DSO OBE
Regimental Adjutant	Colonel (Retd) T C S Bonas
Assistant Equerry	Captain E W D Andersen
Assistant Regimental Adjutant	Major (Retd) M E Browne BEM
Director of Music	Major L Petritz-Watts MSc(perf), BMus (Hons), GRNCM

1ST BATTALION

Lieutenant Colonel JD Livesey	Commanding Officer
Major E Mackie RHG/D	Second-in-Command
Major AL Major	Officer Commanding The Prince of Wales's Company
Major P Gambarini COLDM GDS	Officer Commanding Number Two Company
Major T Campbell-Schofield	Officer Commanding Number Three Company
Major A Campbell	Officer Commanding Headquarter Company
Major V Graves MERCIAN	Officer Commanding Support Company
Major R Sixsmith IG	Quartermaster
Major N Faerstrand RAMC	Regimental Medical Officer
Major M Sexton AGC (SPS)	Regimental Administration Officer
Captain J Leonard	Adjutant
Captain TS Minihan	Operations Officer
Captain J Stephens R SIGNALS	Regimental Signals Officer
Captain A Gould	Intelligence Officer
Captain J Blair COLDM GDS	Technical Quartermaster
Captain J Owen	Motor Transport Officer/Officer Commanding HDPRCC
Captain J Parkinson	Regimental Careers Management Officer
Captain M Parry	Unit Welfare Officer
Captain M Hughes GREN GDS	Performance, Coaching & Development Officer
Captain W Richardson	Officer Commanding Mortar Platoon
Captain OMF Powell	Officer Commanding Anti-Tank Platoon
Captain T Haines-Henderson	Second-in-Command Number Two Company
Captain LMF Vincenzini	Second-in-Command Number Three Company
Captain M Nightingale RACHD	Battalion Padre
Captain JJD Phillips	Second-in-Command The Prince of Wales's Company
Captain T Haynes	Officer Commanding Reconnaissance Platoon
Captain S Burfiend	Officer Commanding Machine Gun Platoon
Lieutenant TBJ Brown	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Lieutenant GEC Cadogan	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Lieutenant FTA Babbs	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Lieutenant W Jones	Platoon Commander Number Three Company
Second Lieutenant T Allan	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant W Comaish	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant M Godden AGC (SPS)	AGC Detachment Commander
Second Lieutenant W Moss	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant T Hudson	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant H Ashcroft	Platoon Commander Number Two Company
Second Lieutenant F Hopkisson	Platoon Commander The Prince of Wales's Company
Second Lieutenant O BodyCombe	Platoon Commander's Battle Course
Second Lieutenant G Eden	Platoon Commander's Battle Course



EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie GCB GCVO OBE DL
 Lieutenant General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE
 Colonel GR Harris DSO MBE
 Colonel BPN Ramsay OBE
 Colonel DWN Bevan MVO
 Colonel HS Llewelyn-Usher
 Colonel GCGR Stone LVO
 Colonel JD Salusbury
 Lieutenant Colonel CT Sargent MBE
 Lieutenant Colonel ML Lewis
 Lieutenant Colonel TA Smith
 Lieutenant Colonel TJ Badham
 Lieutenant Colonel AJ Salusbury
 Lieutenant Colonel A Breach
 Major ES Mathieson
 Major TC Spencer-Smith
 Major CJP Davies
 Major CSN Fenton
 Major CHL Beare
 Major AJH Dunlop
 Major GCF Charles-Jones
 Major BJ Figgures-Wilson
 Major ER Emlyn-Williams
 Major JP Marsden
 Major JO Dinwiddie-Choat
 Major JM Young
 Major D Pridmore
 Major C Taylor
 Major D Luther-Davies
 Major AJN Smith
 Major TWJ Evans
 Major DS Morgan
 Captain OFA Alsop
 Captain PDE Razzall
 Captain E Griffiths
 Captain A Griffiths
 Captain SG Bowen
 Captain J Wilkinson
 Captain G Davidson
 Lieutenant FWP Syms

Former CGS, CDS and Gold Stick
 UK Military Representative, NATO HQ, Belgium
 AD Strategy Main Building
 Comd TOSCA FCOS UNFICYP
 Commander Op CABRIT, Estonia
 MOD
 Chief of Staff, London District
 Op SHADER as COS CSOJTF-Levant
 SO1 Urban Land Warfare Centre
 SO1 G35 HQ RRC-FR, Lille, France
 SO1 Ops Team, UK Joint Delegation to NATO, HQ NATO
 DS MAJSCSC, Kuwait
 UK Liaison Officer to État-major de l'armée de terre, Paris
 3UK Div, SO1 G35
 SO2 Ft Gds & PARA (Offrs), APC Glasgow
 Op CABRIT as SO2 J7, Estonia
 Academy Adjutant, RMA Sandhurst
 DComd, SO, UK Space Command, RAF High Wycombe
 Bn 2IC 1ST Battalion Coldstream Guards
 SO2 G7 Coll Trg, HQ US Army Forces Comd, Fort Bragg, USA
 Chief of Staff, Combined Arms Training Advisory Team, Oman
 OC No 2 Coy, 1st Battalion Irish Guards
 XO J2 Division, PJHQ
 XO to D Programmes
 SO2 Plans CTPP
 SO2 International Counter Terrorism MOD
 Executive Officer London Guards
 Late Entry Officer Course Instructor RMAS
 Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land)
 Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land)
 Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land)
 Intermediate Command and Staff College (Land)
 MOD
 SO3 J5, 77 Bde
 MTO in MRTC
 SO3 UK Ops HQ 160X
 UWO BATUS
 ADC to UK Military Representative, NATO HQ, Belgium
 Ops Officer 1st Battalion Irish Guards
 Platoon Commander, ATC Pirbright

INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE, CATTERICK

Lieutenant RMJ Cross
 Lieutenant CG Clarke
 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 2023

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant	25095800	W02	LC Wilks
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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)	25157883	W02	RJ Johnson
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Tech)	25124239	W02	DT Hughes
Drill Sergeant	25176931	W02	DLR Evans
CSM The Prince of Wales's Company	25136196	W02	M Davies
CSM Number 2 Company	25173650	W02	CL Greaves
CSM Number 3 Company	25212666	W02	S Marsh
CSM Headquarter Company	25189022	W02	RV Qaimuri
CSM Support Company	25203674	AW02	CP Pheasey
Mortar Warrant Officer	25144996	W02	P Deren
Performance, Coaching & Development WO	25143315	W02	S Hepburn GREN GDS
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer	25133076	W02	AM Cunningham
Recruiting Warrant Officer	25229479	AW02	MD Green
Previously CSM HQ Coy	25100290	W02	J Thomas
Drum Major	30035357	CSgt	C Rees
Acting Master Tailor	30076325	LSgt	L E Roberts

ATTACHED ARMS

Regimental Catering Warrant Officer	25130865	W02 P	Moffatt RLC
Artificer Quarter Master Sergeant	25179263	W02 C	Carlin REME
Regimental Administrative Warrant Officer	Post Vacant		

EXTRA REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED

Regimental Sergeant Major CTC Frimley	25088682	W01	S Peters
Regimental Sergeant Major HAC	25122844	W01	RJ Heath
Army Training Regiment Winchester RQMS	25142829	W02	DR Lewis
Infantry Battle School Chief Instructor			
Urban Tactics Wing	25102911	W02	RS Young
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst CSM	25188733	W02	J McEvoy
Guards Company ITC CSM	25171950	W02	D Walton
Drill Sergeant ATR Pirbright	25189789	W02	K Cunningham



HONOURS AND AWARDS 2021

ROYAL VICTORIAN MEDAL (RVM) - SILVER

Yeoman Warder Paul Cunliffe MBE (formerly 24505738)

HM Tower of London (awarded in Dec 20 but omitted from previous magazine)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (MSM)

25102725 Warrant Officer Class 1 D P Cope

1st Battalion

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

25220441 Sergeant M KLimbu RLC

att 1st Battalion

25221497 Lance Corporal TDH Leech REME

att 1st Battalion

25227294 Lance Sergeant N Mottram

1st Battalion

CLASP TO LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Major D W Pridmore

1st Battalion

ACCUMULATED CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL

25113683 Colour Sergeant I Davies

1st Battalion

25136196 Warrant Officer Class 2 M Davies

1st Battalion

25129588 Colour Sergeant C Evans

1st Battalion

25206289 Sergeant R A Jones

1st Battalion

25174807 Staff Sergeant J Kittle REME

att 1st Battalion

GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING LONDON DISTRICT COMMENDATION

Mr Stan Evans (23523467)

Welsh Guards Collection Oswestry

DEPUTY COMMANDER (OP SHADER 13) COMMENDATION

30198099 Lance Corporal J Ackey AGC

The Prince of Wales's Company

25174807 Staff Sergeant J Kittle REME

The Prince of Wales's Company

30170592 Lance Sergeant U Okeke

The Prince of Wales's Company

30172470 Lance Sergeant J Edwards

The Prince of Wales's Company

25136196 Warrant Officer Class 2 M Davies

The Prince of Wales's Company



Guards Training Company, Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick

by Lieutenant C G Clarke, Officer Commanding Guards 19 Platoon, Guards Training Company

2021/22 has been a busy period for Guards Training Company as the Infantry Training Centre emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing with it all of the freedoms lost over the last two years. This has had an immeasurable impact on both staff and recruits alike.

The Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC), the two-phase course all infantry soldiers complete, has begun a new iteration, CIC 21. This, coupled with the end of COVID-19 restrictions, has led to a

number of improvements to the recruit and staff experience. The London Visit has returned, a unique offering to recruits in Guards Training Company. Platoons have the opportunity to visit

Wellington Barracks, the Major General and his office, and watch, what was then, Queen's Guard Mounts from the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. Adventurous Training has returned, giving recruits an insight into the activities they could conduct when they arrive at their units and undoubtedly making their section and platoon stronger fighting units. These return with no impact on the military training conducted by Platoons.

Guards Training Company has adapted with the changes and risen to them as expected. Recruits are now provided with continuity at Platoon Headquarters level, as Platoon Commanders' and Sergeant's remain in place

throughout both Phase 1 and Phase 2. The recruits are given the opportunity to have a 'fresh set of eyes' as new Section Commanders replace those who instructed in Basic Training. This has been welcomed across the rank range and is producing positive results in the Trainee Guardsmen in their Phase 2 Initial Trade Training (ITT).

The feed of potential Welsh Guardsmen to Guards Training Company remains strong. Guards 19 Platoon, the most recent recruits to have received their Regimental Allocations, have over 30% (10 TGdsm) due to join the Battalion on Passing Out in March 2023. Whilst recruits are allocated based on the Division's





3

requirements, individual preference remains a strong factor in the decision made. It is a sign that Regimental Recruiting continues to do an excellent job. Whilst 21/22 has been a relatively quiet recruiting year, 22/23 is set to become much busier. The Company can expect a significant increase in recruit numbers in the New Year providing challenges but also brilliant opportunity. Recent months have been made busier by a standing commitment to British Army

training of overseas forces, with the Company providing an eight-man training team based in Northern England. A brilliant opportunity for those involved that has provided useful training feedback for use in the training of our own recruits.

With a new year, a change of Welsh Guards presence has occurred at Guards Training Company, with some old faces remaining unchanged. WO2 (CSM) Walton remains a Welsh Guards presence

in Company Headquarters. Sgt Rowlands continues to lead the Company's welfare provision as the Regimental Shepherd, a unique and crucial role for recruits and training teams. Colour Sergeant Braithwaite has promoted having passed the Sandhurst Instructor's Cadre and moved on to the Academy. Sergeant Harris and Sergeant Chambers have arrived and will shortly be starting with new courses. Lance Sergeant (LSgt) Bilkey has recently begun and is

coming to the end of his first Basic Training Phase. LSgts Waters, Brace, Forgan, Williams, and Hall all remain in various stages of training, continuing to provide a unique Welsh flavour to infantry training. Lieutenant Rob Cross is shortly arriving to replace Captain Tom Haines-Henderson and will be joining the author in the 'Guards Cottages', an institution in its own right that continues to thrive for Guards Training Company Platoon Commanders.



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The 22/23 recruiting year is set to be a demanding and busy one for Guards Training Company and its Welsh Guards members. However, the Company is well placed to meet these challenges and will continue to deliver robust and competent Guardsmen to the Division as required.

1. The Author and Guards 19 Platoon, Guards Memorial
2. Recruits Patrol on Catterick Training Area
3. LSgt Bilkey WG teaches Duties of a Sentry in Basic Training
4. Recruits learn bouldering on Adventurous Training



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The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

by Major C J P Davies, Academy Adjutant

Since the end of 2021, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) has been re-finding its feet after the changes and uncertainty of the Covid pandemic. This period has seen a series of firsts: the first church services, the first boxing nights, the first overseas exercise and the first external speakers since the start of the pandemic. Indeed, the first indoor Colours to Chapel service did not take place until April of this year.

Despite the pause and re-appearance of these activities, some things have remained constant. Officer Cadets still undergo a three term regular commissioning course, culminating in a commissioning parade at the end of which they march up the steps of Old College. They still deploy on exercise to training areas around the UK to test their leadership and basic soldiering skills. They are still trained by senior Captains from across the Army and by Senior Non-Commissioned Officers selected after a rigorous four-week Cadre.

At the end of 2021 the senior term returned to conducting their final exercise in Hohenfels in Bavaria, where they have been going each term since. Travelling overseas for the

culmination of their training provides them with a taste of expeditionary warfare as well as exposing them to more challenging opposition forces in the form of mechanised US Army troops. It is at the end of this exercise that they put on the berets of their new Regiments formally for the first time, just hours after they have completed their final, dawn attack and before enjoying a well-deserved champagne breakfast.

We have been lucky to continue to welcome high profile visitors to the Academy, whether as guest speakers or as the Sovereign's Representative. Officer Cadets have had the opportunity recently to listen to such luminary speakers as Lord Hague, Tobias Ellwood MP and Lord Dannatt as well as other well-known figures

from across the academic disciplines. The last three Sovereign's Representatives have been HRH Princess Anne, the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Gen James C, McConville and the Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, Gen Bajwa. Those Officer Cadets who are about to commission also

receive a talk each term from the Chief of the General Staff.

Although many traditions carry on at Sandhurst, as with most parts of the Army, we are the subject of constant review to ensure that our culture and the content of our training is suitable for the demands of



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the period. Sandhurst has a reputation as one of the foremost military academies in the world however to maintain this position we need to constantly assess that what we are teaching and how it is taught are relevant to modern times.

We have been fortunate as a Regiment to have some very competent and well-respected instructors at the Academy over the last year; Major Carl Taylor as one of the instructors on the Late Entry Officer Course, WO2 McEvoy as a Company Sergeant Major and Colour Sergeant Jayne as an instructor. We have also been recently joined by Colour Sergeant Braithwaite who passed the Cadre earlier in the year. Behind the scenes the Academy benefited hugely from the experience of WO1 Williams 27 who finished in the summer as the RQMS for New College.

We may be a small regiment, but we manage to provide a seam of very high quality instructors, all of whom also supported Operation BRIDGE

as drill instructors for the marching parties, street liners and Guard of Honour.

In May this year, a new statue was unveiled to HM Queen Elizabeth II. It depicts Her Majesty riding on her horse Burmese at the Queen's Birthday Parade and is situated on the road to Old College as one approaches from the direction of New College. It is a particularly impressive statue and well worth a

visit if in the Academy. The statue was unveiled by HRH the Earl of Wessex at a ceremony attended by previous Commandants of the Academy.

Sandhurst continues to mix the traditional with the progressive and remains a very interesting place to work. The Welsh Guards have contributed much to life at the Academy and long may it continue.

1. 2Lt's Hudson and Allan with the Academy Adjutant and WO1 Williams 27 after the final attack in Germany in March
2. Major Carl Taylor and his Sovereign's Parade live stream commenting team
3. The Academy Adjutant leads the Academy onto parade
4. The new statue of HM Queen Elizabeth II at the Academy
5. WO2 (CSM) McEvoy with the Academy Sergeant Major in London for Operation BRIDGE
6. Teams competing in the World Pace Sticking Championships held at the Academy



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Kenya Liaison Officer

by Captain L M F Vincenzini, Security Force Assistance Battalion Plans Officer

Having missed out on the opportunity to deploy with the Battalion on Op SHADER there was little thought to be had when I was offered the chance to work in Kenya for the best part of this year.

Since Kenya's Independence in 1963, the UK has maintained a long standing and mutually beneficial defence relationship. The Defence Cooperation Agreement, the document that authorises this relationship, allows the British Army to have permanent bases in Kenya in order to train up to 10,000 British troops a year. Exercising for up to 8 weeks at a time, the ruggedness of the Kenyan terrain provides a unique opportunity to test soldiers to their limits. In return, the UK has invested significantly in improving security in Kenya and developing their Defence Forces. The most

recent developments in this continued relationship being the Land Regional Hub (Kenya) and Security Force Assistance Brigade concepts.

Together these concepts look to base small numbers of specially trained troops at the large army base in Nanyuki, known as British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK). Their responsibility would be to train and assist partner forces in Kenya and East Africa and they would form the key component of the UK Government's intent to persistently engage in the region. As with the concepts, my job was completely new, and I would be working as

the Plans Officer as part of the Security Force Assistance Pilot that the Battalion had taken on. It was an exciting prospect; I would be living in Nairobi with the potential for travel across Kenya and possibly, wider East Africa.

The work involved liaising with several different organisations and trying to scope future opportunities for the Security Force Assistance Battalion (SFA). Initially, the majority of this training would be conducted by the Welsh Guards through Short Term Training Teams (STTTs) facilitated by British Peace Support Team Africa (BPST(A)). Recently, the Welsh

Guards deployed a team of 22 to run pre-deployment training for a Kenyan Battalion before their year-long deployment to Somalia and soon another team will head to Uganda to undertake the same. Relationships with key training centres were also identified by the Commanding Officer as playing an important role in the development of the Security Force Assistance concept, and this has resulted in regular trips to Isiolo, which is home to the Kenyan School of Infantry and a one-off trip to Uganda to visit their Joint Peace Support Training Centre.





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This was a little different from the usual army posting or deployment, particularly as my accommodation was an apartment on the outskirts of Nairobi and away from the large military presence in Kenya. It helped, however, that this was the country of my birth and having visited regularly throughout my life, it was not completely alien. It is an amazing country, with immensely proud people from a huge variety

of cultures living in harsh yet beautiful environments. Added to this is the vast abundance of wildlife and conservation areas, places including the Masai Mara and Samburu, which are world-renowned for their safaris. Being posted out here has allowed me to sample a sliver of what this country has to offer, from camping on an extinct volcano rim on Mt Suswa to watching herds of elephants in swamps under

the shadow of Kilimanjaro. The opportunities to see and do things are endless and the hard part has been trying to fit it all in. On a separate note, but also staying true to the Welsh Guards, Rugby is also a large part of my life out here, and weekly touch rugby sessions remind me of life back in Battalion. A highlight has to be playing in a 7s tournament for BATUK in front of a crowd of 3,000 at the National Rugby Ground in Nairobi.

have been based in BATUK so there has always been a recognisable leek close by.

I feel privileged to have been able to live and work in Kenya, somewhere close to my heart and to be part of something truly new and exciting in the Army. I look forward to seeing the Battalion taking on the Security Force Assistance role in the future and more individuals being able to experience this special country.



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Although living and working by myself, there has been a steady trickle of Welsh Guardsmen into the country, which has always been thoroughly welcomed. A few examples include visits from the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant's wedding in August and Seb Ward, who has recently left Battalion starting his African Road trip from Nairobi. Furthermore, CSgt Jones works at BPST(A) and Lt Freddie Babbs and the SFA Battalion Enablement Group

1. *Welsh Guards Officers at the Adjutant's Wedding*
2. *The author on Safari in Samburu National Park with Lt Babbs*
3. *The author camping on Mount Suswa, a shield volcano in the Great Rift Valley, with Capt Seb Ward*



Life at the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK)

by Lieutenant F T A Babbs, Officer Commanding 3 Platoon

The training environment in Kenya is a formidable opponent. Indeed, the Regiment has recent history overcoming the adversity of the hot, arid ground, which is peppered with dangerous flora and fauna. In March of this year, The Prince of Wales's Company deployed to Kenya on Exercise ASKARI STORM as part of the 1st Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Battlegroup, returning victorious. After a short break, I found myself joined by CSgt Rees, Support Company, back in Nyati Barracks, home to the main body of the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK).

Sat on the outskirts of Nanyuki, a market town at the base of Mount Kenya, BATUK may send shudders down the spine of Welsh Guardsmen. Memories of tents, stood in a quagmire, from which Battlegroup exercises were launched onto the surrounding training areas – including the jungle on the mountain itself – still linger. However, as one of the key staging posts of our East African presence, Nyati Barracks is home to nearly four hundred British Army personnel during major

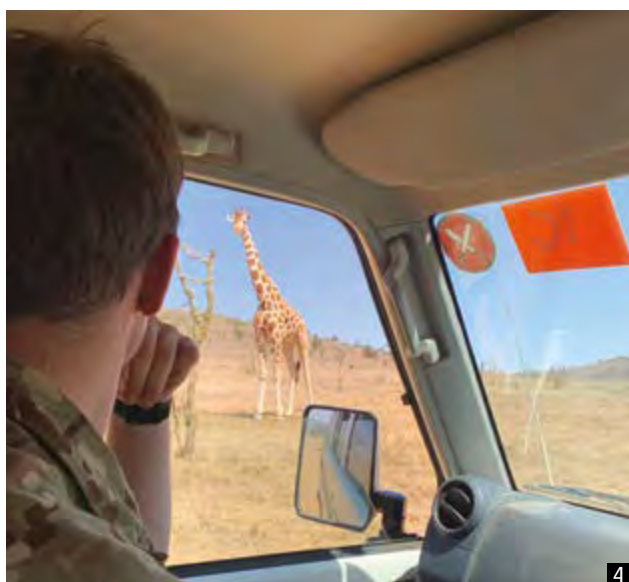
exercises, and additionally employs over one thousand Locally Employed Civilians (LECs). So, it has seen huge investment in recent years, which has propelled it from a far-flung wilderness to a surprisingly civilised life overseas and a sought-after posting.

BATUK is the centre of excellence for light role training. With increased emphasis following recent Army reforms, its main output is "Mission Ready" Light Role Infantry

Battlegroups – Infantry Battalions, such as our own, combining arms with other assets including Engineers, Artillery, Military Working Dogs, the list goes on. Battlegroups are assessed against a set of criteria that validates them as deployable, or non-deployable, on Operations. For each Battlegroup going through the mill, there is a coordination team – the Training Wing – that oversees the planning, execution and safety of exercises. Like all departments in BATUK,

it offers both 6-month 'temporary' jobs and 2-year 'permanent' postings. It is not uncommon for members of both groups to extend their stays in the country, such are the benefits.

Professionally, there are opportunities to improve oneself on a range of courses including advanced driving, team medic and a Swahili language course, as well as through Adventurous Training. During time off, of which there is scope to take plenty, Kenya has huge



amounts to offer, including unique and affordable access to safari. BATUK staff are eligible for resident rates to national parks and conservancies, including the largest sanctuary of Black Rhinoceros in East Africa, less than one hour from the front gates of camp. Even better value for money, though, are the training areas. There are not many places that a section commander must favour a left-flanking attack over a right-flanking attack, because there is a buffalo, and perhaps other members of The Big Five, in their way. Nor is one's morning alarm clock usually a hyena having a recce of the end of one's sleeping bag, but it has been known to happen. Safety teams work around the clock on exercise, to allow the wildlife to coexist with exercising troops. The outcome is a completely unique training experience to that found anywhere else in the world.

The physical terrain poses challenges that are ready to be conquered. Africa's two tallest mountains – Mount Kenya and, just over the border in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro – have recently been summited by Welsh Guardsmen based in BATUK. Other sporting options enjoyed by members of the Battalion recently have ranged from horse riding – including horseback safari – to kitesurfing on the coast. There is yet more sport to be found on those white sandy beaches, as BATUK enters a team into beach rugby and football tournaments on Diani beach each year. Within the Unit, inter-departmental sporting competitions take

place throughout the year. The current titleholders? The infantry-heavy Training Wing, of course.

As we look toward the future of the British Army, it would appear that BATUK will continue to receive investment to consolidate its synonymity with the Land Regional Hub, Kenya, LRH(K). The mission statement has expanded, adding emphasis beyond just training British light role infantry battalions, to include a deeper partnership with the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) and further support for Operations throughout East Africa – the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and Ugandan Battlegroup XXXVII (UGABAG 37), to name just two that will be affected by Welsh Guardsman in the second half of 2022 alone. As the British Army deepens its interest in the region, more expeditionary opportunities will present themselves. Furthermore, as an infantry battalion, Exercise ASKARI STORM in Kenya is always on the horizon and, what is more, we should look forward to returning to this beautiful country before too long.

1. Conducting a recce for the TRIFLES Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX)
2. The Land Regional Hub (Kenya) team – CSgt Stallard, LSgt Mottram, LSgt Patel and LCpl Thapa – enjoy a spot of horseback safari
3. Capt Vincenzini and the author in Amboseli National Park. Also pictured are Capt Lalley GREN GDS and Capt Fotheringham 2 RANGER
4. Free safari on Lolldaiga Training Area

Exercise ASKARI STORM – The Prince of Wales’s Company
by Lieutenant C G Clarke, Officer Commanding Number 2 Platoon

Having recently returned from leave following their return from Op SHADER 13, The Prince of Wales’s Company were tasked to clamber out of the relative comfort of their Civilian Armoured Vehicles and deploy to Kenya at short notice for Ex Askari Storm.

The Company had spent the previous year training towards and being deployed on an operation which had very different demands than the conventionally focused Ex ASKARI STORM. Nevertheless, three weeks of low-level training in Combermere Barracks ensued to get the platoons back into the mindset of conducting predominantly rural and conventional actions. The Guardsmen proved themselves to be remarkably agile and flexible, showing the Company HQ that the very basics of infanteering remained muscle memory. This stood the Company in good stead to deploy in early March to Kenya.

The Company arrived in Nairobi and were quickly moved onto coaches to begin the five-hour journey north,

to Nyati Barracks in Nanyuki. This was to be the Jamboys’ home for the first two weeks in country. Whilst, initially, the isolation Safari Tents didn’t seem to be the height of luxury, most very quickly settled into them for five days of isolation and they proved to be a comfortable and useful place for sections to begin putting Standard Operating Procedures into practice. They were now ready to be tested on a short, four-day exercise on Lolldaiga training area aimed at offering the sections the opportunity to work together in a tactical environment and to begin to get used to the heat of day and darkness of night.

Whilst the focus remained the infanteering on this short exercise, it would be worth noting that for



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many members of the Company who had never enjoyed safari, this was a brilliant opportunity. Large herds of elephant were a daily presence around the Company harbour, as well as a constant stream of giraffe, hyena and zebra. Whilst, for the most part, these beautiful creatures kept themselves to themselves, a good number of section commanders will recall assaulting enemy positions or establishing observation posts only for their efforts to be interrupted by one animal or another. The Company were in a strong place as they returned to Nyati Barracks for a 48

hour turn around before deploying on Ex Askari Storm as C Coy, although the proud tag of The Prince of Wales’s Company was never dropped, within the PWRR Battlegroup for over three weeks.

For many, including the author, this was the longest continuous period on exercise experienced. In addition, Kenya’s terrain and climate demands the most of infanteers who exercise there. The exercise was divided into four phases, each becoming progressively more complex and challenging. Having not conducted a Company level action since pre deployment training for Op SHADER, the Company’s first attack showed promise. The Guardsmen and Junior Commanders were aggressive and confident. However, a determined enemy did not make life easy. The author very quickly found himself alerted to the fact that he had been fatally wounded a little sooner than he had hoped, very quickly joined by Lt J Phillips, leaving a plucky Sgt N Chambers and Lt F Babbs to finish (and start) the assault.



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The Company settled into a routine of clearing ground and holding it whilst the other Company's bound ahead of us and vice versa. The first phase culminated in a Battlegroup defence of an airfield. The Company bore the brunt of the enemy's efforts and successfully repelled them. A 24-hour period of routine in the field was welcome after a demanding first week.

The following two phases saw the Battlegroup conduct a series of attacks on enemy defensive positions, making their way north to clear the enemy from the fictional country of Amari. With many Guardsmen entering the final week of the exercise

having never spent this long on exercise, the Company were in a good place. They had had some strong and successful actions and were now used to operating in the unforgiving heat and terrain of Kenya.

The final phase presented the Company with a more complex Human Terrain environment, with significant civilian presence in many scenarios and the introduction of friendly and non-friendly media. It is worth a particular mention to the Company Headquarters duo, Company Second-in-Command Capt J Wilkinson and LSgt P Stirling at this point. Whilst the platoons faced demanding



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tactical scenarios, the ground became increasingly challenging to navigate by Land Rover. It is safe to say that both Capt Wilkinson and LSgt Stirling are now in no doubt as to the limits of the capability of the General Service Land Rover.

The Company had successfully navigated the demands of civilian populations, various media outlets with varying degrees of success and were now faced with the final attack. The enemy had consolidated on a large rock, known as Climbing Rock, and the Company were given the privilege of both leading the Battlegroup into the assault, and being the first assaulting force. 3 Platoon valiantly established a foothold at the base of the position, allowing 1 and 2 Platoons to echelon through. The casualties mounted as the Company manoeuvred itself through the open ground to move up the remarkably steep enemy position. With the (significant) help of the Mortar Platoon, the objective was cleared in relatively short order, leaving the much-anticipated STOP

to be called by the exercise staff. The Company recovered to Nyati, much thinner and much dirtier than they had left. The Guardsmen had shown their remarkable ability to turn their head (and hand) to any task, and not only complete it, but do so with professionalism and confidence in the face of immense adversity.

A short period of administration followed, before the Company moved to three days of Adventurous Training. White water rafting, abseiling, mountain biking and a great deal of sleep were enjoyed by all. This was a well-deserved period of down time after a lengthy and challenging exercise.



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1. Gdsm Thomas 83 enjoys some down time
2. LSgt J Collins initiates contact
3. The author
4. Capt Wilkinson and CSM Davies share a brew during pre-training
5. (L-R) Gdsm Lewis-Webb, Gdsm Howarth, Gdsm Thomas 83, LSgt Bond and Gdsm Owen package a casualty ready for MEDEVAC



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Number Two Company - Op SHADER 14

by Captain T Haines-Henderson, Company Second in Command

Operation SHADER is the United Kingdom's contribution to the ongoing military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Number 2 Company were tasked to perform the role of the United Kingdom's Mobility Company (UKMC). Meaning, we were to provide force protection and an armoured escort for our NATO coalition partners within the region. Our partners were responsible for developing and supporting the Iraqis own ability to find and destroy cells of ISIS that continued to operate in the area. The operation is based out of Erbil airbase (EAB), within the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq.

would conduct kit checks and receive a set of orders. The patrol would then collect several VIP's and escort them to their respective meeting locations. The locations of the meetings varied greatly from inner city tower blocks, ammunition depots in the mountains to the palace in Sulaymaniyah. Of particular interest were the Regional Guard Brigade (RGB) Headquarters located along the southern border of Kurdistan. Many of these active patrol bases held trophies of destroyed ISIS

vehicles and were home to members of the Peshmerga who had fought and killed ISIS over the last decade.

While most of these locations were usually considered 'secure' the routes to and from were not. Poor road conditions, unlicensed drivers, over-loaded trucks, stray animals, and dust storms offered a myriad of challenges to the patrols. Despite these obstacles our patrols completed six months with no incidents to, from or on location and were

regularly praised by the VIPs for their positive outlook on the daily frictions.

Another friction that arose early on was the obvious language barrier between our Welshmen and the Iraqi Peshmerga who defended EAB. Despite most of the peshmerga speaking English competently there was clear confusion when conversing with some of the thicker Welsh accents. Karzan and Amanj, our interpreters, provided language training to the patrols and before long

Number 2 Company deployed on the 14th iteration of this operation in December 2021. Fortunately, the company deployed on Op SHADER 13 was none other than The Prince of Wales's Company. This enabled Number 2 Company to arrive well informed and prepared for the challenges that lay ahead.

Our battle rhythm usually consisted of two separate vehicle patrols per day. Before deploying, patrols



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they were breezing through checkpoints with a 'raised hand a spas'. Karzan and Amanj having witnessed first-hand many of the conflicts throughout Iraq and the middle east over the past 20 years were able to educate the patrols on the rich history of the area.

When able, the patrols took advantage of the training resources available on EAB. DUSTOFF was the name given to the US MEDEVAC helicopter. A UH-60 Black Hawk converted to provide the same capabilities as a role 1 medical facility. DUSTOFF provided medical extraction to any patrol travelling further than 30 nautical miles from EAB. Simulating a Road Traffic Incident (RTI) the

patrols rehearsed providing immediate lifesaving first aid before co-ordinating a landing zone for DUSTOFF and extracting the casualty onto the airframe.

As we approached June and temperatures began rising to 45 degrees and over, we began our handover to the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards. With many familiar faces the handover was without issue and Number Two Company was able to return home prepared for some well-earned rest. On our return we look forward to supporting Defence's ongoing commitment to OP INTERFLEX and preparing the company for exercise REDSTRIPE in Jamaica at the start of 2023.



1. *Members of No 2 Coy on Patrol in Erbil*
2. *Lt Cadogan and Sgt Doyle being briefed by COMBRITFOR*
3. *No 2 Company conducting Medical Training*
4. *Gdsm Sandiford, Gdsm Jones 92 (now LCpl), Gdsm Norton and Gdsm Johnson receiving welfare parcels from home*

NATO Mission Iraq

by Sergeant R Brown, Platoon Sergeant Number Three Coy

NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) is a non-combat advisory and capacity-building mission, conducted to improve Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was established in coalition Baghdad in October 2018 and currently involves several hundred personnel from partnered countries, including Australia, Finland, and Sweden.

NMI's focus and main effort is to target the Iraqi security forces and institutions to allow them to defend themselves and create stability in the region to prevent the return of ISIS. This is achieved by small teams of key advisory personnel conducting key leader engagements within the various institutions, a key one being the First Military College (1st MC).

The Iraqi First Military College is situated in Al-Rustimayah within Baghdad. The College was established to train future officers and the syllabus is based on the Royal

Military Academy Sandhurst. The first class of Iraqi officers graduated in 1927.

During Op SHADER 13 a small team of advisors deployed from 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and the Household Division for a duration of 4 months. They were attached to the Professional Security and Education (PSE) Division within NMI for the duration of this task. Tasks included training, mentoring and advising several institutions around Baghdad, including the First Military College.

The focus was based on faculty, curriculum, and

institutional development. Major Jaimie Barklem (LONDONS) and Sgt Rhys Brown were the senior and junior advisor for the 1st MC, focusing on instructor and NCO development. After several visits and engagements at the 1st MC, it was agreed that several Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) were to be deployed from the UK to train the officers and NCOs at the college. All MTTs were to be from 1WG.

The first MTT to deploy was a small team of Urban Operations Instructors. They were tasked to deliver a 3-week Urban Operations

Instructors package and were led by Major James Young and WO2 Evans. The focus was to use the Urban Operations battlecraft syllabus as a foundation to deliver a Defence Train The Trainer (DTTT) package to the junior officers at the 1st MC. The success of this training package led to the Iraqis requesting more MTTs. These included Battlefield Casualty Drills to be delivered to the NCOs and a Physical Training Instructor package to be delivered to the PTI's at the 1st MC.

SSgt Hammond (current 1 Welsh Guards RAPTCL)

and LCpl Dennis deployed at short notice to deliver a 4-week demanding PTI Course to the unqualified PTIs at the 1st MC. They progressively upped the intensity throughout the course. At the end the course, the now qualified

PTIs would be given the PTI crosswords to demonstrate their competency as well as the more traditional PT techniques.

Further to the MTTs being delivered at the 1st MC, it was highlighted that the

key issue within the 1st MC was that the NCO instructors lacked investment. Sgt Brown raised this as a concern and undertook a project to prepare and invest in the NCOs as well as the cadets at the 1st MC. The project consisted of a thorough

analysis of the key issue. Sgt Brown conducted numerous meetings with all NCO's including the Regimental Sergeant Major of the College. This led to a clear understanding that only the officer instructors were invested in. The project led to conducting more Instructor Development workshops aimed towards the NCO's, using the UK's DTTT platform for delivery.

In summary, members of the 1WG deployed on Op SHADER 13 as advisors and MTTs. All of which were proven to very successful, in improving the instructors at the 1st MC of their training delivery.



1. L-R; LCpl Dennis, SSgt Hammond RAPTC, Col Ahmed, Major Barklem LONDONS, Sgt Brown and Capt Ali
2. L-R; Capt Hassan, Major Barklem LONDONS, Capt Ali, two Staff College Students and Sgt Brown
3. L-R; Major Barklem LONDONS, CSgt Bladen, Capt Hassan Asaad Lafta, Captain (now Major) Campbell-Schofield and Colonel Richard Hall MBE YORKS.



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The challenges presented within a multi-partner training environment - ZAMBATT VIII case study

by Lieutenant T Brown, Platoon Commander

Exercises, operations and Short-Term Training Teams (STTTs) will more often than not involve a collaborative approach to their conduct, drawing on the expertise held across the Army. The importance of an integrated approach is evident, most notably with the current military operations in Eastern Europe, demonstrating the requirement for units to train and operate alongside partners. The opportunities and challenges presented by these multi-national training events were experienced by members of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards deployed to Zambia on ZAMBATT VIII.

Arriving bleary eyed and severely jet-lagged after a multi-stop flight to Zambia, the UK STTT comprising of 4 Welsh Guards; Capt Simon Burfiend, Lt Tom Brown, Sgt Chris Harris and LSgt Stuart Jones alongside 9 attached service personnel, were warmly welcomed by the instructors at Kenneth Kuanda Peace Training Centre, Lusaka. The task ahead involved ensuring that 1,000 Zambian Defence Force officers and soldiers were fully prepared through Pre-Deployment Training to deploy on the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic. Alongside 30 Zambian instructors, 11 members from US SFAB (Security

Force Assistance Brigade), 7 contractors from the US State Department Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) and a 12-strong French Army detachment completed the training team. With traditional Welsh Guards spirit, the UK STTT immediately set to fostering the relationships that would prove crucial over the coming weeks, presenting a number of challenges.

Immediately clear was the passion and motivation of the Zambian officers and soldiers to learn and develop, setting the foundations for the STTT to mentor and advise where expertise was held. However, resulting from the multi-national structure of the training

team, experience and the doctrinal understanding of the content taught varied. At times this caused confusion within the training audience, requiring re-teaching and additional confirmation,

clearly demonstrating the need for flexibility and a mutual understanding of the TTPs (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) employed by all partners prior to the commencement of training.



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Moreover, the importance to find a Zambian solution to a Zambian problem was apparent. Despite closely following the tactics used by the British Army, resource, education and training constraints required British lessons to be adapted. The use of lanyards or tree bark as tourniquets was common place and where vehicles were not available for the rehearsal of contact drills, single beds provided an alternate platform. Notwithstanding the amusement of the STTT, the ability of the Zambians to do more with less taught a valuable lesson, emphasising the importance of practical rather than theory-based training even with resource shortfalls.

Evident throughout was the value that multi-

national partners place on professionalism and mutual respect which the UK STTT strongly embodied. Multiple opportunities to engage with partners in a social setting enabled the tentative relationships formed at the start to be strengthened, providing the foundations for the newly formed Irish Guards SFAB to continue to strengthen UK-Zambian relationships on ZAMBATT IX.

1. *Sgt Jones 88 teaching map reading*
2. *Sgt Jones 88 continuing to teach map reading*
3. *Lt Brown teaching medical lessons*
4. *Capt Burfiend checking the VCP drills*
5. *WG Instructors with Zambian Partner Forces*



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Operation CORDED 9 - Zambia

by Sergeant N Forde

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

In March 2022, Number 3 Company deployed on Op CORDED 9. The deployment was to be undertaken in two phases with the company conducting a month of Pre-Employment Training (PET) in Kenya before going on to Zambia where the company was to fulfil its dual role in training members of the Zambian Armed Forces (ZAF) in counter-poaching techniques and to work with members of the Special Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU) in countering the illegal wildlife trade (CIWT).



Kenya was an excellent experience. The training focused heavily on tracking and the package was delivered to an excellent standard. Previously, deployments to Kenya had seen troops living in trenches, patrolling the bush and attacks onto enemy positions under the watchful eye of the local wildlife. This training however allowed the troops to learn how to track, something which everyone really bought into.

On 7 April the company moved to Zambia and to our new home for the next 3 months, Hook Bridge Camp. In true British Army style, we were greeted with rain as we spent the afternoon unpacking freight and getting our living spaces squared away.

Routine in Zambia followed a similar pattern to most ops. Troops prepared and delivered lessons and staggered on in the ops room. A familiar routine that was quickly adopted and settled into alongside keeping up with fitness, playing card games and personal admin. Though basic, Hook Bridge



Camp, provided an experience like no other. Waking up in the morning to a coffee whilst watching the sun rise and a lone elephant grazing is an experience not easily forgotten. The camp was set in the boundaries of Kafue National Park and placed us right in the bush, which brought with it all the delights of a basic and simple life, but also the challenges of wandering elephants, scavenging hyenas and even the odd hippo. Seeing a young 2Lt stranded in the ablutions block because of the previously mentioned elephant, will forever remain a highlight of this deployment.

Training delivered to the ZAF covered areas such as tracking, fieldcraft and basic survival skills. This deployment differed from previous Op CORDEDs in that students also received a 'Train the Trainer' package and then delivered lessons to us as instructors. The lessons varied in quality, but for the most part the students delivered some strong lessons and took on the points that were given.

This is not to say that Op CORDED 9 did not have its challenges. Whilst deployed, one of the company's tasks was to patrol with SAPU to deter and possibly detain poachers that were caught in the national park, with local forces taking the lead. Due to

the rainy season lasting longer than usual (see comment on our arrival!), the national park had some very long grass that stayed longer than usual and as such, unfortunately, limited our ability to patrol in the area due to operational restrictions. The Company Commander did manage to launch several patrols towards the end of our tour and these patrols took us up and down the western boundary of Kafue national park. We received reports back that these had deterred poachers in the area.

All in all, Op CORDED 9 is probably one of the best deployments I have had, from the expeditionary nature of it to working with the Zambians, who are excellent. But I have to say the main reason I enjoyed this tour was the feeling at the end that, no matter how small, we had an effect in the short period of time that we were there, and that effect was of benefit to the beautiful country, Zambia.

1. Zebra closely observing our training on Lolldaiga Training Area, Kenya
2. Lt MacMullen and Sgt Brown joined by a Vervet monkey in the cook house, Hook Bridge Camp, Zambia
3. Wildlife Police Officers from SAPU inspecting fresh tracks, Kafue National Park, Zambia

Operation CORDED 9

by Lieutenant W F Jones, Platoon Commander

As a fresh-faced Platoon Commander arriving at Battalion in January 2022, I was fortunate to deploy almost immediately on Operation CORDED 9 based in the Kafue National Park (KNP), Zambia. Zambia has lost more than 144,000 elephants to poaching in the past 30 years with the country's elephant population declining by more than 90% since 1981. Some frightening statistics that will worsen unless the international community contribute to fighting the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). Op CORDED 9 was given to members of Number 3 Company who, following a PET package in Kenya, deployed to the KNP in April 2022.

Upon arrival we quickly learnt that to combat the IWT effectively three key components had to be considered. Firstly, the potential gain has to be reduced. This is mostly achieved by reducing the demand for IWT products by providing alternatives and educating local nationals of the damage the IWT has to their economy and ecosystems.

Secondly, the potential loss to poachers must be increased. This is achieved by increasing the punishment for those caught poaching,

by enforcing longer prison sentences and greater fines.

Finally, the risk of getting caught must be increased. This is achieved primarily by improving ranger capability through training and investment in personnel, infrastructure and equipment. This is where we were able to contribute most effectively whilst deployed on Op CORDED 9.

Whilst deployed we delivered a Counter-Poaching Instructors Course at Chunga Ranger School to students from the Zambian Defence

Force, Zambian Air Force, Zambian Police, Zambian National Service and Wildlife Police Officers. We were also living and working alongside the Specialist Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU), from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. It was with this unit that we deployed on partnered patrols into heavily poached areas throughout the KNP.

Whilst working with our Zambian colleagues and students we were able to share our knowledge and experience as Infanteers. We were also able to learn

a huge amount from their knowledge and experience.

One of the most interesting being that the IWT has three distinct categories. The most well-known being High Value Product. Ivory, big cats, pangolin and traditional medicine with the demand predominantly originating from Asia. These poachers are typically well-financed, trained and well equipped.

The second and almost as well-known being Organised Bushmeat. The demand is international with porous borders from Zambia into



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Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Zimbabwe. Typically, this form of poaching is high value and high in volume.

The final and least well-known being Subsistence Bushmeat. Traditionally consumed and in high demand. Subsistence bushmeat is openly consumed by many local nationals. Whilst lower in volume than organised bushmeat it is still a substantial threat to wildlife.

Whilst deployed in the KNP the predominate poaching types were organised bushmeat and subsistence bushmeat. This was evident whilst on patrols with SAPU

where we found drying racks, snares and carcasses left by poachers.

Op CORDED 9 was a fantastic opportunity where we were able to deliver a tangible effect to a worthwhile cause in an extraordinary part of the world.

1. *The Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major visit members of Number Three Company on Lolldaiga Training area, Kenya*
2. *Sgt Williams, Gdsm Newth, Pte Tanner and Cpl Heslop refine their marksmanship on the ranges at Chunga Ranger School, Zambia*
3. *Leopard skin confiscated on patrol by SAPU in the Kafue National Park, Zambia*



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Exercise URBAN INITIATIVE

by Lieutenant W F Jones, Platoon Commander

On Wednesday 12 January 2022 Number 3 Company departed Combermere Barracks for Exercise URBAN INITIATIVE. A team building exercise which tested the Company's initiative, navigation and time management skills.

The day started with a cultural visit to the Imperial War Museum (IWM). The IWM showcased various exhibitions, objects and stories giving real insights into people's experiences of war. An interesting and educational start to the day.

The Company were then briefed by Major James Young on the rules of the day, which are summarised below.

A list of thirty tasks were given to six teams of six. These tasks were not set out in order, it was down to the teams to decide which ones to

attempt, planning an efficient route to tick off as many as possible in a set time. Each task was worth a different quantity of points depending on the degree of difficulty. Video or photo evidence was required to be awarded the points. Penalties were given for arriving to the final check point late or for losing team members.

Tasks ranged from teaching a stranger a sentence in Welsh (worth 3 points), to announcing a train arriving on a platform over the station tannoy (worth 5 points). The highest point earning task



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was to act out a scene on a theatre stage with props (worth an enormous 10 points).

The teams were given a few minutes to plan, then they were released. Following the initial dispersal, almost without exception, teams were reunited in the local Wetherspoons conducting their estimates for the days challenge! Clearly, great minds think alike!

Regular updates were sent back to HQ throughout the day, who kept the score board ticking over. Some of the more outstanding efforts were communicated via WhatsApp to motivate the other teams. Some of the most notable being a fireteam of Gdsm riding in a £500,000 Rolls Royce through the streets of Kensington and Sgt Davies' team walking the stands of Stamford Bridge in Chelsea.



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At 1700 hrs the teams had to report to the Porterhouse in Covent Garden, confirming their teams were complete and to submit the challenges they had completed.

A week on from the day out the teams presented their evidence to a crack team of judges including Capt Davidson, Lt Haynes and LSgt Morgan who scrutinised each team's performance. The judges were especially impressed with the team who were able to perform a scene from Macbeth on The Globe Theatre's stage. Video evidence does exist if you would like to indulge yourself in an exceptional and unique piece of theatre.

After careful consideration a decision was made. It was very close at the top with

only one point separating the victors. Congratulations to the winning team; LSgt Roos, LCpl Goodwin, Gdsm Cattell, Gdsm Sinclair and Gdsm Newth. Who despite being penalised 5 points still came out on top. Winning the prestigious Exercise URBAN INITIATIVE trophy along with a £125 Amazon Voucher and an extra day of leave.

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thank you to LSgt Morgan and LSgt Everett for their efforts in organising the day.

1. *The first guard mounting by the Welsh Guards, St David's Day 1915 (Photo courtesy of the IWM)*
2. *British Soldiers eat hot rations in the Ancre Valley during the Battle of the Somme, October 1916*
3. *Rolls Royce being taken for a spin*



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The Anti-Tank Cadre

by Captain O M F Powell, Platoon Commander

With Anti-Tanking showing a resurgence in relevance and global notoriety due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the skillset possessed by the Anti-Tank platoon is more important than ever. Therefore, a crucial time to run an Anti-Tank cadre.

The Cadre had been in the making for over a year and every activity of the six-week training programme had been planned meticulously. The first two weeks was spent physically and mentally preparing the Cadre candidates for stresses and strains that Anti-Tanking inflicts on both mind and body. The days would start with an arduous PT session where weight was introduced and increased over the fourteen days. Once showered and changed the Gdsm would then move onto

either Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) recognition lessons, theory lessons of how to best employ Anti-Tank weapons, weapon handling tests or getting to grips with the Javelin indoor trainer. This allowed those both new and experienced on the weapons system be acquainted and reacquainted with Anti-Tanking and all that comes with it.

After two weeks of in camp preparation had been completed, the cadre then moved on to the practical

teaching phase which was conducted on the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA). This phase was broken down into two week-long packages. The first week was used to ensure that all on the cadre has the highest standards of drills on both the NLAW (Next generation Light Anti-tank Weapon) and Javelin weapon systems and to ensure that all had the ability to soldier to a high standard. To that end, a navigation exercise was set up to test and assess capability both during the day and night. The introduction to construction of an Anti-Tank Observation Posts (OPs) and the practice of conducting routine while in an OP were crucial parts of the learning phase and enabled the candidates to truly understand the complexities and challenges of Anti-Tank soldiering. Physical fitness was maintained throughout the week by using tabs to move around the various stands.

The second of the one-week packages consisted of the introduction to carrying out different Anti-Tanking actions. From an Advance-to-Contact through to a delay, all types of actions were covered and walked through so that all could understand the differences between the operations. To end the week, a stalk was set up. Detachments had to use the ground to manoeuvre into a position in order to strike enemy vehicles without being spotted. Once they had destroyed their target, they would then receive another objective to hit. All in all, five enemy targets were destroyed and a total of 15 km covered by all detachments.

The Cadre then moved on to the final phase, the test Phase,

to put into practice all they had learned in the last four weeks and enabling them to show that they deserved to be in the platoon.

Over the next ten days, eleven actions would be planned and executed ranging from passive OPs to enable understanding and monitoring of enemy movement, through to ambushes to disrupt and Advance-to-Contacts to press and push back the enemy.

Overall, those on the cadre performed to a good standard under arduous circumstance with very little sleep at times and spending a lot of time in OPs. Of the eighteen Gdsm that started the cadre, thirteen completed it and reached the high standards needed to operate in the Anti-Tank platoon.

1. *LCpl Dyer and Gdsm Young adding the finishing touches to their OP*
2. *CSgt Rees keeping up to speed with enemy armour!*
3. *LSgt Moseley giving LCpl Davies his arcs*
4. *Gdsm Jones, fully loaded, ready to step off*
5. *LCpl Davies' Det on a stalk*
6. *Those who passed the cadre*



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Operation INTERFLEX

by Second Lieutenant W R H Comaish

June 2022 saw a party, led by The Prince of Wales's Company, leave Windsor for a training camp in the UK as part of Op INTERFLEX. This British-led effort is to train Ukrainian recruits who, over a few short weeks, are expected to turn from complete civilians into frontline soldiers. The gravity and importance of the task has quickly made it one of British defence's main efforts.

The operation got off the ground very quickly indeed. The Prime Minister, visiting Kiev in the early summer, promised President Zelensky's regime the ambitious goal of 10,000 British-trained Ukrainian troops within 120 days. The 120 seemed to start from the moment the announcement was made despite, it appears, no groundwork having been laid. The Welsh Guards were immediately selected to be one of the units delivering training.

The first sign of the operation in Combermere Barracks was several thousand AK-47 weapon systems arriving on pallets. The weapons,

which have since been used by Ukrainian trainees across all INTERFLEX's locations, had been stored in grease for decades and needed to be cleaned and inspected within a working week. The entire Battalion leant in and did a superb job to get so many rifles up to scratch in such a short space of time. With hindsight this large, fast curve ball was emblematic of Op INTERFLEX more generally, as flexibility has been paramount.

The initial group of instructors was formed around The Prince of Wales's Company, though augmentees from across the Battalion were needed;



initially from Support and Headquarter Companies, and latterly from Numbers Two and Three Companies on their return from Op SHADER and Op CORDED. The instructors were split down into four training teams, each of which took a group of Ukrainians through the course. This was replicated by company groups from several other battalions, all united under a headquarter element from the Scots Guards. Mercians, Royal Marines, Canadians and Lithuanians all joined the mix of instructors. Working cultures varied from one sub-unit to another, making for an interesting working environment, though Blue-Red-Blue quickly banded together to great effect.

The course was initially a three-week package based on the British Reserve Combat Infantryman's course. The programme developed quickly, however, to better reflect the exigencies of the current war, unnecessary elements and days off were axed. Urban training, trench fighting, and anti-armour serials were added. The Welsh Guards instructors had to be agile in helping

to design the training programme and then to edit it on the move. This went in both directions, with points from the Scots Guards coming down and needing to be integrated into lessons but also, more interestingly, real world experience coming up from Ukrainian trainees. This showed the Welsh Guards training team at its very best. Instructors had to tactfully speak to Ukrainians who had already spent time fighting in the war and consider how their experience could change the training programme. They then fed this up the chain of command, who would edit the programme, and integrated the changes seamlessly into their lessons. This was often done within a single working day, all whilst delivering training for fifteen or sixteen hours. A superb example of flexibility and cooperation.

As has been alluded to, the scope of Ukrainian trainees presented a unique challenge; an eclectic bunch to say the least. Teenagers shared shell-scrapes with those older than their parents and military experience varied from those who had never picked up



a rifle, to those who had already cleared through Russian trench systems. How do you teach a lesson on the AK-47 to Ukrainian number forty-seven, who has never heard of the weapon, and to Ukrainian number forty-eight, who repairs AKs for a living? Despite (or perhaps because of) the challenges, the Welsh Guards thrived in the environment. Guardsmen in the demo troop discovered quite how versatile and skilled they are whilst Section Commanders knew that tuition would be put to use in the first European land war for a generation.

Those who have been lucky enough to take part in Op INTERFLEX are acutely aware that the ranging characters are a constant talking point. One of the favourites was a Ukrainian Section Commander whose previous job had been as a bouncer in one of Ukraine's larger casinos. Towering over most of the Welsh Guards, he arrived with a scar over his left eye and not much left of his left thumb (making operating the magazine release catch

quite a sight). Even the more seasoned Welsh Guardsmen gave him a wide berth for the first few days before realising the fierce frame masked a mild and caring character. Then there was the trainee who lost most of his front teeth after an accident with the rifle sight whilst crossing a fence. Unwilling to 'waste training time', he soldiered on without complaint for a day, until instructors noticed his injury and had to force him into a dentist's chair. Two small examples from hundreds whom the Welsh Guards have trained across the course of the operation. Without exception they demonstrated courage, cheerfulness and raw ability which would be the envy of soldiers anywhere in the world.

Many of the Welsh Guards-trained soldiers have now travelled to the front and the whole Battalion is willing them to succeed. The day Her Majesty The Queen died, news came through that Ukrainian forces had broken the stalemate in the country's North East and started



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what has now become an incredible reversal in the progress of the war. Snatched reports emerged of infantry from the Ukrainian Armed Forces clearing through Russian trench systems for real and the timing coincided closely with the first waves of Op INTERFLEX trainees arriving back in Ukraine. It is deliberately impossible to tell what role Welsh Guards trainees played. If they played any role, however, then all those who participated in Op INTERFLEX should be proud of their achievement.

1. *Україна! – Ukraine!*
2. *AK47s shipped to the UK for training Ukrainian soldiers required a deep clean before distribution*
3. *Just a few of the thousands of weapons cleaned by 1WG ready for shipping to training units*
4. *AK47 cleaning*
5. *Planning, learning, changing and implementing has been central to Op INTERFLEX*



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African Training Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) Short Term Training Team (STTT)

by Major V Graves, Mercian Regiment, Company Commander

In support of the African Training Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), Support Company was tasked with helping the 3rd Kenya Rifles Battalion conduct their operational pre-deployment training (PDT). This involved finding the right team of guardsmen to deploy to Kenya for 4 weeks and deliver a bespoke training package which would be suitable for the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) on their upcoming deployment to Somalia.

The team comprised mainly of junior and senior NCOs, but there were a few individuals who had recently joined the battalion, such as myself and 2Lt Toby Hudson, and Guardsmen Constance and Morgan. In addition to Welsh Guards, we had instructors contributed from our Irish and Coldstream Guard brothers. A mixed bag of experience, knowledge, and skills allowed us to confidently deploy and face the challenge.

The team deployed in early September, flying directly into Nairobi before spending a few days there receiving briefings and conducting final

planning and preparation. We then travelled by road to Isiolo, where the KDF have their School of Infantry, a bit like Brecon but without the weather and hills, but with man-eating wildlife instead! Here, we set up camp on the training area and conducted reces on the ground to determine where the most suitable areas for training were. The KDF arrived the following morning, keen and happy to meet us but a little shy upon first engagement, this soon changed once they got talking to the team and developed a little rapport. From here, we broke down into smaller training teams

and delivered a variety of great training, made friends, and learned new things along the way.

Overall, the team were excellent, they represented the regiment well and stepped up to the mark despite some challenges along the way. Whilst deployed, Op LONDON BRIDGE was called and we had to pay our respects to Her Majesty from Kenya, whilst watching the rest of the battalion, and division conduct ceremonial duties on television from a desert on a training area; a sombre memory all the team will take away with

them. In essence, this was a notable deployment and a great opportunity for all ranks and experience levels. Most importantly, we delivered some of the best training the British Army has to offer to an ally and partner force before they deploy on operations, that is something all Guardsmen can be proud of.

1. *The full team. 1WGs training team and the 3rd Kenya Rifles*
2. *LSgt Coy teaching the KDF how to conduct section battle drills*
3. *LSgt Coy leads the demonstration troops as Section Commander in front of the KD*





UGABAG Deployment

by Second Lieutenant W R H Comaish

At the start of Oct 22, the Bn sent a training team to Uganda on UGABAG 37 to support Uganda's pre deployment training as part of AMISOM, which is the long-standing African Union Mission in Somalia that makes up the sharp end of the stick in the international fight against Al-Shabab and other extremist groups in the region (UGABAG is the name given to the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Battlegroup which deploys to Somalia). The team consisted of Welsh Guardsmen from across the Battalion and was headed up by Major A L Major, the Officer Commanding two Company.

On 1st Apr 22 the mandate for AMISOM (African Union Mission to Somalia) officially came to an end and on the advice of the United Nations security council the date has been officially set by the African Union for the takeover of peacekeeping operations in Somalia by the Somali armed forces as 31 Dec 24. The continued success of the AMISOM mission is a credit to all nations involved thus far and the prior successes combined with the sell by date on the security transition in

Somalia put the pressure on all involved to provide the best and most relevant training to our Ugandan friends. A challenge the Welsh Guards Non-Commissioned Officers rose to meet with a slick, effortless but effective manner typical of the Guards.

The team departed on Friday 30 Sept from Heathrow airport and in classic Guards style flew Emirates via Dubai to Nairobi where our move in Africa was to start. Driving from Nairobi to Entebbe was a slog by all

regards but the 13-hour move meant that in one fell swoop the team had moved from the United Kingdom, to Dubai, to Kenya and on to Uganda in quick time. The final move to Kampala felt relatively brief and we were greeted by the opportunity for some rest and much needed admin time at the Hilton Garden Inn, where we would stay in Kampala. The Hotel bar provided appropriate refreshments for the team who had by this point developed a healthy thirst.

Finally, and after much ado, the team moved on to the Peace Support Operations Training Centre Singo from where we would be conducting our training to the partner forces. We were well received by our Ugandan counterparts and moved into the African Skies camp, an Iso village with covered stands and training areas which would become our home for the next two weeks. Training was entirely delivered in an "analogue" fashion which provided us, now whiteboard less, with

the challenge of delivering lessons in a manner that was engaging, clear and of tangible use to the Ugandan army with few training aides. The experience of many members of Support Coy served us well here and, moreover, the recent experience of many members of the team in training Ukrainian soldiers on OP INTERFLEX certainly came in useful, although in Uganda we faced a more well trained and experienced training audience.

The Ugandans quickly proved themselves as soldiers and took on our training quickly and without complaint. It was genuinely pleasing to work with a group of men that were keen and engaged well with the training package

we delivered to them. The Ugandan chain of command as well did all they could to support the training and take part where it was necessary. The programme delivered gave our partner forces sets of skills that they would need in Somalia as well as reassuring them and their chain of command in some of the basics in which they were already proficient. Over the two weeks which we spent working with the Ugandans it was good to see the trainers and trainees getting on well both in and out of training scenarios and by the time we left Singo it was clear that a healthy rapport had been built with our Ugandan counterparts.

Leaving Singo on 14 Sept we made our way back to Kampala for close down administration in preparation for our return to Entebbe and onwards to the United Kingdom the next day. Spirits were high and it was clear that the team had enjoyed their experience in Uganda, both during the training and in and around the fringes.

All in all, the Welsh Guards' contribution to UGABAG 37 was most definitely a resounding success with both sides of the training coming away having benefited. Once more our Non-Commissioned Officers had the opportunity excel and to show off and develop their teaching acumen and expertise in an exciting

and new environment. We hope that the Ugandan Army can put their training to good use in Somalia and ultimately bring stability to their own back garden.

1. Major Major debriefs after a Serial
2. Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) conduct a real-life medical event at a local village





SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING



Welsh Guards Rugby

by Major A Campbell, Battalion Rugby Officer

Due to the tempo of Battalion life and a yearlong deployment on Op SHADER, rugby within the Welsh Guards has understandably taken a sabbatical. Fortunately, a slightly less congested forecast of events enabled the decision to be taken to re-enter competitive rugby again for the 22/23 season. After much soul searching the decision was made to enter at the lowest level and begin a 3-season rebuilding process.

With this in mind, we entered the Army Rugby Union (ARU) Knockout competition. The competition gives us 3 guaranteed competitive fixtures and runs from September through to March. Another straight knockout competition starts January through to May and the aspiration is to enter this competition also.

No sooner was the ink dry on the application; and the Battalion was stood up for Op INTERFLEX which saw many of the rugby squad deployed until potentially Christmas. The decision to enter competitive

rugby at the lowest level has been vindicated. Training progresses well with upwards of 25 players regularly attending - impressive numbers when you consider the number of known players deployed around the world or on career courses. We have a wealth of talent across the Battalion, and I have no doubt that we will have a successful season- as long as we can get our players in the same one location at the same time!

In February, LSgt Francis (HQ Coy) took a squad of players to the Royal Military Academy (RMAS) for a friendly - our

first fixture with this group of players and with limited training opportunities prior to the fixture. Originally billed as a double header between 2 RMAS squads, 1WG and 3 PARA, this was a selection game for an upcoming RMAS overseas tour, so the stakes were high. No plan survives contact, and, on the day, it was a depleted 1WG versus 4 RMAS teams on rotation and no 3 PARA team available. It was a long day in the office for our 20 players - effectively facing a fresh team every 20 mins, but the experience was invaluable, and they left the park with their heads held high and as

a stronger squad with more self-belief. And 1WG definitely won the 3rd half!

In what is hoped to become a future Regimental tradition the Gdsm played the Cpls Mess on St David's Day. Due to player availability this was a game of 10's admirably refereed by Capt (Retd) Tommy Macdonald Milner. This was frenetic stuff with the lead changing hands frequently, the Cpls Mess eventually coming out on top by the narrowest of margins in a thriller of a match. A large crowd of both serving and veteran Welsh Guardsmen watched the Captain of the



Cpls Mess being presented with the Soko Shield, in memory of Gdsm Lemeki Soko (30108526) a former stalwart of the Battalion rugby team who sadly passed away in 2017.

Although as a Battalion we haven't been able to play much rugby for a number of seasons, we have a large number of players who play regularly and have been fortunate to play representative rugby at various levels. We have had several players turn out regularly for the Infantry in a very successful Corps Competition season. LSgt's George and Putty have represented the Army Masters throughout the season and were both capped in this year's Inter Services matches.

Rugby players need coaches and we been able to get several players through their coaching courses this year. LSgt's George and Putty - in the twilight of their playing careers successfully qualified

as ARU coaches, joined by Pte Thompson (AGC) who will be back to playing at a high level when she is fully fit again after a rugby injury. We have several more soldiers lined up for future courses to ensure there is a steady flow of coaches to take up the gauntlet.

I have been involved in Welsh Guards rugby for a long time, through the successes and the leaner years. Looking around the players and the potential we have now I feel that rugby within 1WG is on the rise and with careful nurturing, the glory days will be back again soon, and we will once again be a force to be reckoned with within Army rugby.

1. Gdsm Nabukebuke passing to Gdsm Fitzgibbon, LSgt Howells in support
2. Gdsm vs LCpls St David's Day 2022
3. The LCpl's looking very happy to win the Soko Shield!
4. The Gdsm soar above the Cpls Mess



Football Officer	WO1 Cope	Regimental Sergeant Major
Secretary	WO2 Moffat	Regimental Catering Warrant Officer
Head Coach	WO2 Cunningham	Regimental Signals Warrant Officer
Coach	Capt Parkinson	Regimental Careers Management Officer
Goalkeeper Coach	CSgt Evans 88	Posted to ASLS (Staff Leadership School)

Battalion Football Team

by Warrant Officer Class 2 AM Cunningham, Regimental Signals Warrant Officer and Head Coach

As COVID restrictions ease and we gently get back to some semblance of normality, football across the country is back in full flow and in the Army, this is the same, with more emphasis being placed on our men and woman to get out and enjoy the soldier's game.

Due to the operational commitments of the Battalion of the past 12-18 months, it has only allowed for a handful of friendlies to be played as the majority of the core football team are deployed across the world on various operational and exercise commitments. Away from unit football however 1WG FC has seen success at Corp and Army level with members of the squad and coaching staff getting involved and, in true Welsh Guards fashion, excelling.

Infantry Football. Capt Parkinson was appointment as the new Infantry Football Manager, with both WO2 Cunningham and CSgt Evans 88 being appointed as coaches. More importantly we have seen three very talented young individuals represent the Infantry on the field, LCpl Davies 14, Gdsm Jones 30, Gdsm Dean. They are all great players and have a bright future as they continue to be recalled into the squad to progress their footballing skills.

Army Football. LCpl Davies 14 continues to get called up to the senior squad post a horrific football injury in the 20/21 season and WO2 Cunningham is now a Coach for the Army Woman's Senior Side.

Female Football. Gdsm Williams 64 (MT PI) has been called up to represent the Intelligence Corps, which is where all Infantry female soldiers get the opportunity to play Corps level football as the woman's game continues

to grow, not only across defence, but the UK also. Had it not been for an injury she would have received her first appearance with the Army Woman's Development Team.

Personal Development.

The enforced break from training and lack of games has allowed for the coaches to enhance their knowledge of the game and has seen two coaches qualify as Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) B licenced coaches with another coach



due to start in October. This could only be achieved by the support of the Battalion allowing it service personnel to attend these courses, sometimes within the working week allowing them to develop personally.

1WG v F Coy SG. Oct 22 saw our first competitive game in 18 months and pitted against F Coy SG in the Army Southern League Division. After going down 1 nil at half time to a very competitive F Coy team, 1WG FC stormed out of the blocks in the second half and quickly saw the first of 2 debut Goals from Gdsm Rees and, through some excellent interlinking phases, 1WG came away victorious, winning 5-1, with two goals each from Gdsm Rees and Jones 30 and a goal from Gdsm Griffiths also. Gdsm Allen was named man of the match.

Future. As we now move away from a hectic operational period, 1WG FC will take the opportunity

to rebuild a team for the future. We will be competing on 3 fronts throughout 2022/2023, the Army FA Southern League, the Infantry cup and the Army Major Units Cup. Football across 1WG continues to grow in popularity and currently boasts a squad of around 25-30 players. In 2023 we will look to take around 25 Players and staff on an overseas sports tour and this will hopefully be a well-deserved reward post a successful 2022-23 season.

1. CSgt Bladen (Club Captain) issuing some half time instructions
2. LSgt Williams 88 striking a peach of a free kick against the Royal Welsh
3. Battalion Football squad Oct 22





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1st Battalion Welsh Guards Boxing

by Captain J Parkinson, Regimental Careers Management Officer

We've only gone and done it again!

After an extremely busy start to 2022 for the Battalion, it was finally time for the Battalion's boxing team to start preparing for the Household Division (HDiv) Boxing Championships. A date of 30 Apr 22 was set, for what turned out to be another great night for Welsh Guards Boxing. Training got underway with WO2 Deren, Sgt Lucas and LCpls Dennis, getting to work on an eight-week boxing camp.

Due to the Battalions commitments, the initial team only consisted of a handful of enthusiastic individuals, with little to no boxing experience. Behind the scenes the backroom team started to plan how they were to grow the numbers of the team in a relatively small space of time. The first part of the plan was to use Battalion sports afternoons as a recruiting tool to grow interest in a sport where voluntarily go, knowing you're probably going to get punched in the face, more than once. Despite this, and because of the fantastic sessions WO2 Deren and LCpl Dennis were running, the numbers started to grow.

The next part of the plan was to make this group of volunteers, into a team that

could go on and retain the HDiv Championship. This led to the boxing team being re-homed to a new location in Combermere Barracks (CBW). The Commanding Officer agreed for the team to be given an old lecture theatre storage area, which had previously been used for battalion planning exercises. Within days of this being agreed, the boxing team, under the direction of Sgt Lucas began with the transformation and within about a week the Gym had gone from a stripped-out storage area, to what is possibly one of best boxing gyms across the Army.

Now the team had a new home, and to give them the best chance of success come 30th Apr, the coaches planned an 8-week boxing camp. Part



2

of the training camp would see the team travel to South Wales where they visited local boxing gyms including former world champion, Joe Calzaghe's gym in Newbridge. For many of the fighters this was a real eye opener as it was the first time they had stepped into a civilian boxing gym. The sparring and training the team got whilst visiting these gyms, really did accelerate the progression of all the fighters. It also allowed our coaches to identify areas they would have to work on, before the HDiv Championships got underway.

Whilst training at CBW the backroom team formed an unofficial partnership with the London Metropolitan Police boxing team, which allowed our team access to more good sparring and training from the Met Police coaches. This also give us the idea of proposing a boxing match between ourselves and the Met Team,

something they were happy to agree to. On current planning, this will take place at CBW on 1 Dec 22.

We now had everything we needed to be a successful team, support, momentum and a great training camp. We couldn't wait to get started. The first set of prelims saw 4 of our fighters take to the ring. Of the 4 competing, 2 won, with the most notable victory coming by way of a first-round stoppage over the Household Cavalry Regiment (HCR) team by our lightweight boxer Gdsm Parker (2 Coy).

The following day saw the team take 5 fighters into the semi-finals, a good start from both Gdsm Parker (2 Coy) and Gdsm Murphy (HQ Coy) who both beat their opponents from the Coldstream Guards (COLDM GDS) and Grenadier Guards (GREN GDS) respectively in convincing style. Gdsm



3

Bowen who had carried an injury for a couple of weeks during the training camp was unable to match the tempo of his COLDM GDS opponent and Gdsm Hamer who had joined the camp at the mid-point due to being deployed on OP SHADER and who had all the ability and technique to beat his HCR opponent, was just a little bit behind in terms of fitness - it was a close fight, but he was just unable to get the win. The last bout of the semi-finals saw WO2 Deren (Sp Coy), comfortably beat his strong opposition from the COLDM GDS. This win meant the Battalion was going to have 5 fighters competing in the 9 bouts that were scheduled for the HDiv Championship Finals.

With a six-point lead over our nearest challengers the GREN GDS, the plan was to match what they did, or the very least we had to do was win our two bouts against them.

The night of the finals got off to shaky start with the first bout between Gdsm Parker and his lightweight opponent, not going in our favour, a deserved win by the COLDM GDS. Gdsm Murphy entered the ring looking confident for the second bout of the evening, and quickly settled the nerves of all those watching with a convincing win over the Irish Guards. Due to the results of other bouts not going in favour of the GREN GDS, this meant we now just had to win one of our two bouts

against the GREN GDS. After a tense interval, the next bout saw Gdsm Purnell (Sp Coy) taking on his cruiserweight opponent from the GREN GDS. Tensions were high on the front row of the VIP seating where the Commanding Officer was seated next to his counterpart from the Grenadier Guards. A win for Gdsm Purnell here would see WG retain the Household Division Championship for a third consecutive time. On the opening bell for the first round Purnell came out flying and dominated his opponent until the bell rang to finish the round. Purnell's opponent looked uncomfortable in his corner, so much so, on the opening bell for the second round, his corner immediately

threw in the towel to protect their fighter. We were HDiv Champions for the third consecutive time and after a brief celebration, the boxing got back underway.

This time it was the Welsh Guards heavyweight, LSgt Thomas (POWs Coy) who took on a strong heavy hitting Irish Guardsmen. Fitness, technique, and power saw LSgt Thomas stop his opponent midway through the third round. To finish the evening WO2 Deren entered the ring to face his huge Super Heavyweight opponent from the GREN GDS. Due to the reach of his opponent WO2 Deren was unable to get in close where he is at his best and this led to the GREN GDS walking away with a deserved victory.



The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all. A huge thanks to Sgt Lucas, the coaches and the boxers for making this such a memorable night, a real team effort by all. A special thanks to our team sponsors Forces Fitness and Genesis Insurance who continues to support Welsh Guards boxing.

A final mention must be made for the support the Battalion give to the team during the build-up of this boxing event. From the Commanding Officer down, the team really did feel as though the whole Battalion was behind them. Thank you!





12



13

1. The lecture theatre storage room
2. Welsh Guards artwork was created by a local graffiti artist
3. The finished product
4. South Wales professional Boxing Gym
5. Former Welsh World Champion Enzo Maccarinelli boxing gym in South Wales
6. Gdsm Murphy in attack mode
7. Gdsm Purnell outreaches his opponent
8. LSgt Thomas cruising to victory
9. WO2 Derren trying to get inside his much taller opponents reach
10. Lightweight Gdsm Parker (2 Coy)
11. Light Welterweight Gdsm Murphy (HQ Coy)
12. Cruiserweight Gdsm Purnell (Sp Coy)
13. Heavyweight LSgt Thomas (POWs Coy)
14. We've only gone and done it again!



14



1WG Golf Team

by Colour Sergeant G Evans 488

The Battalion golf team continues to grow in strength with the sport becoming popular throughout all ranks and new players joining the team monthly. On a Wednesday afternoon, a crowd of Welsh Guardsmen descend upon one of excellent courses local to Windsor. It has been wonderful to witness the sport grow in popularity and the talent amongst those participating is shining through. We now look forward to nurturing this talent through the winter months and competing for the Household Division trophy next summer.

In April, Capt Minihan, CSgt Evans 488 and LSgt Price represented the Battalion at the Household Division Golf Championships at Worplesdon Golf Club in Woking. This was a 36-hole event with an 18 hole pairs competition in the morning and an individual's competition in the afternoon both played in Strokeplay and Stableford format. The course was in fantastic condition and the weather excellent. The competition was fought against 60 participants from across the Household Division both Serving and Veterans. Whilst the Irish Guards came away as overall winners, CSgt Evans 488 received an individual trophy for the lowest Stableford score in the

individual competition. This was a fantastic achievement considering the talent on display; particularly the Irish Guards who were represented by a former member of the Sergeants Mess who is now a professional golfer.

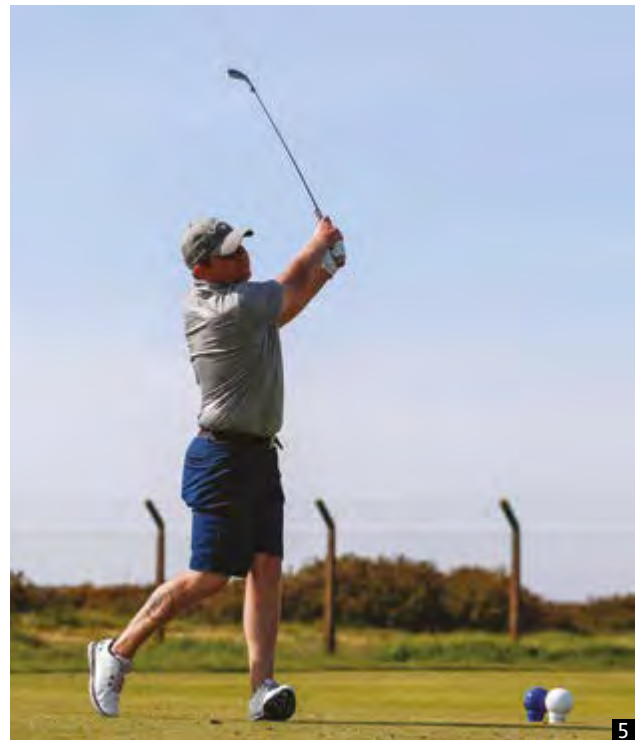
Further competitions, this time at intra-Regimental level, proved more successful for the Battalion this year. For the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19, members of the Battalion travelled to all four of the Welsh Guards Association Golf meetings. Some superb venues were played this year across the four corners of Wales and Battalion players had the opportunity to socialise with Welsh Guards

Association members before and after each event to share experiences of their careers and form new friendships. The usual format of pairing two serving members of the Battalion with two veterans proved popular once more and brought out some fierce competition. This year the Battalion took trophies from three of the four events with CSgt Evans 488 finishing second in the order of merit for the year.

Looking forward, the Battalion will host an inaugural competition at Windsor, a chance to invite members of the association to compete and, more importantly, visit the Battalion in our home.

Hopefully, the opportunity to compete on home soil will improve the chances of the Battalion team.

1. *Gdsm Morgan 35 (2 Coy) receiving her "Nearest the Pin" trophy from Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones at the Welsh Guards Association meeting at Llanymynech*
2. *LSgt Siviter (2 Coy) 1st Tee Denbigh*
3. *Capt Minihan (HQ Coy) putting on the 18th hole at the Household Division Championships 2022*
4. *Newport Links West Wales*
5. *CSgt Evans 488 Newport Links*
6. *CSgt Rees 18th Tee Mark Evison Golf Day*
7. *RQMS(M) Johnson 18th Tee Mark Evison Golf Day*





Regimental Golf

by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Guy Bartle-Jones

Finally, after 2 years of Covid turmoil we could finally say goodbye to the contrived, but workable, sixsome format for the Colonel in Chief's (CinCs) Cup and return to the traditional foursomes. This year saw 7 teams entered into the competition, with 6 teams playing an initial first round on Thursday, 28th April 2022. The Irish Guards, as last year's winners were given a bye with the remaining Household Division teams playing out an initial round, with the winners progressing to the semi-finals to be played later in the afternoon.

The Welsh Guards team, represented by: Martin Topps, Martyn Griffiths, Steve Gelly, Geraint Hughes, Peter Richardson, and Robbie O'Rourke, (with CSgt Gareth Evans 88 as reserve) were drawn against the Grenadiers. Fortunately, the weather was kind and we

were treated to a dry day at Worpleston Golf Club. The match itself could not have been more tense or more dramatic. The two Martins' could not give us a winning start, losing by one hole after eighteen. Steve and Geraint managed a fighting draw (ie all square after 18)

which left Peter and Robbie to at least win by a hole to level the match or by more to win it outright. In the end they managed to win by one and draw the match. After much head scratching and consultation with Colonel Sean O'Dwyer, the event organiser, and a check of the

rules, a sudden death play-off was required for the two pairs coming in all square.

For the first time that I can remember, CinCs had an air of Ryder Cup drama as the teams assembled on the first hole to support Steve and Geraint in their bid to take us through to the semi-finals. The first sudden death hole started hopefully with us in prime position being on the green for two shots, with the Grenadiers some way off the green. However, their third shot went within 3 feet of the hole with us needing an 8 feet putt for victory. Unfortunately, Steve put the putt 6 feet past with Geraint also missing the return for par, leaving the Grenadiers with a virtual 'tap in' putt to win the match. With the pressure on, the Grenadiers missed the putt and the hole



was tied for a bogey each, and a complete let off for us. Moving to the second play-off hole, a long par four, Geraint drove steadily to the fairway and a cracking second shot on the middle of the green from Steve, put us back in the driving seat, with the Grenadiers in the rough with both their first and second shots. Needing a delicate chip on to the green, the Grenadiers thinned the chip and the hole was ours, and the Welsh Guards team was through to play the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment in the semi-finals that afternoon. Following the drama of the morning, a more straightforward and satisfying straightforward 13-hole win was achieved:

Martin Topps/Martyn Griffiths - 9 up

Steve Gelly/Geraint Hughes - A/S

Peter Richardson / Robbie O'Rourke - 4 up

Fast forward to 22nd September and the final at Worplesdon against the Irish Guards. In the last 10 years, we have appeared in 7 of the finals but only winning it once in 2018. Expectations were therefore high that we could return to winning ways. Sticking to the principle of keeping the same team that got us to the final, and with all available to play again, no changes were made to the pairings and the team headed out in the same order as the early rounds. Despite Martin and Martyn winning the first match by 2 holes, we were well beaten in the second two matches to end up 9 holes down overall. The





6

results were:

Martin Topps/Martyn Griffiths v Sean Shiels/John Donaldson - 2 up

Steve Gelly/Geraint Hughes v Alan Ahern/Stevie King - 5 down

Peter Richardson/Robbie O'Rourke v Geoff Johnson/Carl Lavery - 6 down

At least we retain Bambi (the runners up trophy), which will be held by RHQ until next year. We look forward to knocking the Irish Guards off their perch (they have won it 7 times in the last 8 years) and given the number of excellent golfers we have in the Regiment, and as in every year we are fully supported by RHQ, we should be more than capable of achieving this.

I would urge all Battalion golfers to take the opportunity to play at the Guards Golf Society's Household Division Spring meeting at Worplesdon, and at the Summer Meeting at Aldershot Golf Club. These competitions are open to all ranks both past and present and are a great introduction to Regimental Golf.



7



8

Dates for 2023

(all fixtures at Worplesdon Golf Club unless stated):

Wed 19 Apr

Household Division Championships (Spring Meeting)

Wed 26 Apr

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

Sept Date tbc

Autumn Meeting at Royal St Georges

Wed 6 Sept

Household Division Championships (Summer Meeting) at Army Golf Club

Wed 20 Sept

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

1. Regimental team with Runners Up Trophy (Bambi) L-R: Steve Gelly, Martyn Griffiths, Robbie O'Rourke, Guy Bartle-Jones, Peter Richardson, Geraint Hughes, Martin Topps.
2. Regimental Team at the final 2023, L-R: Martyn Griffiths, Robbie O'Rourke, Martin Topps, Steve Gelly, Geraint Hughes, Peter Richardson.
3. Robbie O'Rourke and Peter Richardson against Carl Lavery and Geoff Johnson
4. Geraint Hughes and Steve Gelly against Alan Ahern and Stevie King
5. Martin Topps and Martyn Griffiths against Sean Shiels and John Donaldson
6. Peter Richardson driving.
7. Martyn Griffiths's undeniably Welsh Guards golf bag
8. Regimental team at Worplesdon for early rounds in April 2022



1

Welsh Guards Association Golf Season 2022

by Steve Gelly (24501310)

It is great to be able to say that the lifting of Covid restrictions has enabled us to have the full four meetings this year which is the first time we have been able to do so since I took over running the Golf Association from Martyn Griffiths in 2019, it has been a great year.

Woodlakes Park - 25th

May. We started the season in East Wales at the parkland course of Woodlakes Park Golf Course near Pontypool with a great turnout of 24 Association Members, 3 serving players from the Battalion and 6 guests. The course was in fine condition and was the perfect place to start the year. As with all meetings it is an 18-hole Stableford competition

playing off a maximum handicap of 28. The weather started off a little iffy but improved as the day went on and this was reflected with good scoring by all which included a hole in one by Martyn Griffiths on the 14th hole - for which Martyn fulfilled his duties by buying us all a drink at the 19th hole and I hope by now his wallet has recovered!

Winner	Carl Woodard 36 points (on count back)
2ndPlace	Jack Badham 36 points
3rd Place	Steve Gelly 35 points
Longest Drive	Brad Alderman
Nearest Pin	James Adamson
2's	Jack Badham, Gavin Cunningham, John Morgan, Martyn Griffiths

Carl wins the John Powell Trophy which is presented to the winner of the East Wales Meeting

Newport Sands - 29th June.

West Wales was our next venue and the Links course

representative from the Battalion due to deployments and leave. The weather on the day was certainly a lot better than the previous day and despite a considerable number of lost balls, including 3 myself, there was still good scores to be had.

Winner	Brad Alderman 37 points
2ndPlace	John Morgan 34 points
3rd Place	C/Sgt Gareth Evans 33 points (on count back)
Longest Drive	Brad Alderman
Nearest Pin	Mark Horwood
2's	Brad Alderman & Geraint Hughes

of Newport Sands Golf Club of which the 15th hole has reputedly been voted one of the toughest holes in Britain. The course was a good test of golf and had some spectacular views of the coast. There was a lower turn out for the meeting than Woodlakes, this I believe was down to there being several Falklands 40th Anniversary Events happening close to this date, with 17 Association Players, 2 Guests and CSgt Gareth Evans the sole

Denbigh Golf Club 27th July.

Onto North Wales and Denbigh Golf Club, unfortunately I had to miss this meeting due to a rescheduled holiday to America from 2021 and therefore the day was run by my able assistant Paul Conlon (24472961). Several players made the journey the day before and had an evening socialising prior to the competition. Numbers attending again were a little



2

down, but it was good to have 4 players from the Battalion along with 17 Association players and 3 guests. The course was in good nick I believe and that was reflected in the scoring.

of the year, it is where the player of the year would be decided.

It was a very good turn out with 23 Association players, 4 players from the Battalion

It doesn't take much to work out that I won the Stanier Cup and it was great to have Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones attending to play on the day and to present the trophies.

The player of the year was a close affair but the winner of the Colonel Malcom Dragon Trophy this year with a total score of 137 points over 4 rounds is Mark Horwood, 2nd was C/Sgt Gareth Evans with 134 points and 3rd Paul John with 129 points.

In Conclusion.

As I have said previously it was great to get my first full year's meetings under my belt, the Association Golf is growing steadily with new players joining at each meeting. I am also grateful to the support given to me by C/Sgt Gareth Evans, Major (Retired) Martin Browne and

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Guy Bartle-Jones throughout the year. It really goes without saying the invaluable help provided by Paul Conlon, in organising some great courses for us to play. I hope to continue the growth of the Association Golf and to maintain and develop contacts with the Battalion, old comrades and make new friends. Cymru am Byth.

Winner	Mark Horwood 40 points
2ndPlace	Mike Mowbray 39 points
3rd Place	Paul Conlon 35 points
Longest Drive	C/Sgt Gareth Evans
Nearest Pin	Clive Woodward
2's	Guy Ben Thomas & Martin Topps

Mark wins the Effion Jones cup for the North Wales meeting.

LLanymynech Golf Club 31st August.

The final meeting of the year was held in Mid-Wales at Llanymynech Golf Club, Oswestry. Playing here meant for the first time since 2010 we were able to play for the Stanier Cup which is held by the Monmouthshire and Shropshire Branch of the Association, I would like to thank the Branch Secretary John Williams for bringing it to the club on the day. Also, as it was the last meeting

and 6 guests. The weather was good and the course was in great condition with superb views, teeing off in England and putting out in Wales a different experience. The top eight players went out in the last two fourballs and again scoring was good and the competition for the player of the year tight, the results are as follows:

Winner	Steve Gelly 39 points
2ndPlace	Paul John 37 Points
3rd Place	C/Sgt Gareth Evans 36 Points (on count back)
Longest Drive	John Morgan
Nearest Pin	Gdsm Rhian Morgan
2's	Geraint Hughes

1. Woodlakes Golf Club May 2022
2. Capt Peter Richardson with Jack Badham Runner up Woodlakes
3. Carl Woodward Belatedly receives the John Powell Trophy from CSgt Evans
4. Martin Griffiths with [an expensive] Hole in One
5. Newport Sands June 2022
6. Steve Gelly & Paul Conlon
7. Brad Alderman winner Newport Sands with CSgt Gareth Evans
8. CSgt Gareth Evans 3rd place Newport sands
9. Finals day Trophies
10. Llanymynech
11. Paul John Runner up Llanymynech
12. The Colonel Malcolm Player of the Year "Silver Dragon" Trophy
13. Mark Horwood Receives the Dragon From Lt Col Bartle-Jones







1

The Rupert Thorneloe Memorial Cup

by Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

Every year the Rupert Thorneloe Memorial Cup is held at Kirtlington Polo Club and more often than not we are blessed with fine weather and this certainly applied on the day this year with clear blue skies but a very hard pitch! The Welsh Guards team this year to play Kirtlington Polo Club on 24 Jul included Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Bartle-Jones, Captain Oli Powell and Jonty Barlow who is on our books and enters Sandhurst in September.



2

The match was the last of the day and a thrilling one it was as well with both sides evenly matched. Colonel Simon Ledger's commentary was spot on as always picking out the players and the flow of the game. The game went down to the wire but the result was an honourable draw, 4 – 4.

After the match, as is customary, Mrs Veronica Thorneloe, Colonel Rupert's mother, presented the prizes and trophies to the players. All the Thorneloe family were

present and it was good to see some former Welsh Guardsmen there as well. The pictures I believe bear testimony to a memorable and enjoyable day.

My thanks to the Welsh Guards players who were in the team for their superb effort on the pitch. Also special thanks to Captain Oli Powell who organised our Regimental presence for the day including an excellent BBQ lunch provided by the Battalion.

For those who live in the Oxford area, or indeed a little further, I do recommend a visit in 2023 for part or all of the day. Aside from remembering, it's a gathering of kindred spirits in a beautiful setting and the Club House provides food and drinks.



3

1. Colonel Simon Ledger, one of many briefings.
2. The opposing teams, Kirtlington Polo Club and the Welsh Guards
3. Welsh Guards Team ready for action.
4. Thorneloe Family with the WG team.
5. ¾ of the WG team.
6. Prize giving





Army Polo Tour to Egypt 2022

by Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) G Bartle-Jones

In late September the Army Polo Team selected by its Director, Lt Col (Retd) Simon Ledger late LD, returned for the second year running to the Kings Polo Club in Cairo. I would be representing the President of Army Polo Maj Gen Robert Talbot Rice. The inspiration behind this event was the Deputy Defence Attaché, Lt Col Nick Foulerton SCOTS DG, who had identified the Kings Polo Club as an emerging enterprise with the facilities to provide Army Polo with a unique opportunity to both train and represent in a high profile match generating wider interest in Cairo. The Kings Polo Club has been the vision of Mohamed Elsewedy who runs a global electronic cabling company.

The Kings Polo Club, located in the Sheikh Zayed region of Cairo has reclaimed lush polo pitches from the fringes of the desert and irrigated them from the Nile. The facilities are expanding. Ponies are sourced from Argentina, and in addition to the 2 grass pitches there is an all-weather, floodlit polo arena and a grass stick and ball area. Stables can cater for up to 200 ponies with exercise area and turn-out. The team was the first to experience the newly

constructed cabins (the design based on the square footage of 2 x 12 ft containers), certainly far more luxurious than those experienced in living in containers in Afghanistan, Bosnia or Iraq, while the Club House provided full catering for the visiting party.

The Army Polo Party had a strong mix Household Division representation (Capt Giles Bromley-Martin (1 goal) IG and Lt Jamie Thomas RHG/D

(2 goals)) as well as myself and Capt Oli Powell (2 goals) and his wife, Sophie, from the Welsh Guards fraternity. The final member of the Team was Capt Paddy Self KRH another 2 goal player and myself off 0 goal, as the reserve. Additionally the party were joined by Sam Churchill as the official photographer and Gaston Devrient as the Army's Argentine polo coach. Though the tour was focussed on the polo match between the Kings Club and Army

team, the week was a mix of polo training (stick and ball), practice chukkas and in Oli's case penalty taking practice; there was also some cultural excursions. However, following a BBQ at the Club House on Day 2 the majority of the team were struck down with food poisoning resulting in both training and the cultural experiences being restricted to those fit to fight. We managed to visit: the 3 Great Pyramids at Giza, experience riding Aran horses



at Abu Seer, visit the Embassy for a reception with the Ambassador in the heart of Cairo and the Souk for some, and a quick 9 holes on a golf course near the polo club for myself with the club's polo professional Gavin Chaplin (incidentally a friend of Capt (Retd) Rupert Hackwill ex-WG from South Africa).

For once the Army was able to provide a strong 7 goal handicap team against a 5 goal club team. Though the match would be played open with no handicap applying, the Army team raced into a 6-2 goal lead by the end of the 3rd chukka and half time for a 5 chukka match. However the Army team were still suffering from the after effects of the food poisoning. I should point out that Capt Powell scored two exquisite 60 yard penalties in complete contrast to his previous practise day when he could not hit a barn door, but deservedly ended the day as the Most Valuable Player (MVP). Following half-time the home side regrouped and exploited the exhaustion in the Army team to end up tied at 7-7 in the final chukka. A diplomatic result but certainly opens the door for a re-match in 2023.

1. Army Polo Team and Kings Polo Club with UK Ambassador and his wife.
2. Army Polo Team L-R: Lt Jamie Thomas, Capt Giles Bromley-Martin, Capt Paddy Self, Capt Oli Powell.
3. UK Embassy, Cairo
4. Kings Polo Club clubhouse
5. Artificial Floodlit arena
6. Tour party at Great Pyramid in Giza



The Welsh Guards Polo Season

by Lieutenant G E C Cadogan

Between tours and a busy calendar, the polo enthusiasts in Battalion still managed to find time to hit the saddle and squeeze in a chukka or four. Building on last year's successful season, the Battalion's campaign begun in late July, where a fine team assembled at Kirtlington Polo club to defend the Thorneloe Cup. The team anchored around Capt Powell and included, Lt Col Llewelyn-Usher, Lt Col Bartle-Jones and OCdt Barlow. They faced off a local team of ringers, specifically assembled to challenge us and regain the trophy.

As a result, the competition was fierce and it came right down to the wire. Leading into the last thirty seconds, a last gasp attempt levelled the score and the match finished four all with the Battalion retaining the trophy for the second year running, a fantastic result that Colonel Rupert would have been proud of!

In early September, Capt Oli Powell and Lt George Cadogan represented the British Army in the Major General's Trophy at the Guards Polo Club. This is a

highly competitive amateur two goal tournament, held towards the end of the Guards Polo Club season and for many in the club, a final opportunity to get their hands on some silverware. For the Army team it was an opportunity to defend their title having won it the previous year. With its place on the mess dining room table cemented, there was far more at stake for Capt Powell and Lt Cadogan.

In recent years, Army teams had struggled to hit the ground running in the first



game but this year, the Army got off to a good start. After a tentative first half, the flood gates opened, and they came away 7 goals to 1.5 with a healthy goal difference. The second day saw the Army face off against 'Limitless Dogs', a much tougher opponent. The match remained evenly matched until the final chukka where victory was sealed. This left 'Sladmore' and the Army battling it out in the final for the second year running. Familiar foes, the match started as intensely as the previous match had finished. Going up two goals in the first

chukka, the Army quickly lost their lead in the second and the match was even at half time. 'Sladmore' took the lead again and with one minute to go and the scores level again at three all, the Army found itself with a sixty-yard penalty to win the match. As if Capt Powell had been saving it for this moment, he launched the ball high over the goal to bring home the silver. Captain Powell's pony 'Monty' won the best playing award.

The season concluded with two trophies successfully defended and next season





the team will look to enter in more Army tournaments at Tidworth.

The winter has not been an opportunity to slow down for all with the Army Polo Team being captained By Capt Oliver Powell in their tour to Egypt. This was a fantastic opportunity for the Army team to play a competitive match against a well drilled and highly competitive Egyptian

team. The team flew out to Cairo on Monday 26 Sept 22 and spent the next couple of days sightseeing and practicing for the game on Friday 30 Sept 22. The game itself was hard fought with the Army team going ahead at one stage 6-2 but the Egyptian team came back, and the game ended in a draw with the score being 7 all, a high scoring and exciting game. Capt Oli Powell won Most Valuable Player, and the

team made a good showing, despite 3 of them suffering from the Pharaoh's curse. For a more in-depth report of the tour please read the article by Lt Col Guy Bartle-Jones.

1. *The Winning Team at the Major General's Cup*
2. *Captain Oli Powell with Col Bagshaw COLDM GDS, Chief of Staff London District, awarding best playing pony to Monty*

3. *The British Army Team form up next to Sladmore Polo Team on ground one with members of the Coldstream Guards Band in the foreground*
4. *The British Army team line up to sing the National Anthem before their game in Cairo Egypt. L-R: Lt Jamie Thomas (H Cav), Capt Giles Bromley Martin (IG), Patrick Self (KRH) & Oli Powell (WG). (Photo courtesy of Sam Churchill)*
5. *Capt Oli Powell, after the game. (Photo courtesy of Sam Churchill)*



Welsh Guards Enduro

by Warrant Officers Class 2 D Hughes, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Technical)

As the country returns to full swing and sport is back to some sort of normality, we have been fortunate to attend numerous events both military and civilian. Due to the tempo in Battalion and some riders posted externally it's often difficult to come together, this however doesn't prevent us from attending, riding and racing all around the country.

In the 21-22 season we have had riders deployed on operations around the world, posted to training units and moving between roles which has naturally detracted from the continuity and ability to come together as a team. Pirbright still remains our main stomping ground with the area booked every Wednesday for sports afternoons and Friday all day to accommodate the four-day working week in battalion. The training area is excellent and often used by the Army and GB level riders to train.

Towards the start of spring riders competed in numerous fixtures and championships, the Inter Corps Cross Country Championships (ICCC), British

Enduro Championships, The Welsh Sprint Championships and numerous other grass roots level fixtures. The author remains strong competition in the Expert class and currently sits in 3rd position across the army. The team has contributed massively to the battalion input at Major Unit level sport, this includes not only racing but attending as a Clerk of the Course and Marshals to ensure the events can proceed. CSgt Simons recently qualified as a Clerk of the Course, now 2 of the 4 qualified army riders are both Welsh Guards.

Growing the brand and assisting other Infantry units in the formation of teams has

been fantastic, this year we have helped the following: The Parachute Regiment, The Mercian Regiment, The Royal Welsh Regiment, ITC Catterick and 1 YORKS. Using the WG model as gold standard these units will now compete to represent the Infantry along 3 Welsh Guards riders in the following season.

Army and GB representation remains strong, WO2 Hughes still sits firmly on the Army and GB board and other WG riders will have the opportunity to gain a foot in the door by supporting national events later this year.

With our workshop fully equipped and operating safely, while not riding

An Enduro race can take numerous forms, a Hare and Hound is closed circuit and last 2-3 hours, riders will fuel when they want in a designated area. Time Card enduro operates over 6-7 hours and can be over 200 Km in length, strict time restrictions and timed special tests will decide the winner

our soldiers can be found learning and understanding both 2 and 4 stroke

machines, changing tyres, bearings and learning how to maintain the machines. This allows a better understanding which can be transferred to numerous issued platforms such as the quad bike and generators.

We have also spread our wings and indulged in other motorsports, Sgt Forde from Number Three Company has recently left his leathers and road bike apparel and began flat track racing, Maj's Young and Charles-Jones remain involved in the Adventure Bike community

and now have numerous young members of battalion involved in the growing sport.

Training will continue throughout the year, utilising the Pirbright area we will best prepare for competitions and represent the Battalion, Infantry and the Army at the highest level.

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. 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. *Two-wheel motorsport comes in numerous disciplines, Enduro, MX, Track and also flat track. Here Sgt Forde gets to grips with his 650cc flat track bike.*
2. *Enduro is a very physically and mentally demanding sport, with 6 hours on a bike per day and up to 6500 calories burnt it's important to remain fit and focused. Our Battalion PT programme helps with this.*



Welsh Guards Running Club

by Captain M E Parry, Unit Welfare Officer

Running is a very popular sport, for numerous reasons. Some run because they want to lose weight, improve their health and fitness levels, compete in races, or try something new. Whatever your reason, you'll experience many physical, mental, and emotional benefits of the sport.

The Welsh Guards running club is open to everyone in Battalion, regardless of ability. The club also provides an opportunity to compete in many military and civilian events. Earlier in the year Captain Parry, the running club lead, took five members of Battalion to 'GoPerform' in reading, a sports medicine and sports science practice, specialising in all sports, to enhance their performance. The team were put through their paces on a running machine, allowing a correct VO2 Max reading to be obtained, as this is the best indicator of cardio-respiratory fitness, revealing how much oxygen the body can consume during maximum effort. A higher number indicates greater levels of aerobic

fitness. It was an interesting and 'enjoyable' experience.

Due to the pace of operational deployments, we have had limited opportunities to attend events and thus far have only managed the Woking half marathon. Three members of the Battalion took part, each achieving an impressive time. The club aims to tackle a number of events throughout the remainder of the autumn including Army cross-country as well as marathons to ultra-marathons - all in aid of a chosen charity.

1. *The author undergoing VO2 Max testing which will acquire a scientifically accurate measure of aerobic capacity*
2. *Woking Half Marathon, L-R: CSgt Davies 83, Capt Parry, Gdsm Johnson*





Officers v Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess Clay Shooting Day - 24th November 2021

by Lieutenant G E C Cadogan

In the spirit of competition which exists between the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, two teams came head-to-head at the clays to shoot it out for the day. Organised by Drum Major Potts, we assembled at the Banbury shooting school in Oxfordshire. The officers arrived in their traditional shooting garments: old barbour's, tweed caps and wellies. Meanwhile the Warrant Officers and Sergeants arrived in their skeet vests. This was a battle not just of the messes but one which pitted the traditional game shot against the modern sporting shot.



The parties arrived to be greeted by a hearty breakfast in a private room - bacon baps and coffee to sharpen the senses. The shooting school was well equipped with a fully stocked gun room and shop which we perused to settle the nerves. Game shots like to get their excuses out of the way early and we regaled each other about how long ago our last pheasant days were. This didn't seem to be the case for the opposition who'd clearly been training for the day. Fortunately, the Officers' Mess hadn't been able to muster a full contingent and we were kindly donated substitutes who would prove very useful.

Receiving a safety brief over coffee and having been

assured of some practise to our relief, we set off in our respective parties. The format of the day was a practise period in the morning before lunch, followed by an individual competition and culminating in a team flush. Working off a single clay release at a time and the words of command "pull", the practises got off to a good start. The novices found their confidence with every breaking clay while the experienced among us found their rhythm. Some even ventured beyond this remit to demand higher clays and a double release, this they soon regretted when informed that the competition had in fact already started and the reassuring "practise" period never existed. The pressure mounted when one party



would walk by another to begin some good-natured heckling.

Lunch can be the make or break in any shooting day with multiple outcomes. Often one who's had a good morning will slow down and become sleepy after a hearty lunch and perhaps too much sloe gin. While those with something yet to prove will eat lightly and devour the coffee at pudding to sharpen up. At Banbury however it was a chance for those on a good run to eye up the competition and keep the stiff upper lip, demonstrating

cool resolve when ordering a hearty meal and having a drink or two.

The second session got into full flow with the intensity now heightened after lunch. Captain Orme Clarke began to feel the pressure and his groans with every miss began to sound like that of a hoodie crow. The final crescendo was the team flush where we would face a barrage of 40 clays at irregular intervals in a team of four. Coordinating one's fires is a key strength of the infantry however in this case the effectiveness and



efficiency of fire was the key; trying not to double shoot clays and save that shot for the one which comes over as everyone reloads. The scores all in, the Officers mess scraped a victory and the game shots prevailed. The Drum Major vowed to organise a rematch to exact their revenge, I know the competition will be fiercer than ever next time!

1. Captain George Davidson, Second Lieutenant George Cadogan and Captain Orme Clarke taking a pre-lunch break
2. Lance Sergeant Rettalick 'Winging It'
3. Major Tom Spencer-Smith keeping the Officers' Mess Team in the lead
4. The Officers' Mess Team blitzing the flurry
5. The Sergeants' Mess Team tackle the Flurry

**Wales 500 (21 – 25 May 2022)**

by Lance Corporal L Tucker, Battalion Gymnasium Staff

“

Alone we can do so little, but together we can achieve so much.

We condition our bodies to be physically robust, but only our mental resilience, drive and determination will pull us through. We are all individuals working together to achieve one goal, it is only as a team we can thrive and accomplish greatness. We experienced this over 97 hours and this is our account of the Wales 500.



The Wales 500 was a five-hundred-mile relay event around the coastline of Wales, through countryside, towns and cities finishing on the summit of Mount Snowdon. Each runner had to achieve a minimum of twenty miles in four hours before commencing a 12-hour recovery period, repeating until each runner had covered a total distance of 125 miles. The Wales 500 was an event to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and engage with Welsh communities and our veterans across Wales. The event was a sponsored event raising money for the Welsh Guards Charity with a set target of raising £3,000.00. The route would take us from Chepstow Rugby Football Club around the coastline of Wales over rocky cliff edges, long sandy beaches and through the picturesque Welsh countryside. The team consisted of four runners (plus a support runner) Regimental Sergeant Major Cope, CSgt Davies 83, LCpl Tucker, LCpl Rowlands-Bell and Gdsm Emanuel. However,

our team was much greater with a complete support team of chefs to refuel our daily 6,700 calories burnt, a physiotherapist to aid recovery and injuries, and a transport support team led by the Regimental Signals Warrant Officer WO2 Cunningham to move our supplies, runners and a 24hr operations room around Wales.

Preparation started two months prior to the event when we assembled as a group of keen runners from across the Battalion with the intent of participating in the Wales 500. We soon discovered that we needed to focus on our endurance and running techniques to remain sustainable for such a long distance, with the ability of going again within a short rest period. Most average runners will undergo 6 – 12 months of training for just one marathon, taking at least a week recovery post event. Even though our distance for each leg was going to be slightly shorter than a marathon, we still needed to

rest/recover within a 12-hour window before attacking our next leg. We also needed to prepare for our runs to be completed in night-time hours, so running with limited light and navigating was going to be a challenge whilst still making a 20-mile distance within 4 hours. As a team we planned and tested what supplementation and food requirements we needed for each leg to be able to maintain our energy systems and replace calories lost during each leg. With just 2 weeks to go before the event took place, we received our brief on the route and discussed our pace plan for each of our legs. This was the point that we realised the extent of the task ahead of us, was going to be challenging not just physically, but mentally. All we could do now was rest and get to the start line.

On the 21 May we formed up at the start line at Chepstow Rugby Football Club met by event organisers, the regimental support team (south) and a special guest, a rugby legend Scott Quinnell, all to show their support for this momentous task. We conducted interviews with both the event organisers and Scott Quinnell prior to the step off. During the interviews we detailed our plan for the event, that we were going to run a teamed relay of five hundred miles around the coastline of Wales in just five days. Their expressions and look on their faces of disbelief gave the team a sense of achievement before the event had even started. They could not believe that it was achievable, but we knew different. We were all infantry

soldiers, with an array of operational experience that gave us drive, determination and a passion for success. At 0900hrs the whole team formed up at the start line ready to mark the start of the event. The weather couldn't have been better, with clear skies and a temperature of 13 degrees which was perfect for running. The views of the sun glistening above the Prince of Wales bridge were spectacular and gave us a sense of patriotism, and a sense of pride to be in our homeland. The countdown was on as we all set off together, knowing that we would not be as a team again until the foot of Mount Snowdon. The support and cheers from the spectators filled us with confidence as we ran past and released the first runner LCpl Rowlands-Bell and Gdsm Emanuel (as support runner).

The event had started, and our first runner was off the line filled with adrenaline and the sense of all eyes are on him. All he could do now was reach his target of twenty miles and hand over to the next runner. As a team we tracked his progress through a live GPS tracker which detailed his current location and the route which had been taken. This was vital not only for supporters to follow our progress, but for safety to ensure that our runners were safe and could be located in an emergency situation. The route would see LCpl Rowlands-Bell moving from the county of Monmouthshire and into Newport were the exchange for the next runner would take place. LCpl Rowlands-Bell had made it, achieving his distance within the time of 4 hours.



Regimental Sergeant Major Cope was the next runner and completed the handover which would see him run through his home City of Cardiff and the Capital of Wales. An immense moment of pride as he ran through the city with the support of friends, family and veterans. Regimental Sergeant Major Cope had completed his leg in the Vale of Glamorgan handing over to LCpl Tucker. This leg would see LCpl Tucker running the rocky cliff edges of the south coast as the sun set in the west of the country. As night-time fell the handover to CSgt Davies 83 had begun with the first challenge of running with limited light. Navigation was going to be tough as he tackled the sand dunes of the county of Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot.

Our support team and resting runners were now situated at the Army Reserve Centre Mumbles Road, Swansea, with runners resting and refuelling their bodies ready to tackle their next leg. The support teams were working tirelessly to monitor our progress and pre-empt our next exchange points. We had all completed our first leg and feeling positive from our progress on the first day, we were ahead of time. The next day would see the runner's transit through three counties of Wales, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and into Ceredigion by the end of day two. The leg was filled with picturesque rolling countryside and the smell of Welsh country air. Our bodies were beginning to become tired and muscle soreness was setting in. With our support team now

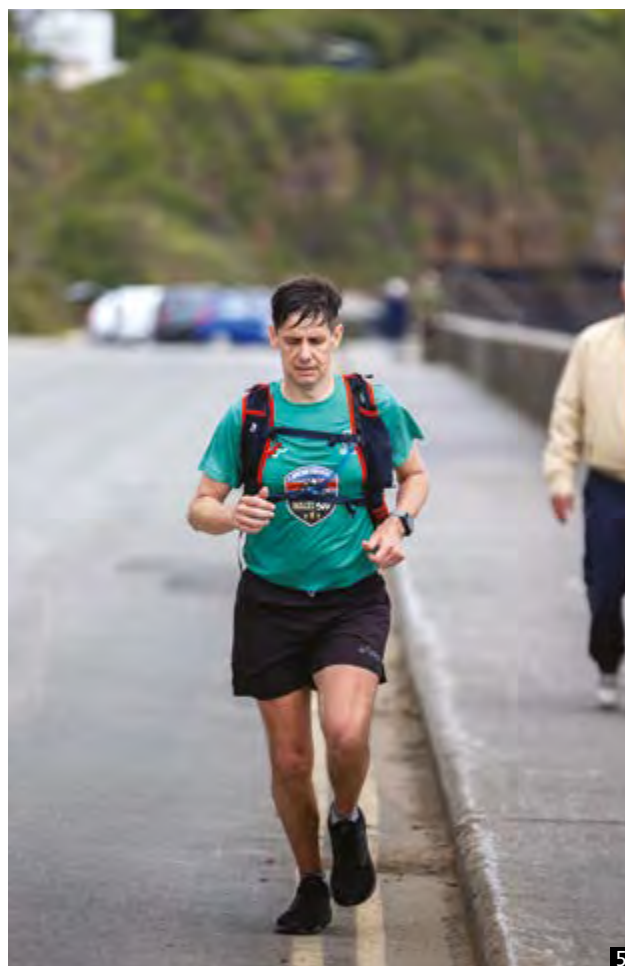
positioned at Haverfordwest Rugby Football Club our Physiotherapist was on hand to aid our recovery and promote injury prevention as we rested. Our chef's working tirelessly to fuel us and replenish our calories lost, whilst building carbohydrate stores for our next leg. Our average daily steps were now at around 76,501 which was starting to take its toll on our bodies, but with our drive and determination it would not stop us.

We steamed into day 3 with the end in sight, but we had a challenge ahead. The rocky cliff descents were beginning to hurt, our bodies feeling every step as our feet touched the ground. We ploughed through as the end was near, with the looming Mount Snowdon lurking over our right shoulder. We passed through the county of Gwynedd then into the Isle of Anglesey as night-fell on the final evening. Our support team now set in their final position of support at the Army Reserve Centre Caernarfon. This was where we conducted our final resting, feeding and physiotherapist sessions ready for our final accent. The last leg was finally underway as all runners meet at the foot of Mount Snowdon. This was it, the final leg together just as we did at the start. Our battered bodies had to endure the final ascent to the summit, to complete this momentous event. We had arrived at the summit of Mount Snowdon completing the event with a sense of achievement with a total time of 97 hours. We smashed it, five-hundred miles as a team with each runner clocking up 125 miles

with 23 hours to spare. We not only achieved the event, but we had also reached our target of £3,000.00 for the Welsh Guards Charity from all our supporters that followed our journey.

The team are overwhelmed with all the support that we received during the Wales 500 which kept us going. This couldn't have been achieved without the support of the Battalion, support teams and local Welsh communities and to you we are grateful.

1. *The Wales 500 team on the start line. From left to right – Gdsm Emanuel, Regimental Sergeant Major Cope, LCpl Rowlands-Bell, CSgt Davies 83 and LCpl Tucker*
2. *LCpl Rowlands-Bell by West Coastline of Wales*
3. *Regimental Sergeant Major Cope crossing the bridge at Barmouth*
4. *LCpl Tucker running the south coastline of Wales.*
5. *CSgt Davies 83 running the west coastline of Wales*





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The Lawson Cup 2022

by Captain A Gould, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment,
Battalion Plans Officer

The Lawson Cup has been the annual inter-Regimental Athletics Competition of the Household Division since 1904; celebrating a tradition of healthy, competitive rivalry between our regiments which epitomises belonging to the blue-red-blue family. For most of its history the competition was hosted at the Guards Depot in Pirbright where it brought together serving and past members of the Household Division, making it not just an athletics cup but also an opportunity to reunite and enjoy the company of friends past and present.

To take part requires hard-work, dedication, stamina, skill and a will to succeed; all traits that we should celebrate in our soldiers and officers who take part in the competition. This year's iteration was no different, hard competition between the fraternity of Guards and Household Cavalry; the only difference, the soaring temperatures sizzling the skin and cooking the lungs of all those on show.

1WG with all its commitments and deployments fielded a

full team and demonstrated in ample weight its Ysbryd and humour. Notable performances on the day; SSgt Hammond RAPTC (Royal Army Physical Training Corps) 100m champion showing a searing turn of pace to dominate the competition. Guardsman Bouguenon, having already completed Bn PT that morning, turned up and ran a fantastic 5k finishing with a silver medal. Guardsman Namakadre delivered a monstrous series of javelin throws to win gold. Maybe, the most impressive



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of all was the 4 x 100m team who ran to gold and won on the final 5m with an exceptional last leg by SSgt Hammond RAPTC. Even the Quartermaster, despite his advanced years and his claim of not being at the first competition in 1904 (though we all know he was), made a fine showing; throwing in the shot put and taking a leg in the Prince of Wales relay.

1WG provided without question the best support with our entire allocation of seats filled by members of the Bn, cheering on each Welsh competitor with aplomb and providing colourful commentary alternating between thick valley and coarse 'North Walian' accents. It was from this crowd that the Battalion pulled its Tug o' war team, the powerhouses of the regiment rolled onto the field and into the cauldron of fire. There was never a doubt and utter domination

followed, the men of the Battalion proceeded to crush and pull all challengers from the feet until only the men of 1WG stood atop the Household Division undaunted and undefeated.

1. *LCpl Namakadre Launching his Javelin into space*
2. *Major Sixsmith at his inaugural competition in 1904!*
3. *SSgt Hammond RAPTC sprinting to Victory in the Prince of Wales' Relay*
4. *Sgt Jones 89, and his moustache, hauling the Welsh Guards to victory in the Tug of War*
5. *SSgt Hammond RAPTC providing calm and considered encouragement to the team*
6. *Relay race prep.*



1

Exercise Mighty Hunter - (30 January to 5th of February)

by Lieutenant G E C Cadogan, Platoon Commander

During World War One the British Army found itself with the capability gap of not having specialised marksman, known as snipers. The sporting estates of Scotland answered this call with the ideal solution, the Scottish Ghillie. Brought up on the land, these men were expert marksman and learned their trade through their work managing deer numbers which proliferate Scotland to this day. In late January, 12 members of Number 2 Company coached by modern day Ghillies, deployed to the Scottish Highlands to face an unfamiliar foe. Specially selected during a marksmanship test late the previous year, the Company's best shots had been chosen for this task.



2

Located in the heart of Perthshire, Glen Quaich and Snaigow Estates straddle the Grampians. Glen Quaich is nestled in the foothills with dramatic moorland on the high ground and woodland on the valley floor. Snaigow is lowland with agriculture seamlessly transitioning into large forestry swathes. These are both ideal habitats for Red, Fallow and Roe deer. With Scotland deep into winter, the low ground cover and smattering of snow allowed for the ideal conditions to go after Red

Hinds (females), Fallow and Roe Deer in season.

Based out of an estate cottage at Glen Quaich, the party was sustained on vegetables and carbohydrates alone. Meat was to be hunted which depended on their success and with this in mind, the stalking phase began. Tuning into their surroundings, the Guardsman spent the next 4 days with the Ghillies, venturing out at dawn and dusk, the favourite movement time of their quarry. The enemy live and now real, the



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excitement was electric, and that crucial element never trained in any marksmanship lesson was understood by all, the adrenaline in the moment. Familiarised to their new rifles and fine single stage triggers, they had no qualms in taking the shot. Initially starting off with the intent of achieving one each, by the end of the week this had been more than surpassed and 22 deer had been shot. In traditional fashion the stalker on

bleeding the deer, marks the hunters face in recognition of their first kill.

The education did not stop there and the Ghillies passed on their knowledge of butchering to prepare the carcasses for the food chain. Supplementing our meals daily with venison, the week culminated in a BBQ where fillets were butterflied, and a spread worthy of a banquet was laid out. Eager to learn,

these chosen few arrived with no knowledge other than that of how to hit a target. Each departed having discovered their own hunter's instinct.

1. The party walk up the Glen to observe the Red deer on the steepest slopes
2. Gdsm Owen blooded with his first fallow buck at Snaigow
3. Lt Cadogan watches the sun rise over Glen Quaich
4. The hunting party sit atop Eagles Rock, Glen Quaich

5. Lt Cadogan leads Sgt Parry through the woods at Snaigow
6. Gdsm Chamayere enjoying the early start
7. Gdsm Scott lines up a roe doe below him at 70 meters off sticks
8. The Gdsm get to grips with their target acquisition equipment to observe deer in the hills above
9. Moving across Glen Quaich
10. Gdsm Johnstone ranges a deer he's spotted with his CTLS





Welsh Guards Sailing

by Captain JJD Phillips

2022 has been an excellent year for Welsh Guards sailing. Under the watchful eye of Capt Phillips, young Guardsmen have been fortunate to deploy on the Household Division yacht, Gladeye on two separate occasions. Initially from Gosport to Poole and latterly a week in Cowes. The focus of sailing expeds is to expose Guardsmen to a new sport and learn how to sail in a variety of sea conditions.

The initial week on Gladeye, 2Lt Comaish and four Guardsmen sailed from Gosport to Poole. It was the first time at sea for all bar Mr Comaish where they experienced some of the most turbulent winds of the season. Throughout the week, all individuals showed true character among difficult conditions and were rightly awarded their RYA Competent Crew award. This qualifies them all to act as mate on future trips and builds on the Battalion's strong sailing background to extend the knowledge base through the ranks.

The week also allowed the Guardsmen to take time out of their busy schedule, as the trip was sandwiched by deployments to Kenya and

on Op INTERFLEX. They had the rare opportunity to cook for one another and added a strong working knowledge of pubs around the Solent to their list of achievements. Seas were fairly challenging, and all dealt well with the conditions, though some admittedly took longer to find their sea legs than others.

2022 also saw the Household Division's first junior officer-led entry into Cowes Week, which a number of Welsh Guards Officers including Capt Phillips and Lt Cross took part in. The team was kindly sponsored by Beaufort and Blake this year, making sure members looked particularly dashing as they steered Gladeye to a solid 13th in the Club Cruiser class. A good performance for the

Household Division junior Officers, with plans in place to enter both Cowes Week and Fast Net next year.

Urgent Operational commitments to Op INTERFLEX and Op BRIDGE have sadly meant cancelling several sailing events this year. The sailing team has, however, managed to gain an extra week on Gladeye in October, when 2Lt Hudson and five Guardsmen will tackle the Solent again. As ever, sailing will provide members of the Battalion time to unwind and tackle new challenges after an incredibly busy summer.

1. Some of the Gladeye crew for Cowes Week 22 in their Beaufort and Blake shirts
2. Gdsm Jones 93 raising the foresail in a Force 5
3. Gladeye heading into port after a day of racing
4. Cowes week crew flying downwind



Swimming Henley to Marlow – A 13km swim in the Thames

by Major A J N Smith, SO3 Org Plans, Army Headquarters

Towards the end of 2021 I decided to sign up for a charity swim between Henley and Marlow, alongside my girlfriend. The swim is 13km, sold as a swimming equivalent of a marathon, and is obviously takes place in the River Thames. I chose to raise money for the Welsh Guards Charity for the event and I managed to raise £500.

At the time I signed up for the event I had never done an open water swim, never swum further than 2km in a pool and I knew that, at best, I was an average swimmer. I am also not that keen on swimming; I love a waterslide but getting in and doing front crawl up and down a pool (or now in lakes and rivers) was not my idea of having fun, but yet I'd signed up for what was probably going to be a 5-hour stint of front crawl in a river. Putting all that aside, I embraced the challenge, and I was keen to be doing something that I had never done before.

I started getting into the pool multiple times a week in the final few months of 2021, aiming to feel more comfortable doing

long swims and thankfully progress was good. My front crawl technique was that of a panicked animal finding itself in water unexpectedly, but I was slowly getting faster and feeling more settled during the swims. Progress was halted for a few weeks whilst I deployed to France with the Army Telemark Ski Team to train for, and then compete at, the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships (ISSSC). Progress was then halted further when a crash during the ISSSC resulted in a ruptured ACL, a torn inner and outer meniscus and a torn lateral ligament. Luckily swimming, as a non-impact sport, is often used in rehabilitation, so I only had a few weeks out of the pool, although when I restarted swim training and for the

next couple of months, every swim was arms only whilst my knee settled.

My first ever open water swim finally took place in April. As I drove up to Bray Lake in Maidenhead, the nerves grew; although I spent much of my childhood in the sea and in lakes doing watersports, I'd never actually done a swim for swim's sake. Additionally, I hate seaweed/pondweed so the prospect of them tickling my feet as I swam did not fill me with joy and I was also nervous at the prospect of wearing a wetsuit - very rarely a sympathetic look for anyone! But, after the initial shock of the chilly spring water, I got my head down and into my front crawl rhythm. It turns out it wasn't

that bad and swimming in a lake around a large loop is actually more enjoyable than swimming 100+ lengths in a pool. The result was that suddenly open water swimming was no longer as daunting.

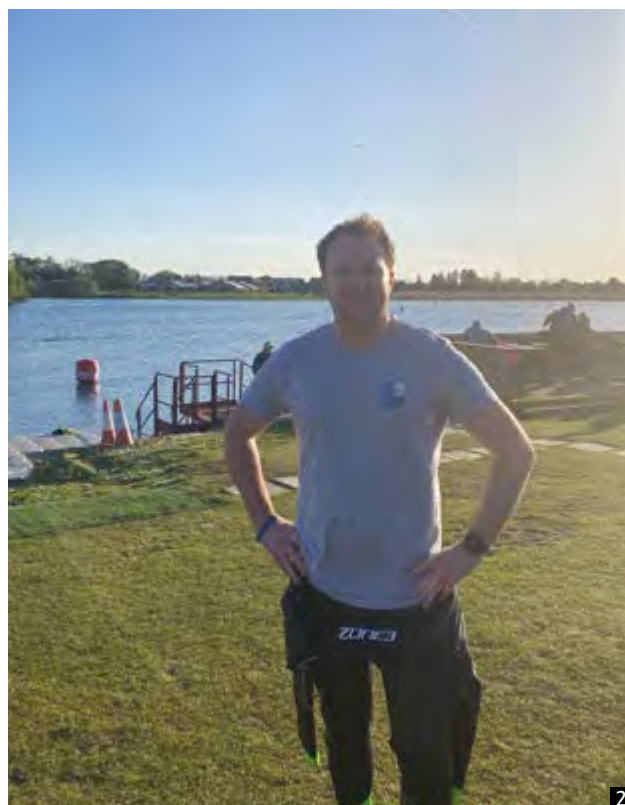
Over the next few months the training continued, including a 3-week trip to the Austrian Alps where the lake swimming is far more enjoyable and picturesque than lakes in the UK. But before I knew it August was upon me, and the date of the swim loomed large. The weather was absolutely roasting, so even walking around in a wetsuit at 7am was uncomfortable and I wanted the swim to start so I could just get in the river and cool off.



I finally got into the water at around 0730hrs and I was off. The swim was broken down into 4 stages thanks to the locks along the river – 3.5km, 5.5km, 1.8km and 2.2km (approximately). The first stage passed, and I was getting into my rhythm, but I could tell by the time I got to the first lock that stage 2 was going to be an epic. Fortunately, each lock had an “aid” station with water, electrolyte drink, fruit and Haribo – the latter being a key ingredient for the success of any infantry soldier. After a short break at lock 1 it was onto stage 2 and the 5.5km epic (approximately a 2-hour stint). By the time I reached lock 2, with 9km behind me, I was very ready for the end to arrive. My shoulders were painful, and a change of rhythm was needed. In the pool I would normally breathe every 4 strokes, but in open water I usually

breathe every other stroke; the extra pressure going through my right shoulder was causing me significant issues, so I reluctantly decided more face down into the murkiness was needed and I reverted to my pool technique for the remainder of the swim.

The final 2 stages passed with relative speed compared to stage 2, and before I knew it I could see the finish line in the distance down a long final straight. I climbed out at the finish line and over the final timing line at 4 hours and 40 minutes for the total 13km swim with an exhausted body and painful shoulders, but with a smile on my face after completing something which was a huge personal challenge. Beaten by my girlfriend by 20 minutes I might have been, but if the prize is swimming the English Channel (which is what she



is doing whilst I sit in Dover writing this article after dropping her off at 0300hrs this morning) then I am happy to have come second to her!

The Thames above London, whilst cleaner than some parts lower down, is not wonderfully clean, but luckily there have been no ill effects in the 5 days since completion. I think the only issue on the day was keeping my mind occupied for almost 5 hours whilst staring into darkness. It was definitely a challenge; whilst my body (especially my shoulders) were hurting, the long time with little stimulation for my mind proved the hardest. It became easy to start counting strokes and to realise how little distance is covered in that time whilst swimming. Luckily games with my breathing (blowing bubbles) and chasing down

people ahead of me proved stimulating enough to get me through.

For a non-regular-swimmer, I would commend a challenge like the Henley to Marlow marathon to anyone who wishes to step outside of their comfort zone. With people of all abilities taking part it meant I was far from the slowest on the day! I would like to thank all those that supported and sponsored me.

1. Swim training in the Austrian Alps.
2. Getting ready for my first ever open water swim!
3. The author having completed the swim.



Exercise FROSTED BLADE 36

by Lieutenant F Syms

The gradual loosening of COVID restrictions in 2021 brought the return of a much-missed and much-anticipated event: the Infantry Ski Championships in Val D'Isère, Ex FROSTED BLADE. With almost every Officer either on or preparing for an overseas deployment, the task of organising the Welsh Guards entry fell to Lt's James Phillips and Felix Syms, themselves both in Iraq for many of the preceding months. Luckily much of the groundwork had been laid by the Battalion's own Franz Klammer, Capt Seb Ward, now competing for the Infantry Ski Team. Assembling a team proved a challenge; the possibility of Christmas away from families after a few turbulent years made it a harder sell than anticipated. Nevertheless, an eight-man group was assembled, consisting of the two Officers and – despite concerned looks from many quarters – six young Guardsmen without a Non-Commissioned Officer in sight!

On a chilly December morning, all eight of the team returned to Combermere Barracks to prepare for departure. Alas! It was not to be. In an abundance of caution, each man took a COVID test before embarking, and Gdsm O'Brien fell victim to the dreaded double line. Shorn of one of our number, we pressed on, bloody, but unbowed. A day and a half later – interrupted only briefly by Gdsm Byron pulling the emergency stop

handle on the Eurotunnel to ask for the lavatories to be unlocked – we arrived in Val D'Isère. Here we found ourselves accommodated in a very pleasant chalet a little walk outside the main town that was to be our home for the next five weeks. The comfort was much valued; over the course of our stay, no less than three team members would find themselves locked in a quarantine room, having shared Gdsm O'Brien's fate.



Undeterred by the nasal swab-shaped sword of Damocles that hung over our heads, the exercise began in earnest with the start of training. Organised into ability groups, the beginners had the unenviable task of going from zero to hero, preparing themselves to pull on lycra racing suits in anger in just over a month's time. This was largely a great success; Bambi soon gave way to a slightly less wobbly creature, and soon even the most snow-shy were able to call themselves skiers. Those with a little more experience of skiing were put through their paces at high speed around the resort, before being treated to their first taste of race training within a matter of days.

Skiing was not the only pastime to keep us

entertained. The French would never have allowed such a trifling inconvenience as COVID to prevent the opening of such Val d'Isère institutions as La Folie Douce, Dick's Tea Bar and Cocorico for a touch of after-ski R&R. They did, however, see the pandemic as reason enough to close the borders shortly before the Christmas stand-down, depriving the team of the opportunity to return home. Lt Syms, ever keen to embrace more civilised French pastimes than Alpine racing, took the opportunity to channel his inner Escoffier. A traditional British Christmas lunch – or as close as the French supermarkets would allow – was single-handedly whipped up, with such exotic treats as bread sauce and parsnips challenging some palates.





Culinary adventures were not limited to Christmas. Gdsm Morgan's attempt to atone for his absence one morning, driven by the only thing more compelling than hunger, was a fine example. His tuna pasta bake with crushed ready salted crisp topping was certainly an experience, albeit not one that was repeated. Occasional visits to traditional Savoyard restaurants provided the opportunity to try some local delicacies. Despite noisy and somewhat colourful protestations from some of the Guardsmen about the rather pungent smells, the team were able to enjoy both raclette and fondue nights, even if the waiters were somewhat sceptical at orders of "vodka and coke" in place of their offering of French wines.

Opportunities for relaxation soon gave way to the pressures of race week. The Welsh Guards were divided into two teams: the "A Hill", featuring Capt Ward, Lt Phillips, Lt Syms and Gdsm Hoyle, and the "B Hill", manned by Gdsm Byron, Gdsm Morgan, Gdsm Olsen and Gdsm Smith 35. This was a particularly significant step up for Gdsm Hoyle. Despite racing as a novice, having skied only once prior to the exercise, he would be expected to tackle the same courses as those with far more experience. This included competing on the women's world cup run, as well as a downhill, the fastest of all ski racing events.

Success for the Welsh Guards was immediate. Anchored

ably by Capt Ward and Lt Phillips, who had also been brought into the Infantry Ski Team fold, the 'A Hill' team secured a number of silver medals. Top spot was consistently snatched from our grasp by a combination of a highly experienced Duke of Lancaster's team and a bout of severe food poisoning that left Lt Syms regularly excusing himself from the piste and hardly able to stand after the slalom. Gdsm Hoyle more than pulled his weight, beating many far more experienced skiers and ultimately being crowned best novice on the hill for his impressive performances. Once all events had been contested, the Welsh Guards had amassed silver medals in the Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G and Downhill, leaving only the Super Combined to compete for. Owing to a critical error, from the otherwise superbly consistent Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, saw the door opened for a Welsh Guards victory and we stormed through to take the team Gold. Lt James Phillips also secured individual medals in two events, a silver in the Downhill and bronze in the Super-G, finishing a highly respectable third place overall in the competition.

Results were more measured on the 'B Hill'. With other units entering far more experienced skiers in an attempt to sweep up some silverware, a largely novice team was always going to be fighting an uphill battle. A winning performance from an inter-hill team in the fancydress team slalom – which Gdsm Byron completed, impressively, dressed in little more than a black grip bag – more than made up for any shortfall. The foundations for future triumphs were certainly laid, with a number of participants eager to return to competition at the next opportunity. The final word must go to the Welsh Guards Charity, whose continued backing has done a great deal to support the growing successes that the Welsh Guards have enjoyed and, we hope, will continue to enjoy into the future.

1. The Welsh Guards Ski Team
2. The Team Enjoy a Well-Earned Fondue
3. Gdsm Hoyle being awarded his prize for Best Novice
4. The A Hill Team (Plus Grip Bag)
5. James Phillips receiving his prize for third place overall
6. The Welsh Guards A Hill Team - minus Lt Syms - receiving our overall second place prize

TELEMARK – The Free Heel Life Part 3 Ex TELEMARK TITAN, Ex TELEMARK TROJAN and the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships

by Major A J N Smith, SO3 Org Plans, Army Headquarters

After a year's hiatus due to a small global pandemic in 2021, it gives me great pleasure to bring you Part 3 of The Free Heel Life.

The 2022 season looked like it was on for a smooth landing during the planning flight path. It appeared that COVID-19 had been hit for 6 by the vaccination programmes around the world and that life was returning to normal. Then came the Omicron variant and some draconian travel restrictions by the French - suddenly the ski season looked in doubt. Nevertheless, planning endured in the hope that sense would prevail over petty political posturing, and the season would be saved. Depending on which winter discipline you were taking part in depended whether you made it into France in time to ski; sadly, due to the start date of Ex TELEMARK TITAN (Ex TT) it had to be cancelled only a few days before it started as, at that particular moment in time, travel to France was impossible. Sadly, this means that I am unable to excite you

with the delights of Ex TT and the Navy, Army and British Telemark Championships as a whole.

However, hope endured. Would the French change their travel measures ahead of the planned Ex TELEMARK TROJAN dates and the Inter Services Snow Sports Championships (ISSSC) and therefore allow us to salvage something of the season? Planning continued. Thankfully, sense prevailed, and travel was permitted, and the Army telemark team deployed on Ex TELEMARK TROJAN to Pralognan-la-Vanoise (PLV), France. Selection for the Army team was conducted on past form and luckily, I made the cut.

We travelled out to PLV - it was good to be back in the small French village again after a couple of years and we received a warm welcome.



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We were re-united with Phil Lau, our world cup winning coach from 2020 and an 8-day training package commenced. As in 2020 the training consisted of telemark technique training, gate training, jump training, start training and (the torture that is) skate training. With all of us having been off skis for almost 2 years, getting straight back into full days of lunging downhill, it was hard work. But the grace and beauty of a well-executed telemark turn trumps the lactic burn in the thigh, resulting in a smile on the face.

The training progressed well and after 8 days of it, along with some ski touring and daily saunas we felt ready and confident as we made the short move from PLV to Méribel for the start of the ISSSC. For those either yet to visit or compete at the ISSSC it is worth fighting to get

there. It is a huge spectacle as Defence takes over the entire resort and puts on an epic show. Whilst this year was slightly dampened by COVID-19 Force Health Protection Measures, there was still plenty to be getting on with.

Méribel was the first taste of racing that any of us competing in telemark had had since the ISSSC in 2020, so the couple of training sessions we had there were, to say the least, interesting! However, nerves were settled, confidence re-gained and before we knew it race day was upon us. The first race was the Giant Slalom (please look at articles from 2019 and 2020 for details of how telemark races are conducted) and my first run was good, putting myself into contention of a podium finish for the first time in my ISSSC racing career. As a team, the Army had also placed itself above the Navy



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and RAF, and the prospects looked good for an Army team victory. The second run of the GS started well with the Army team pushing more individuals further up the time board, and the detail being fed back over the Army team walkie-talkie was that the course was in good shape. As it got to the final few racers to go, it was my turn, and I was feeling confident and quick as I smashed through the top of the course. Sadly, as I hit the jump two-thirds of the way down the course I found myself in the air for too long, sailing over the minimum distance line, and losing my balance. It was a large crash. Unable to move or release my skis myself, the hill team

and medical team deployed to assist and I was soon out of my skis and sitting up. Having refused the offer of the blood-wagon to the bottom, I was assisted to the side of the piste, helped back into my skis and I gingerly made my way to the bottom on one leg.

My appointment the following morning at the medical centre (no earlier because it was already closed for the day, I was also sure I'd be fine to ski the next morning and therefore didn't need to go to the medical centre straight away!) revealed significant damage to my left knee and after a considerable amount of blood was drained from it, it was clear my competition



5

was over. On return to the UK, the diagnosis was confirmed as a ruptured ACL, a torn inner and outer meniscus and a torn lateral ligament. Rehabilitation continues.

As for the rest of the ISSSC, sadly, due to me not completing the race, the Army team was pushed into second in the GS. However, strong results in the Classic, Sprint and Parallel GS gave the Army team victory for the first time in 5/6 years, as well as many individual podium finishes.

The Army team continues to go from strength to strength and is benefiting from greater investment at Army level. Whilst still not in line with the alpine and snowboarding disciplines, the growth and depth of talent is moving in the right direction. Sadly, I won't be racing in Ex TT and ISSSC in 2023 (due to both my recovery timeline and attendance at Staff College), but I remain hopeful of re-engaging with the sport in time for the 2024 season. I continue to be enthusiastic about leading a team from the Welsh Guards to Ex TT in the future, but it remains an expensive event to attend - it

only attracts limited centralised funding from the Army, attracting only tier 2 status as a sport.

I remain grateful to both Regimental Headquarters and the Battalion for continuing to support me in this most challenging and physically demanding of sports, and I hope, forgiving my injury this year, they will continue to allow me to fly the flag for the Welsh Guards at the ISSSC in the future. I must also thank Army Telemark for continuing to invest in me and for giving me the opportunity to compete for the Army.



4

1. The authors knee after visiting the Méribel medical centre.
2. A practise race start showing how telemark bindings work.
3. Some of the Army telemark team before the GS race start.
4. The author tackling a gate during the GS race.
5. The Army telemark team with The Countess of Wessex and Chief of the General Staff.



Following in Wellington's Footsteps
Regimental Battlefield Tour to Portugal and Spain
16 – 22 May 2022
 by Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant

Although COVID meant that we had to delay our tour to examine Wellington's Peninsula Campaign in Portugal and Spain, we eventually managed to get off the ground to do the tour in May. Although we lost a day due to British Airways re-scheduling our flights and which meant that the tour group was unable to visit Churchills vineyard up the Douro, in the end the re-programming turned out well.

Some twenty of us assembled (sadly Priscilla Turner a Draper had to pull out at the very last moment) at LHR on the evening of Monday 16 May with our group consisting of three Drapers, Club members and a cohort from the Battalion including the Second-in-Command, Major Tom Spencer-Smith and 2nd Lieutenant Will Comaish whose first day in the Battalion coincided with the first day of the tour, a great first week for a young officer and a good way to start his Regimental life. Our tour guide was Doctor Duncan Anderson, Head of the War Studies Department at Sandhurst and we could not have asked for a better person. His knowledge and wonderful style was evident from the start and his enthusiasm a constant throughout the week. Not only

was he able to expertly put across all the many battles we looked at but in doing so added so many human stories into the mix, not least providing fascinating insights into the Commanders whether Wellington or his opposite number, Marshals Messina and Marmont and down also to Divisional and Brigade Commanders. He was a walking encyclopaedia of knowledge and we are so grateful to him for the tremendous amount of work he put in and the copious amount of research conducted each night in his hotel bedroom. He was simply outstanding whether in the strategic, operational or tactical spheres!

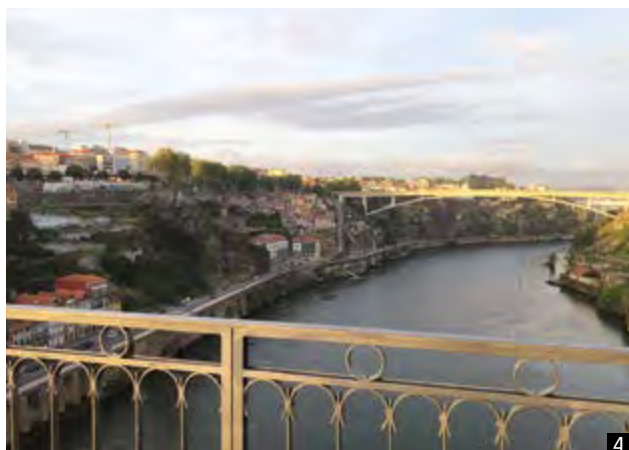
We packed in a lot in one week studying Wellington's crossing of the Douro, the defeat of the



French at Busaco Ridge, the repulse of the French attacks against Wellington at Fuentes de Onoro, the Portuguese loss of the large fort at Almedas and Wellington's storming of the Ciudad Rodrigo. Our last battle was Salamanca fought in July 1812 and where Wellington

won a decisive victory over the French although there were moments in the battle where French initiative might have resulted in a different outcome.

In looking at these battles, defensive engagements and sieges we learnt a great



deal about the challenge of command and control at the time, the tactics that were employed, the key part played by artillery and cavalry and what it must have been like to have been a soldier fighting in pretty barren country with little or no protection, whether from the cold winter, blazing summer and torrential rain. Despite the loss of life on all sides (British, French, Spanish, Portuguese) and probably some actions that were regrettable, we learnt about chivalry and truces to allow for the dead and wounded to be recovered and the weaponry employed at the time with the British Issue rifle superior to those of the French. Perhaps, above all we came away with just how good a General Wellington was, whose appreciation of the ground was spot on and whose instincts and judgement nearly always first class. We were fortunate to have him in Command although given his forward presence on the battlefield and his cutting about here, there and everywhere, we were surprised he did not become a casualty. Fortune favours the brave!

This article would not be complete without mentioning the cultural aspects of the tour. On Day Two in Oporto we were truly spoilt in being hosted by Johnny and Caroline Graham and their son Jamie for both port tasting and a superb lunch at the Factory House. Aside from the delicious ports and wines we all enjoyed, we also all learnt a great deal about the art of port making and the history behind the magnificent establishment the Factory House is. A truly memorable occasion which none of us will forget. In the same breadth, none of us will forget our final

day in Salamanca, its beautiful buildings and cathedrals, its stunning main square and its many restaurants and cafe's which all of us made good use of and all of this in about 30 degree centigrade.

So, this tour can now be added to the many previous ones we have now done as a Regiment. This one was as successful and enjoyable as the rest and we must give thanks and pay tribute to JC Journeys (Cassian and Jane Roberts, Ollie Richardson) for putting it all together and the tremendous amount of time and preparation they put into it. My thanks also to all in our group for making the trip it was and for how everyone leaned into it. I hope we will be able to continue these tours moving forward as I feel they are of immense value and achieve so much.

1. Day 1, Duncan Anderson giving an overview of Wellingtons Peninsula Campaign
2. Johnny Graham sharing his expertise on Churchills port
3. Lunch at the Factory House in Oporto
4. The River Douro, a considerable barrier
5. A model of Busaco Ridge
6. Our tour group outside Fort Almeida
7. Duncan Anderson briefing us on the French siege of Fort Almeida
8. Plaza Mayor Main Square Salamanca
9. Duncan briefing on the French attack on Fuentes de Onorno
10. The church in Ciudad Rodrigo with still bears the scars of the British artillery pounding
11. Salamanca battlefield briefing
12. The centre of the Salamanca battlefield looking from French positions to those of the British on the near hill
13. The formidable Castello Almiede
14. BFT Briefing
15. The Walls of Ciudad Rodrigo



Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour Hechtel and Arras 10-14 September 2022

by Major Lyndon Davies QARANC ,Battlefield Tour Project Officer

After a challenging two years where the Association Battlefield Tour had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were all extremely pleased to be able to run the tour this year with 45 Association members, families and friends making the journey to Belgium and France.

It was then, with great sadness, that we learnt of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen a couple of days before our departure. After great deliberation a collective decision was made to continue with the tour but understandably Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant (and Mrs Vivien Bonas), WO2 (RQMS) Leighton Wilks and 2Lt Tom Allen 1WG were unable to join us due to their involvement with the state funeral preparations. We decided that the remainder of us would make the journey ensuring a respectful and dignified mood to reflect this time of national mourning. We had planned a number of remembrance ceremonies and commemorations on the tour

and it was felt that we could pay our deepest respect and affection to Her Late Majesty alongside our European friends, who were equally keen to pay respects with us and share in our loss.

The Association's Battlefield Tour and visit to Hechtel to commemorate the anniversary of their liberation in 1944 and has become an established annual event for many 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 and liberated the people of Hechtel from a



cruel enemy occupation. 35 members of the community lost their lives at the hand of the German occupiers and many of us have met individuals over the years who have provided powerful first-hand accounts of what took place there. It has become a unique and special relationship between the town and the Regiment and it was important that we attended this year. For the two years where we were unable to travel due to coronavirus restrictions, we were extremely grateful to Lt General Sir Ben Bathurst KCVO CBE for maintaining the

continuity of the Welsh Guards at Hechtel by attending the annual liberation ceremonies in 2020 and 2021.

The Mayor of Hechtel, Jan Dalemans has become a great friend to us all and goes to much effort to host us so generously. This year was no different and having not been to Hechtel for the last two years, the community turned out in numbers for the church service at St Lambert's Church. When considering our time of national mourning, the church service was particularly poignant this year and it





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was extremely moving when the priest prayed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and delivered a personal message to us all on the occasion of Her Majesty's passing. The service was complemented by an incredible youth orchestra who played music to the highest standard capturing the mood of the occasion. Many commented afterwards that they found the whole experience of the service incredibly moving.

After the church service, all paraded through Hechtel to the cemetery where wreaths were laid at the memorial for the 35 locals who lost their lives during the occupation. We were fortunate to have three association standard bearers representing Cardiff Branches (Phil Edwards), Llanelli (David Thomas) and Swansea (Peter Williams) as well as Garvin Matthews ex Welsh Guards Band who played Last Post and Reveille. Their presence most

certainly added a very special contribution to the ceremonies and all performed their duties admirably. Maldwyn Jones, Secretary General laid the wreath on behalf of the Welsh Guards Association before we all paraded back through the town to the War Memorial located in a garden near the community hall for a further act of remembrance.

Jan Dalemans addressed us all and paid tribute to Her Late Majesty the Queen. It was evident from his address that he values the bond of friendship that exists between us and he was hugely appreciative that so many of us made the journey to Hechtel. It was great to see the Master of Ceremonies, Jacobus 'Jacquo' Custers who had recovered from a recent period of ill health and was back in the driving seat making sure the day ran like clockwork. Jacquo's attention to detail in terms of timings and translating the

speeches is a joy to watch. We greatly missed the presence of Colonel Tom Bonas but Neil Rice, Asst Secretary General responded to the Mayor's speech and delivered the address on behalf of Colonel Bonas before the band played our respective national anthems. The rousing singing of 'Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' by our members most certainly did our nation proud and we all moved to the community centre for lunch where presentations were made to the Mayor and others to thank them for their welcome and friendship.

After lunch, we proceeded as guests of the Mayor to the VIP enclosure of the Sanicole International Airshow where we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon in glorious sunshine and appreciated a most wonderful display of flying. Many of us were introduced to senior officers from the Belgium Air Force who made us all feel most welcome

by their most generous hospitality.

The following day, we proceeded to Arras to focus on the Battle of the Somme under the direction of our established guide Allan Wood. On route we stopped for lunch in Ypres visiting the Menin Gate as well as a study of the Battle of Loos in 1915 which was the first major action of the Welsh Guards as well as learning about the Battle of Pilkem Ridge in 1917.

We visited the Welsh Memorial in Passchendaele where we had a group photograph. John Harding read out a marvellous poem about Sgt Robert Bye VC written by Mr Allan Parry Booth to commemorate Sgt Bye's act of bravery on 31 July 1917. His poem and the way John Harding did justice to it, made the stop at the Welsh memorial a very memorable moment indeed. We also visited the impressive British Commonwealth War Graves



cemetery where Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon's name is on one of the panels. Captain Bowes-Lyon was the brother of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and being the Queen's uncle, we held a last post ceremony and laid a wreath which seemed very appropriate.

On arrival at the hotel in Arras, there was little time to check in and change before we were back out again to meet with the Deputy Mayor of Arras in the Memorial Garden to lay a wreath at the bronze Welsh Guards Memorial. At

this location, we performed a ceremony that included a prayer for Her Late Majesty the Queen, the Welsh Guards collect and Exhortation both in English and Welsh, with a Last Post and Reveille concluded by the Kohima Epitaph. On completion of the ceremony, we were hosted for a drink's reception by the Deputy Mayor in the City Hall where Maldwyn Jones Secretary General presented the Deputy Mayor with a framed print of the 2020 Queen's Birthday Parade at Windsor Castle. There are plans for the Welsh Guards



to be granted the freedom of Arras within the next couple of years and it was nice to have the opportunity to help reinforce relationships with the city in the build-up to such a prestigious honour.

The following day was spent touring around sites associated with the Battle of the Somme under the expert guidance of Allan Wood. It is evident that Allan is popular and well respected by all on the tour and his preparation, research, attention to detail and delivery of information is hugely appreciated by

everyone. He is truly a master at bringing history to life. We visited the Guards Cemetery at Lesboeufs and the British Memorial at Thiepval. After a pleasant lunch at Avril Williams' café Ocean Villa's, we concluded our day with a ceremony at the memorial for the 38th Welsh Division at Mametz Wood. The heavens opened on us but what will stay in our minds for a long time was the sound of Garvin Matthews' haunting last post echoing across the area which was truly unforgettable.

The following morning, we made our way to a very foggy Vimy Ridge prior to the journey to the ferry port at Calais. The memorial in Vimy Ridge is an incredible sight but sadly due to the severity of the fog, we could not see it at all. After a short stop, we made our way to Calais for the journey home.

The Association Battlefield Tour offers excellent value for money, and we are grateful to the Association Trustees for offering a generous subsidy. This year, we were able to provide practically all the meals apart from one within the tour cost which was hugely appreciated and





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enjoyed by all. A range of refreshments was available on the coach for the bus journeys and on this point, I must show my appreciation to Andy Morgan and Will Vickery who made sure that everyone was looked after on the bus. Running a tour like this involves a great team effort and I am hugely appreciative to Andy and Will, who's contributions, loyalty and support make my job as the tour organiser so much easier.

This year's tour was a resounding success and one that we were all ready for after a couple of years of covid restrictions. It was lovely to see so many new faces and the new friendships that were formed. Everyone played their part in making it a memorable tour but equally reflecting the mood of the nation at a very sad time. We all felt that it was a very special time to be together with like-minded people. A significant number were keen to secure their deposits for next year having enjoyed the tour so much which is great news for 2023 and the future of the battlefield tour.

We are always grateful to Colonel Tom Bonas for

his support and whilst his absence was completely understandable in the circumstances, the tour this year was not the same without the Colonel and Vivien's presence. They were both hugely missed but we were extremely proud of Colonel Bonas' involvement and that of the Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant in the sad events back home. I would also like to thank Major Martin Browne for his considerable support throughout the planning of the tour.

1. *Maldwyn Jones, Secretary General of the Welsh Guards*
2. *Association laying the wreath at the War Memorial Hechtel Before the church service at Hechtel*
3. *Neil Rice, Deputy Secretary General of the Welsh Guards Association responded to Mayor Jan Dalemans speech, Hechtel*
4. *Presentation to Jan Dalemans, Mayor of Hechtel on behalf of the Welsh Guards Association, by Major Lyndon Davies Battlefield Tour Project Officer*
5. *The Welsh memorial at Passchendaele*
- 6&7. *Standard Bearers at the Welsh Guards Memorial in Arras*
8. *John Harding reading the poem about Sgt Robert Bye VC*
9. *A colourful parade at Hechtel*
10. *Swansea and Llanelli Branch wreaths along with the WGA wreath laid in the pouring rain.*

Details for next year

The dates for next year's Association Battlefield Tour are **9-13 September 2023**. Any expressions of interest should be made direct to the Association Secretary General Mr Maldwyn Jones by email to; **secretary.general.wga@gmail.com** or to your Branch Secretary. Priority will be given to those that have not attended previously.

The 2023 tour will include the 79th annual liberation commemoration in Hechtel and will then involve staying 2 nights in Ypres. Terms of Reference for the tour can be found on the Welsh Guards Charity Website.

Saint Charles de Percy

by Lieutenant (now Captain) J J D Phillips, Number 1 Platoon Commander

Whilst the remainder of the Country were well into celebrations for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Drum Major Potts, Sgt Hughes and I set off for Saint Charles de Percy, a small town to the south of Caens in Calvados. It houses a British cemetery where 809 Allied soldiers are buried. It is particularly poignant that the next village to the east, Montchamp, was liberated by the Welsh Guards in the Second World War.

On the Monday morning we visited the famous Pegasus Bridge, famously captured by the Ox and Bucks 78 years ago at the start of the D Day invasion. The bridge and museum are fascinating and well worth a visit for anyone passing Caens.

We arrived at the Cemetery in the afternoon and were greeted with much enthusiasm, drawing a great deal of attention owing to our order of dress and were

immediately invited for multiple photographs. We met Brigitte, the Mayoress of Saint Charles de Percy and Gordon Mabbutt who had kindly been translating our emails over the past few months.

The Remembrance Ceremony was extremely moving, particularly the Mayoress' address that highlighted the significance of remembrance in teaching younger generations tolerance and



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respect. The day is clearly very important to this local community, with around 150 people turning out for the event.

After the Remembrance Ceremony we went to the village to visit the French Resistance Memorial where we laid a second wreath. A minute's silence was held to remember those who had given their lives in the War, both as soldiers and as members of the Resistance.

Following the services we had drinks with some of the locals from the nearby villages, many of whom were keen to thank us and also share their family's experiences of being liberated from occupation in the War. It was moving to talk to so many who were so closely affected by the War and the actions of the Battalion 78 years ago.

Mayoress Brigitte kindly invited us for dinner that evening. We had a delightful evening in the beautiful town of Vire, famous for its bell making. One of the bells founded here hangs in Big Ben.

On Tuesday morning we left early determined to make it to a Calvados farm! We stopped in a beautiful town where we were given an excellent tour of a small traditional farm and of course we had to buy a few bottles before our return ferry to the UK.

The Ceremony in Saint Charles de Percy was so moving, and I have no doubt that we, as Welsh Guards, will continue the important



tradition of supporting the town at their annual remembrance to honour the sacrifice made by our fellow Guardsmen nearly 80 years ago, for many decades to come.

1. L-R. Sgt Hughes, Drum Major Potts and Capt Phillips on Pegasus Bridge.
2. L-R. Drum Major Potts, Capt Phillips and Sgt Hughes standing behind the graves of two Welsh Guardsmen who gave their lives in Normandy

WELSH GUARDS REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

13TH NOVEMBER 2022, WELLINGTON BARRACKS
PHOTO COLLAGE





40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALKLANDS WAR

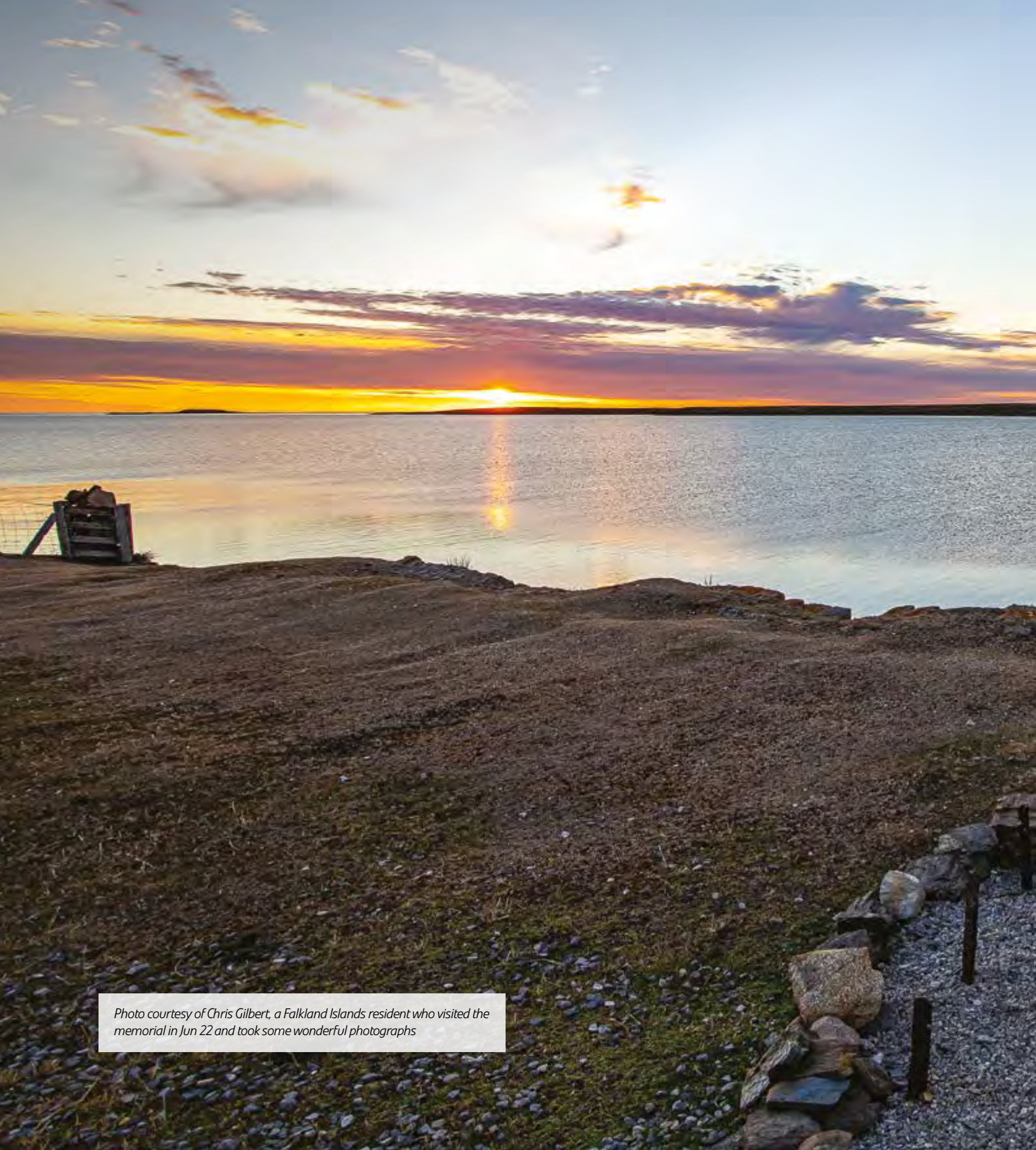


Photo courtesy of Chris Gilbert, a Falkland Islands resident who visited the memorial in Jun 22 and took some wonderful photographs





Roll of Honour

Falkland Islands 1982

1ST BATTALION WELSH GUARDS

24364397	Lance Corporal	Barry Charles BULLERS ACC
24422490	Lance Corporal	Antony BURKE
24332979	Lance Sergeant	James Russell CARLYLE
24579323	Private	Albert Mark CONNETT ACC
24513849	Guardsman	Ian Anthony DALE
24263842	Guardsman	Michael Joseph DUNPHY
24584832	Guardsman	Peter EDWARDS
24185183	Sergeant	Clifford Noel ELLEY
24598683	Guardsman	Mark GIBBY
24511408	Guardsman	Glenn Conrad GRACE
24520370	Guardsman	Paul GREEN
23929722	Guardsman	Gareth Melvyn GRIFFITHS
24555311	Guardsman	Denis Neil HUGHES
24400658	Guardsman	Gareth HUGHES
24339321	Guardsman	Brian JASPER
24398540	Private	Michael Anthony JONES ACC
24562019	Guardsman	Anthony KEEBLE
24125031	Lance Sergeant	Kevin KEOGHANE
24578382	Guardsman	Michael John MARKS
24442460	Private	Richard William MIDDLEWICK ACC
24608405	Guardsman	Christopher MORDECAI
24220165	Lance Corporal	Stephen John NEWBURY
24498671	Guardsman	Gareth Duane NICHOLSON
24513947	Guardsman	Colin Charles PARSONS
24503713	Guardsman	Eirwyn John PHILLIPS
24562309	Guardsman	Gareth Wynne POOLE
24565127	Craftsman	Mark Warren ROLLINS REME
24495304	Guardsman	Nigel Arthur ROWBERRY
24463538	Lance Corporal	Anthony Roy STREATFIELD REME
24433054	Lance Corporal	Phillip Anthony SWEET
24454603	Lance Corporal	Christopher Charles THOMAS
24497060	Guardsman	Glyn Kenneth THOMAS
24436475	Lance Corporal	Nicholas David Mark THOMAS
24446382	Guardsman	Raymond Gregory THOMAS
24509885	Guardsman	Andrew WALKER
24433056	Lance Corporal	Francis Christopher WARD
24516114	Guardsman	James Francis WEAVER
24090540	Sergeant	Malcolm WIGLEY
24472259	Guardsman	David Richard WILLIAMS

'G' SQUADRON 22 SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT

24221177	Sergeant	John Leslie ARTHY
24076141	Sergeant	William John HUGHES
24184150	Sergeant	Philip JONES

The Freedom of The Falkland Islands

At the Fortieth Anniversary Liberation Day Event which took place at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Tuesday 14 June 2022, a member of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly presented a 'signed and sealed' Scroll to the Chairman of the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 (SAMA82).

The Scroll confers the FREEDOM OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS to all South Atlantic Medal Holders of the 1982 conflict. The handing over of the Scroll ceremony was part of the Liberation Day Service and included a live video link to a simultaneous ceremony taking place in the Port City Stanley 8000 miles south of the NMA.



The freedom Of The falkland Islands

On the Occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary on 14th June 2022 of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands from Argentine Occupation

In recognition of the great debt of the Falkland Islands and their people to all South Atlantic Medal Holders who served in the Falkland Islands and in the waters surrounding the Falkland Islands for the preservation of the liberty and right to self-determination of the people of the Falkland Islands, and the assistance given to the civilian community by South Atlantic Medal Holders, the **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY** of the Falkland Islands, at a meeting on 16 December 2021 recorded its sincere and grateful thanks and **RESOLVED** to confer upon all holders of the South Atlantic Medal, **THE FREEDOM OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS** on the occasion of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands from Argentine Occupation.

Now Therefore in pursuance of the Resolution we the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands do on this fourteenth day of June 2022; the Fortieth Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands from the Argentine Occupation **CONFER** the Freedom of the Falkland Islands upon all components of the South Atlantic Medal who served in the Falkland Islands and in the waters surrounding the Falkland Islands.

In Witness whereof the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly have hereunto set their hands and the Public Seal of the Falkland Islands has been hereunto affixed the day and year first before written.

The Hon T S Darkman
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon P J B Biggs
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon J Birmingham
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon J Hansen
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon M J Pollard
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon L L Vidal Roberts
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon G P Sheet
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon R K Spink
Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon K G Miles
Speaker of the House

The Hon A J Keeling
Chief Executive
Ex-Officio Member of the Legislative Assembly

The Hon T P Waggott
Finance Secretary
Ex-Officio Member of the Legislative Assembly



Witnessed by:

S D Young
Attorney General

C V Clifford
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Commander J D Latt RSC
Commander British Forces, South Atlantic Islands

His Excellency N J Phillips CBE
Governor



The Welsh Guards in the Falklands War - The 40th Anniversary of the Conflict

by Brigadier J F Rickett CBE

During early April of 1982 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, together with 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, were ordered to come under command of the 5th Infantry Brigade in Aldershot for possible deployment to the South Atlantic. The initial Task Force consisting of RN surface ships, submarines and civilian ships, with the Commando Brigade spread amongst them, was already on its way south. We proceeded on a pretty demanding exercise in and around Sennybridge in South Wales; the weather was idyllic, totally different from what we were to face in the Falklands; complete chalk to cheese as the saying goes.

After a nail biting pause of three or four days at the completion of this exercise, the decision was made that the Brigade should join the Task Force, which by this time was well south of Ascension Island. What its role should be one could only speculate; was it to reinforce the Commando Brigade or simply to be a garrison force after the fighting was over? Time would certainly tell, but it was frustrating not to know and we spent countless hours while sailing south planning various possible

scenarios. Our send off from Southampton on May 12th aboard the QE2 was extremely moving with countless people cheering us on our way and the Regimental Band playing in full swing; our departure must have seemed somewhat reminiscent of former days when troops were sent off by ship to far flung corners of the empire!

When we reached South Georgia we transhipped to the SS Canberra, as it was considered that the QE2 should not be risked in the event of

any long range Argentine air sortie. We landed at San Carlos and dug in about 5 Kilometres away, awaiting orders as to what we should do and where we would eventually end up.

After much coming and going and orders and counter orders the Battalion attempted to set off on foot towards Goose Green. As no support vehicles, in the form of tractors were available to lift our heavy support weapons and the promised snowcats sent to us from HQ 5 Brigade in Darwin had run out of petrol, the

move was abandoned; the only light tractor, which we could find at the San Carlos settlement was useless as it repeatedly bogged down. Our mission was to fight, not to carry out any raid and without our mortars, Milan missiles and our heavy Browning machine guns the Battalion would not have been able to serve any useful purpose. Reluctantly we returned from whence we had started and waited patiently for someone to provide proper means of getting us all forward to the battle zone.

After some 24 hours or so it was decided that we should go round to Bluff Cove by sea and we duly set off on HMS Fearless. When Fearless reached the RV, where two landing craft should have met up with us, there was no sign of them. The decision was made by the HQ staff, who were also on board, that half the Battalion should carry on with Fearless' integral landing craft, while the other half returned to San Carlos to join us the following night.

The leading elements of the Battalion landed at Fitzroy and were ordered to take up positions south of the Commando Brigade, which was up in the mountains to the north. Two days later the remainder of the Battalion arrived, unbeknownst to us, in Fitzroy Sound on board the RFA Sir Galahad. It was full daylight when she arrived and she would have made an ideal target for any Argentine air attack, which duly came after two or three hours. We suffered 38 killed and 97 who were badly burnt; it was truly a disaster as far as we were concerned and certainly gave

the powers that be in London some serious considerations.

In the event the Battalion was reinforced by A and C Companies from 40 Commando, which was guarding the rear of the Commando Brigade at San Carlos from any possible Argentine attack from West Falkland. From then on we were very much involved in the final battles for Stanley, sustaining one soldier killed and four of our Royal Marines wounded in the process. Just as the Argentines surrendered the Battalion took Sapper Hill, the nearest feature to Stanley itself. The war was over but sadly not for us; we took on the duty of garrisoning Port Stanley with the aim of sorting out the appalling debris of the war, together with guarding and transporting the Argentine POWs back to Argentina. It was during this period, before we were all shipped home, that the Battalion sustained still further casualties when a rogue sidewinder missile from a harrier aircraft fell on to the runway at Stanley airport and badly injured 11 of our



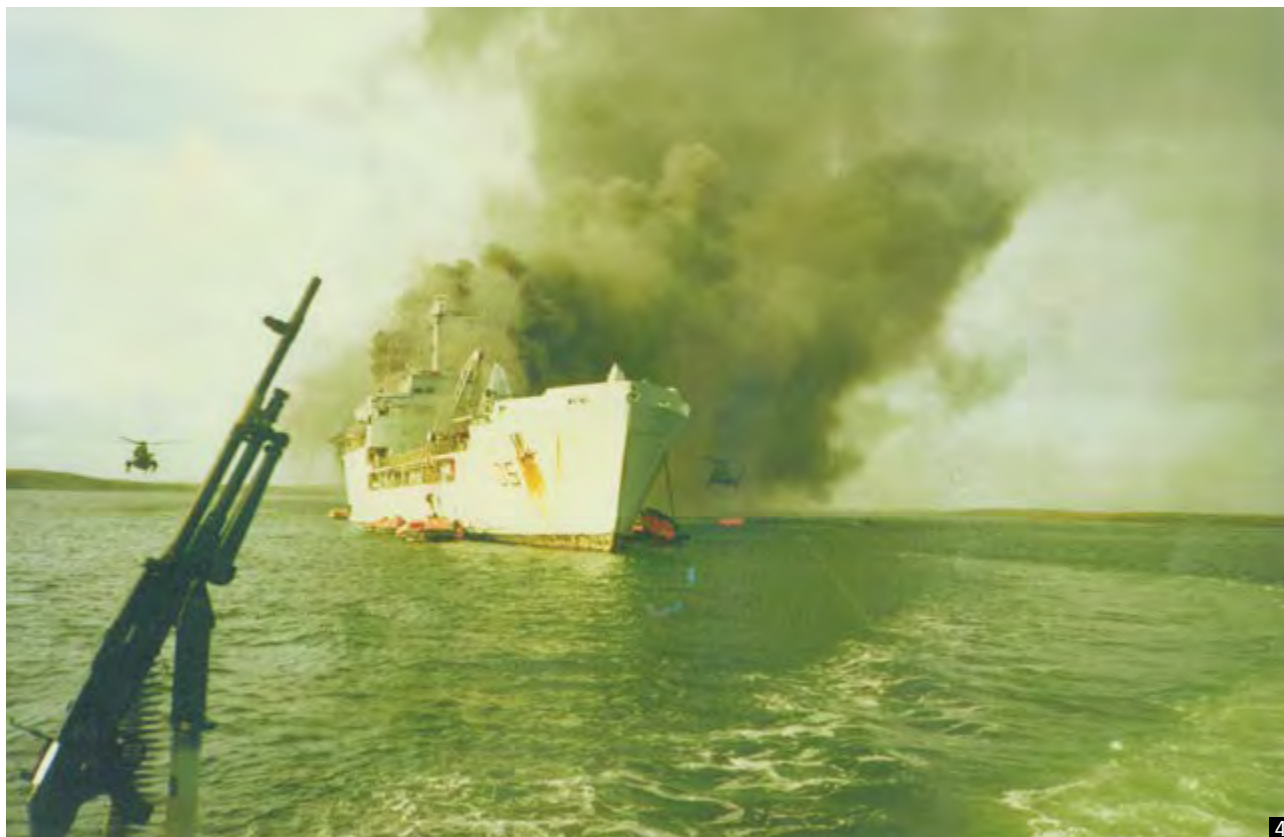
soldiers, who were in the act of clearing it of snow.

After our return home and a spot of well-earned leave, the Battalion marched through those cities and towns, which have given their freedom to the regiment. This was a very moving experience, and the people of Wales truly took us

to their hearts. Later in the year a parade was held for us and the Scots Guards in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, together with our Colonel, the Prince of Wales, presented us with our South Atlantic medals. All our wounded soldiers were also able to be there, which was truly fitting. Their Royal Highnesses spent a long time talking to them individually, which was so much appreciated by us all.

Our total casualties during the Falklands War amounted to 39 men killed and 108 who were either badly burnt or wounded, the most that any other unit had sustained. Two Memorials mark the actions of the Battalion; one is situated at Fitzroy in memory of all our soldiers, who were killed when the Galahad was bombed in Fitzroy Sound; it also includes the names of three members of the regiment, who were





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serving with the SAS at the time. The other is a plaque mounted on a stone plinth at the foot of Sapper Hill to commemorate the capture of Sapper Hill at the time of the Argentine surrender.

A large number of our veterans have returned to the Falklands over the years since the conflict. It has been an emotional experience for them all as they retraced their moves, searching for the positions they had manned and generally breathing in the atmosphere of what they had felt during the fighting. The Falkland Islanders we have met during our many visits have been so helpful and generous in their hospitality. Here we must mention Tim and Jan Miller, Kevin and Hatti Kilmartin and Sheila and Ian Stewart, who have shown infinite kindness to all our veterans on so many occasions. Tim

and Jan Miller particularly have gone out of their way for us and have been instrumental in obtaining planning permission and putting up our monument at the base of Sapper Hill. In addition Welsh and Regimental flags always seem to be flying outside their house at the Fitzroy Settlement on St David's Day, when our veterans return at that time of year.

The South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) with its Welsh Branch, SAMA Wales, has been very active and supportive to all the veterans who fought there and has organised countless reunions and commemorations. The Association was largely responsible for the construction of Liberty Lodge in Stanley, where all veterans can stay when they revisit.

The Falklands Families Association was formed after

an initial visit to the Falklands by a number of bereaved families soon after the conflict; they meet on a regular basis. The Falklands Chapel was built at Pangbourne College, which was considered a comparatively central place for veterans to come and visit; the annual service of commemoration is always held there in June. Finally, we as a regiment, hold our annual service of remembrance at Wrexham, where there has always been a tremendous turnout of our veterans over the years. 2022, the 40th Anniversary of the war, will certainly be a memorable one.

1. *Waving goodbye at Southampton (taken from the QE2)*
2. *Transferring from the QE2 to SS Canberra at South Georgia by merchant ship*
3. *Comd Offr and Tac HQ on the road to Stanley prior to taking Sapper Hill*
4. *RFA Sir Galahad after the fatal attack*
5. *Medal Parade at Buckingham Palace - HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presenting the South Atlantic Medal to LSgt Andy Bennett*
6. *Medal Parade at Buckingham Palace*
7. *Piles of Argentine weapons behind (L-R): Dmr Simon Mayers, LCpl Maldwyn Jones 92 (now Secretary General WGA) and LCpl Dick Clarke.*
8. *Sapper Hill, overlooking Stanley in the background. L-R: Lt Mark Coreth (RHGD), Capt Piers Minoprio (Int Offr), Capt Julian Sayers (Asst Ops Offr), Comd Offr, Capt John Henderson (Ops Offr)*
9. *The plaque on the monument at Sapper Hill inaugurated by the Governor in 2019*
10. *Welsh Guards Monument - at Pontypridd before it was moved to Fitzroy*





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Annual Falklands Memorial Service and Parade, Wrexham, 25th June 2022

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

After a long layoff due to the Covid pandemic we were at last able to go ahead this year with the planned 40th anniversary of the Falklands War. There was an overwhelming response, and the Parish Church of St Giles was packed to the rafters, as was the War Memorial Club where the reception was held.

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

The church service was conducted by the Reverend Canon Doctor Jason Bray and the music provided by the Regimental Band who were accompanied by the Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir. The lesson was read by Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE (aka 22) and the address was given by Brigadier J F Rickett CBE.

Members of the Regimental Support Team (North),

accompanied by Welsh Guards cap badged Army Cadets very generously gave their time and acted as ushers in the church and did an outstanding job.

After a very moving service, the Regimental Band formed up outside the church in front of a marching detachment from the Battalion and an overwhelming number of Falklands veterans who had travelled far and wide to be there. The march from St Giles' Church to the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial in Bodhyfryd, was only short, about 20 minutes, but certainly stirred those veterans on parade, with necks certainly in the "back of the collar" and the heel



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still being "dug in". An eyes right was given to the Lord Lieutenant and Regimental Lieutenant Colonel outside the crown building on Chester Street and the crowds of local cheered and clapped, showing their respect every inch of the way. At the Falklands memorial, the last post was sounded and wreaths were laid by the Lord Lieutenant; Mr Harry Fetherstonhaugh OBE DL, Sarah Atherton MP, His Worshipful the Mayor of Wrexham Councillor Brian Cameron, Brigadier Rickett and various other Associations and family members of those that did not return.

After a short time in

contemplation and reflection at the Memorial, everyone then retired to the War Memorial Club for refreshments which had been funded by the Welsh Guards Charity. Many a tale was told and many a song was sung well into the night as old acquaintances were renewed. There was almost a crisis when the entire water system was turned off in that part of Wrexham, but it fortunately came back on before the pumps ran dry! At one stage Brigadier Bodington saved the day by rolling up his sleeves and getting stuck in behind the bar serving drinks. The bar staff were, as always superb, run off their feet, they

coped admirably and were very much appreciated by everyone.

It was a fitting tribute to all those that did not return in 1982, their families and friends, we think of them always and they will never be forgotten. Cymru am Byth.

1. Event organiser, Captain Chris Hopkins and Anne arriving at St Giles' Church at the start of a long day
2. Welsh Guards cap badged cadets did an excellent job as ushers in church and forming a marching detachment afterwards.
3. Standards on Parade at St Giles' Church
4. Lt Col Tony Davies OBE (aka 22), RSM 1WG in 1982, reading the lesson





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5. Brigadier JF Rickett CBE, CO 1WG in 1982, reading the address
6. The Rhos Orpheus male voice choir in full swing
7. The Regimental Band formed up and ready to march off to lead the parade from St Giles' Church to the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial in Bodhyfryd
- 8&9. Veterans on the heel marching to the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial
10. The Lord Lieutenant for the County of Clwyd, Mr Harry Fetherstonhaugh OBE DL, laying a wreath at the Welsh Guards Memorial

11. Last Post played at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial
12. The socializing commences at the War Memorial Club. L-R: George Ellis (24220191), Kim Burnell (24464758), Steve Jones (24428237), Mike Hermanis (24579766), Steve Gelly (24501310), Jim Rees (ex IG), Nicky Mott (24571784), Wayne Edwards (24506997), Mark Horwood (24464759), Gary Falcon (24469604)
13. L-R: Eric Holmwood (Wrexham Royal Navy Association (RNA) Branch Treasurer), Tom Thorne (24052264 London Branch WGA Chairman), David Shipman, Mick Kingston (Wrexham RNA Branch Vice Chairman)

HM TOWER OF LONDON

Falkland Islands 40th Anniversary

Friday 10th June 2022

On Fri 10 Jun 22, Paul Cunliffe MBE RVM (24505738), a Yeoman Warder at HM Tower of London, once again organised a very moving and emotional commemorative service in the Chapel Royal of St Peter and Vincula within the grounds of HM Tower of London, followed by refreshments in the Yeoman Warder Club "the Keys". This photo compilation records the event.







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Welsh Guards Motorcycle Falklands Ride of Respect 2022

by Geraint & Jan Hughes

In June 2022 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, the Welsh Guards Ride of Respect took place. Over the 14 months of planning, we crossed and dotted as many "t's & i's" as we could and hoped it would be a success, however, little did we realise until the event began just what it would mean to so many people. The full list of memorials visited, with the post code and GPS coordinates, is at the end of this article should anyone else wish to visit.

The Ride covered over 650 miles starting at Combermere Barracks, Windsor on the morning of Tuesday 21st June 2022 and concluded at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial in Wrexham on the afternoon of Friday 24th June. A core of 19 riders rode every day with a total of 45 motorcyclists taking part over the course of the event.

Eight serving members of the Battalion were able to join us; CSgt Andrew Crew, CSgt Chris Rees, LSgt Kyle Purvis, LSgt Joe Wiffen (RAMC), Gdsm Ryan Salmon and Gdsm Rockford Rowlands together with a support vehicle driven by Gdsm Ben Hoyle & Gdsm Sion Williams. We were proud to have Falkland Islander, Mr Saul Pitaluga join us for the first

two days of the ride - he had been on East Falkland during the Argentine occupation.

On gathering at the Regimental Memorial Stone in Combermere Barracks on the Tuesday morning we had clear blue skies and a good forecast for the week ahead. As we departed the barracks, the road was lined with serving

members of the Regiment showing their support for the event.

On arrival at Brookwood Military Cemetery to pay our respects to LCpl Christopher Thomas 03 (aka Bowser), we were welcomed by members of the London Branch, Welsh Guards Association. Eric Padmore laid the Ride of



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Respect Wreath and spoke movingly of just what this grave meant to the Regiment and residents of the local community as LCpl Chris Thomas 03's grave is the only UK grave of a Welsh Guardsman killed in the Falklands – all others are buried at sea.

From Brookwood the ride to Ross on Wye was interspersed with a lunch

stop at the Carpenters Arms in South Marston which was kindly funded by Saul. Complimentary tea and coffee were provided by Angela, the duty manager at the pub whose uncle had been a chef on the RFA Sir Galahad during the conflict.

On entering Ross on Wye the ride was headed by Mr John Griffiths who is the son of Gdsm Gareth Griffiths 22.

John laid a wreath in memory of both his father and Gdsm Colin Parsons at the memorial bench in the town centre. Local dignitaries were in attendance together with a surprise visit from Lt Col Tony Davies (22) OBE who was the Regimental Sergeant Major during the conflict.

We continued to St Martin's church in Hereford where Capt Dale Loveridge MBE

MM laid a wreath in the SAS Memorial Garden and the last post was played by John Strong who had volunteered to join us at Hereford and remain with us until the conclusion in Wrexham.

Day two commenced at The Welsh National Falklands Memorial in Alexandra Gardens in Cardiff where we were joined by two South Wales Police motorcycle



outriders who assisted us throughout the day. Our next stop was the war memorial in Barry where Gdsm Ray Greg Thomas 82 is remembered. Three of his sisters and his daughter were in attendance together with friends and local dignitaries.

Our police escort led us into the pedestrianised area in Bridgend where we were met by Bob Chambers, Secretary Ogmore Branch and Mrs Nicholson who laid a wreath in memory of her son, Gdsm Gareth Nicholson. At Llanharry, where Gdsm Anthony Keeble is remembered, his sister and cousins were in attendance, one of whom, Peter Thomas, rode with us throughout the day. We continued to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd where Steve Bartlett laid a wreath in memory of six members of the Regiment. Katie Gibby, the daughter of Gdsm Mark

Gibby was in attendance with John Hooper, Secretary of the East Glamorgan Branch, carrying his Branch Standard.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council kindly provided a buffet for the riders and guests before we rode to Ynysybwll to remember Gdsm Brian Jasper whose daughter Helen and granddaughter Megan were in attendance. At Aberdare LCpl Phil Sweet's sister and brother-in-law joined us at Cynon Valley Memorial Garden in the town centre before we enjoyed a very scenic route over Bwlch Mountain descending into Maesteg to pay our respects to Gdsm Chris Mordecai. CSgt Chris Rees' family attended with a large and welcome supply of Welsh cakes made by his mother.

The final location for our second day was St Therese RC Church in Port Talbot to remember Gdsm James



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Weaver. His brother and sister-in-law met us at the memorial and our thanks go to Mr Chris Welsh the head teacher of the adjacent Primary School for providing parking and liquid refreshments. Mr Welsh was a family friend and had been in school with James and his siblings.

St Mary's Church, Swansea was the starting point for day three where Major Charlie Carty MBE and other members of the Swansea branch were in attendance. Karl Trenchard outlined the detail contained within the Welsh Guards Memorial window which is inside the church. At Llanelli the Reverend Patrick Mansell-Lewis, President of the Llanelli Branch, conducted the memorial service in memory of LCpl Mark Thomas and Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips, with the Llanelli Branch Standard carried by Andrew Brown 16.



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At Cwymffrd the Lord Lieutenant was in attendance and laid the wreath within St Anne's Church at the plaque

which remembers Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips. We were provided with cakes and refreshments in the church hall before our onward journey to Cardigan. Gdsm Mike Dunphy is remembered on the War Memorial, and we were joined by Peter, his only surviving sibling together with his cousin Rhian.

A three-hour ride to Pwllheli was interspersed with comfort stops at Aberystwyth and Dolgellau.

The views of Cardigan Bay from the elevated road between Aberaeron and Aberystwyth were outstanding. As we approached Porthmadog, and Pwllheli the Snowdonia Mountain range stood proud on the horizon. Sgt John Hughes, who was serving with the SAS during the conflict, was remembered at Pwllheli. Our final leg of the day was to Penrhos Coastal Park on the outskirts of Holyhead.

As we approached the Coastal Park we could see that the car park was packed and a large crowd had assembled to greet us and join us to pay our respects at Gdsm David Richard Williams 59's memorial. Padre Mike Hall (the Chaplain at RAF Valley) was in attendance to participate in the service together with Eirlys and Nesta (59's sisters), and their families. A flypast of two RAF Texan Turboprop aircraft coincided with the last few

notes of Reveille sounded by our bugler John Strong. The flypast had been approved by the Station Commander, Squadron Leader Nicholson of RAF Valley with the help of Nesta, her husband Gareth and Keith Lewis (80).

The morning of our concluding days ride started with a gathering at the memorial to Gdsm Gareth Hughes at Llanfairfechain where we were joined by his sister and brother. From





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there we travelled to Rhyl to remember Gdsm Paul Green, a local Royal British Legion member had kindly cordoned off parking for us in front of the memorial gardens and we were joined by two local Special Constables who looked after the bikes for us during the service and also joined us for the rest of the morning.

From Rhyl we rode to Bodelwyddan where we were met by the mother and sister of L/Cpl Anthony Burke together with standard bearers and a piper. Gdsm Ben Hoyle laid the wreath at the memorial and also present at the service was Ben's grandfather who was part of the construction team who went out to the Falklands at the end of the war to restore the island's infrastructure which had been damaged.

Whilst all of the Ride had been emotional, there was not a dry eye to be found at our next memorial service due to the poignant poem and song performed by the children of Bryn Clwyd Primary School, Llandyrnog where there is a memorial garden to Gdsm Peter Edwards. Extra time had been scheduled in for this particular visit as we were aware of how much preparation and care had been taken by the school and pupils ahead of our visit. The children were already in place on the stage in the school playground and were very excited to see all the bikes as we rode in and parked in front of them. We were met by Col Tom Bonas, the Regimental Adjutant, who was to ride pillion for the remainder of the day and David (Spider) Webb together with Peter's sisters Barbara and Mandy. After their



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performance the children were asked if they would like to sit on the bikes and it was no surprise when their reaction was a resounding "yes"!

Ruthin was our fifth location of the day where we remembered LSgt James Russell Carlyle. We were met by Mr Bruce Carlyle and his daughter Gillian together with the Town Mayoress and local dignitaries. Following a moving service, we were invited to a buffet lunch laid on by Ruthin Town Council giving everyone an opportunity to meet with Bruce and Gillian.



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Riding out of the Clwyd Valley we headed towards Connahs Quay and were met by the son and brother of Sgt Malcolm Wigley. For our penultimate memorial we rode to the Holy Trinity Church at Rhostyllen where Ian Hughes 13 laid a wreath at the memorial to his brother, Gdsm Neil Hughes 11

The final memorial of the day was the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial in Wrexham where we were welcomed by a large number of regimental family and friends. Colonel Tom Bonas laid the wreath and Colonel Hugh Boddington read out a poem from Mr Keith Martin. Keith is a resident of Ross on Wye and had been aware of our visit to the town and had composed the poem especially for our Ride of Respect. It was a fitting conclusion to our four-day event (the poem is reproduced at the end of this article)



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Whilst the Ride had taken in all the memorials in Wales a family memorial to Gdsm Andrew Walker, known affectionately as "Yorkie" had been in place since 1983 in Acomb Green on the outskirts of York. Having travelled from a variety of destinations such as Warwickshire, Pembrokeshire, Gwynedd and Lincolnshire, we met at Squires Cafe on Sunday 4th September for the short ride to Acomb Green where we were met by Yorkie's mother Mrs Marjorie Walker aged 89 and her granddaughter. The event had been co-ordinated by Mark Davies 57 (Beans) who lives near to the family and who has been in regular communication with them over many years. Following our memorial service, we were welcomed into the home of Yorkie's sister and brother-in-law's for refreshments - Denise and Harry had prepared enough food to feed a Company and we thank them for their hospitality!



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In conclusion, when we started the planning for this event we did not envisage how much the Regiment, past and present, together with the families and communities would come together on the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. Old friendships have been rekindled and new friendships forged and long may this continue.

Cymru Am Byth

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. The Regimental Memorial Stone, Combermere Barracks, Windsor. | 9. Reeks and Maldwyn Jones | serving soldiers layed the wreath | 20. Ian Hughes (13) kneeling and laying the wreath in memory of his brother, Neil Hughes (11) |
| 2. The bikers leaving Barracks. | 10. The memorial to Gdsm James Weaver | 15. Jones 88 standing by the memorial to Gdsm Peter Edwards | 21. Colonel Tom Bonas paying his respects after having laid the wreath at the Falklands Memorial Wrexham |
| 3. Eric Padmore preparing to lay the wreath at the grave of LCpl Christopher Thomas 03. | 11. Rev Mansell-Lewis and deputy Lord Lieutenant at the WG memorial Llanelli | 16. The children from Bryn Clwyd Primary School, Llandyrnog performing a poem and song for the assembled riders. | 22. Mark Davies 57 (aka Beans) being presented with a Ride of Respect patch by Geraint Hughes |
| 4. Ross on Wye Group photo | 12. The flypast of two RAF Texan Turboprop aircraft at the memorial to Gdsm David Richard Williams 59 | 17. Pillion Passenger, Colonel Tom Bonas with the author Geraint Hughes | 23. Group photo at the Memorial to Gdsm Andrew Walker (aka Yorkie) in the presence of his Mother, Mrs Marjorie Walker and her Granddaughter. |
| 5. Capt Dale Loveridge MBE MM at the SAS Memorial Stone | 13. The memorial to LCpl Anthony Burke, Bodelwyddan with standard bearers and a piper, family members and riders. | 18. Colonel Hugh Boddington and Bruce Carlyle & Gillian | |
| 6. Group photo at the Welsh National Falklands Memorial, Alexandra Gardens, Cardiff | 14. Gdsm Ben Hoyle, one of our | 19. Everyone gathered in the Connahs Quay memorial garden | |
| 7. Police Outriders escorting the bikes. | | | |
| 8. Helen Jasper discussing the Memorial Baton with Chris | | | |

Welsh Guards Ride of Respect June 2022

List of Memorials visited

LCpl Christopher Thomas 03

BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY

POST CODE: GU24 0JD

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 18.023, W 0 38.509

TomTom: 51.30038, -0.64128

Gdsm Gareth Griffiths, Gdsm Colin Parsons

MEMORIAL BENCH, ROSS ON WYE

POST CODE: HR9 5NX

(7 MARKET PLACE, OUTSIDE NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY)

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 54.862, W 2 35.036

TomTom: 51.91436, -2.58393

Sgt John L Arthy, Sgt Phil Jones, Sgt W John Hughes - SAS

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, HEREFORD

POST CODE: HR2 7RJ

GPS:

Garmin: N 52 02.661, W 2 43.147

TomTom: 52.04435, -2.71911

Sgt John L Arthy, Sgt Phil Jones, Sgt W John Hughes - SAS

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, HEREFORD

POST CODE: HR2 7RJ

GPS:

Garmin: N 52 02.661, W 2 43.147

TomTom: 52.04435, -2.71911

All

WELSH NATIONAL FALKLANDS MEMORIAL

MUSEUM AVENUE, ALEXANDRA GARDENS, CARDIFF (AT THE REAR OF CARDIFF CENTRAL POLICE STATION)

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 29.191, W 3 10.779

TomTom: 51.48651, -3.17965

LCpl Ray Greg Thomas 82

MEMO ARTS CENTRE BARRY

POST CODE: CF62 8NA

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 24.253, W 3 16.481

TomTom: 51.40422, -3.27468

Gdsm Gareth Nicholson

BRIDGEND WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: CF31 1JD

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 30.411, W 3 34.783

TomTom: 51.50685, -3.57971

Gdsm Anthony Keeble

LLANHARRY WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: CF72 9LJ

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 30.858, W 3 25.898

TomTom: 51.51430, -3.43164

Gdsm Ian Dale, Sgt Cliff Elley, Gdsm Mark Gibby, Gdsm Brian Jasper, Gdsm Anthony Keeble, Gdsm Gareth Poole

YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK, PONTYPRIDD

GPS FOR MEMORIAL WITHIN YNYSANGHARAD

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 36.080, W 3 20.230

TomTom: 51.60134, -3.33717

Gdsm Brian Jasper

YNYSYBWL WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: CF37 3HR

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 38.318, W 3 21.552

TomTom: 51.63864, -3.35920

LCpl Phillip Sweet

CYNON VALLEY MEMORIAL GARDEN

POST CODE: CF44 7HU

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 42.773, W 3 26.838

TomTom: 51.71288, -3.44730

Gdsm Chris Mordecai

MAESTEG WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: CF34 9BW

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 36.575, W 3 39.452

TomTom: 51.60958, -3.65754

Gdsm James Weaver

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX'S RC CHURCH, PORT TALBOT

POST CODE: SA12 7HL

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 35.916, W 3 48.964

TomTom: 51.59860, -3.81607

All

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWANSEA

POST CODE: SA1 1ED

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 37.145, W 3 56.526

TomTom: 51.61908, -3.94210

LCpl Mark N D Thomas, Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips

LLANELLI TOWN HALL & WELSH GUARDS MEMORIAL

POST CODE: SA15 3AH

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 40.897, W 4 09.841

TomTom: 51.68162, -4.16402

LCpl Mark N D Thomas

BOX CEMETERY, SWANSEA ROAD, LLANELLI

POST CODE: SA15 3EX

(FAMILY MEMORIAL HEADSTONE)

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 41.195, W 4 08.756

TomTom: 51.68658, -4.14593

List of Memorials visited continued

Gdsm Eirwyn Phillips

ST ANNE'S CHURCH, CWMFFRWD

POST CODE: SA31 2LX

GPS:

Garmin: N 51 49.765, W 4 17.286

TomTom: 51.82942, -4.28810

Gdsm Michael Dunphy

CARDIGAN WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: SA43 1LS

GPS:

Garmin: N 52 05.195, W 4 39.376

TomTom: 52.08659, -4.65626

Sgt W John Hughes SAS

PWLLHELI WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: LL53 5BD

GPS:

Garmin: N 52 53.166, W 4 24.968

TomTom: 52.88610, -4.41613

Gdsm David Williams 59

PENRHOS COUNTRY PARK MEMORIAL

POST CODE: LL65 2JE

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 17.596, W 4 35.360

TomTom: 53.29327, -4.58934

Gdsm Gareth Hughes 58

LLANFAIRFECHAIN WAR MEMORIAL

POST CODE: LL33 0NR

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 15.199, W 3 58.738

TomTom: 53.25332, -3.97897

Gdsm Paul Green

RHYL CENOTAPH, GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

POST CODE: LL18 3AF

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 19.474, W 3 29.229

TomTom: 53.32457, -3.48715

LCpl Anthony Burke

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, BODELWYDDAN

POST CODE: LL18 5UR

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 15.982, W 3 29.689

TomTom: 53.26636, -3.49481

Gdsm Peter Edwards

YSGOL BRYN CLWYD LLANDYRNOG

POST CODE: LL16 4HJ

(ALSO REMEMBERED ON THE WAR MEMORIAL IN THE CHURCH YARD AT ST. TYRNOG CHURCH, LLANDYRNOG (POST CODE: LL16 4HG)

School GPS:

Garmin: N 53 10.599, W 3 20.209

TomTom: 53.17665, -3.33681

Church GPS:

Garmin: N 53 10.522, W 3 20.188

TomTom: 53.17537, -3.33647

LSgt J Russell Carlyle

WYNSTAY ROAD, WAR MEMORIAL, RUTHIN

POST CODE: LL15 1EJ

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 06.884, W 3 18.531

TomTom: 53.11474, -3.30885

Sgt Malcolm Wigley

MEMORIAL GARDEN, CONNAHS QUAY

POST CODE: CH5 4HA

(AT THE REAR OF THE JOB CENTRE & POLICE STATION)

(ALSO REMEMBERED ON THE WAR MEMORIAL ON HIGH STREET, CONNAHS QUAY)

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 12.793, W 3 02.845

TomTom: 53.21321, -3.04741

Gdsm Neil Hughes 11

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RHOSTYLLEN

POST CODE: LL14 4DN

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 01.781, W 3 01.348

TomTom: 53.02969, -3.02247

All

WELSH GUARDS FALKLANDS MEMORIAL, WREXHAM

POST CODE: LL12 7AG

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 02.915, W 2 59.477

TomTom: 53.04858, -2.99128

Gdsm Andrew Walker

ACOMB GREEN PARK, NEAR YORK

POST CODE: YO26 5LR

GPS:

Garmin: N 53 57.304, W 1 07.765

TomTom: 53.95507, -1.12942

All

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

POST CODE: DE13 7AR

CROXALL ROAD, BURTON ON TRENT

GPS:

Garmin: N 52 43.672, W 1 44.010

TomTom: 52.72786, -1.73350

Poem by Keith Martin
40th Anniversary of Falklands Conflict

We are riding to remember
The heroes that we lost
Riding to salute them
As some paid that bloody cost

It was April 1982
A rather disdain year
On an island far away
The locals lived in fear

It was our Falkland Isles
That Argentina did invade
Out in the South Atlantic
History would be made

We sent our troops into war
It didn't last too long
The enemy was surprised
That our forces were so strong

Battles fought in the air
On the land and sea
Ardent and Antelope both were sunk
It's where their resting place would be

32 Welsh Guards did die
In the Bluff Cove attack
In all we lost 255
With many not coming back

They fought hard in Port Stanley
South Georgia and Goose Green
For most of our brave troops
It's the worst that they had seen

Three islanders also died
As the war ensued
Unnecessary loss of life
As the battle did conclude

On this anniversary year
Memories will come back
For the heroes that did fall
In the Falkland Isles attack

Finally, a message
To the Bikers here today
Ride safe and be careful
You're heroes, keep it that way



Falklands 40th Anniversary Anglesey Commemoration Walk

by Captain Jan Koops

During conversation at the Rugby Reunion Dinner in September 2021, the subject of the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict was touched on. As we talked amongst the gathered "clan" it seemed only right that, despite all the other events that would be taking place during the year, we should commemorate our fallen in our own way. Time for another walk.

The call of the Anglesey Druids was loud and clear, 130 miles of cliff tops and sighing sea would be the perfect walk when carried out over 11 days. Nearly ten years earlier in 2013, during the Walk on Wales, we had circumnavigated the island in 8 days. Allowing for our advancing years, our new target of approximately 12 miles a day seemed very respectable.

We needed a 'man on the ground'. Before going any further, heart in mouth, I called Keith Lewis (80) who had been such an outstanding leader during Walk on Wales. The sound of

his voice on the phone was, as ever, music to my ears, soothing away any prior anxieties. "Of course I'd love to do it, what a wonderful idea and how about walking the last day in memory of Dai?" (David Graham, founding member of Walk on Wales, who had sadly passed away in 2020.)

I made a further call to David Price (Rommel), a mainstay during Walk on Wales, to seek his involvement. Sadly his hands were full, housing displaced veterans and their families in South Wales with the Welsh Veterans Partnership – over 300 to date, with many more in the



pipeline: outstanding work.

Keith and I decided that, rather than our walk being a fundraising event, it should be focused on our Rugby Reunion Baton and the names thereon, in particular those we lost in 1982.

We were grateful for the assistance from Regimental Headquarters in publicising the event and, despite the distance to Anglesey, each day of the walk a great diversity of walkers were drawn to join us – with a distinguished General and an equally honoured ex-Regimental Sergeant Major among them.

As with Walk on Wales, each day developed its own energy with participants coming and going. Many returned to be involved with the magical friendship being created where support and

expression was focused around those we were remembering. Amongst those walking with us was a Guardsman who survived the lower deck of the Sir Galahad. In a 'thank you' card he kindly sent me, was the following:

"You know I'm a man of few words, but walking and talking with you made me see life in a different light. To be more positive, to enjoy life, but still remember them. I was determined to finish the walk, not for me, but for those who couldn't."

The nature and tone of the walk was established from day one on Saturday 11 June, as we gathered at the beautiful Chapel at Moel y Don. After a comfortable night in my camper I



meandered up from the foreshore, bumping into Hugh Bodington, kit bag in hand, Kofi and Tonka to heel, having spent the previous night under the leafy bough of an oak tree in the cemetery of the Chapel. It was a scene that could have fitted seamlessly into "A Month in the Country" by J L Carr.

Candles were lit, beautiful flowers from local gardens thoughtfully arranged and the most heart-warming

service delivered to set us up for the first day of our walk. The "Holy" Island has deep links with the Regiment, both historical and current and as we walked the coastal pathway these were slowly revealed to us. The warmth and depth of the hospitality we received was beyond comparison.

As we gathered each morning there would be a healthy cwttch all round, followed by a few words to put the spirit of the

day's walk into context. Not always an easy thing to do, but every address was memorable and given by a number of different participants. One of these was Gillian Carlyle, sister of LSgt Jim (Russell) Carlyle. Gillian and her friends

"As the sister of one who did not return, I knew walking the Coastal Path of Anglesey in June this year would be an emotional roller coaster and it certainly was. Memories were shared, tears were shed, but they were not always ones of sadness. The stories and pictures that we shared also had fun and laughter in them and whichever emotion it was, a cwttch was always at hand.

The weather was good, views were amazing and conversation flowed, the miles seemed to disappear without notice. People came and went, but new friendships have stayed. We remembered all those that did not return and others that have since gone. I take

away from this experience a feeling of love and friendship and of being involved in something that is bigger than me and I continue to tell myself that.....yesterday is history and I can't change it. Tomorrow is a mystery, but today is the present and the present I've been given, so I will live it the best way I can. Thank you Jan for organising this walk again and allowing me to share this roller coaster with everybody because out of sadness something good has been born."

Amanda, Alison, Dawn, Linda and Tracey walked many miles with us and Gillian's words below beautifully encapsulate the importance of the walk for all of us:

As we began to stretch our legs on the opening miles of each day's walk, morale was always lifted by the chirpy voice of Keith Lewis bursting forth with yet another amusing tale. I do believe he has an encyclopaedic knowledge of almost every Welsh Guardsman, past and



present! If Keith became distracted, his son, Jason, took up the mantle with equal vigour.... For the first four days Keith's seven-year-old grandson, Arthur, led the way – opening gates for others, ensuring everyone had a drink or an ice cream when we paused for a break. He walked 45 miles without a word of complaint.

I think the following words, written by a close friend, are a fitting tribute to everything that Dai Graham and I set out to achieve back in 2013, particularly in memory of those we lost on the Sir Galahad on 8 June 1982:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those members of

our exceptional Regimental family who, over the years, have so readily picked up the baton with Dai and I. We have made a difference, and for that I'm immensely grateful.

"Some of us were on the walk as friends of those involved in the Falklands. As we enjoyed Anglesey's breathtaking coastal scenery a message came through from another friend unable to join us who, having watched the BBC's *Our Falklands War*, simply wrote 'we have no idea, not a clue'. That hit home. We go through life thankful for what the Services do for us, but an occasion like this gave us moments to try and think quietly what that really means for those actively involved and their families.

Sunny day followed sunny day and one of the many lighter moments came at the end of a short early morning service on the beach at Trearddur Bay given by the

Chaplain from RAF Valley. He concluded with the blessing: 'May the Road Rise Up to Meet You'. The less agile amongst us who had missed our footing more than once the previous day assured him that it already had.

We met some special people on that walk and will remember them and why we were there. Many thanks to Jan and his team for their immaculate organisation of a memorable journey together."

1. *Welsh Guards Remembrance Cross*
2. *The Chapel at Moel y Don*
3. *Group photo opportunity at the start of the day, followed by a healthy cwttch.*
4. *No better scenery to walk in than the coastal paths of Anglesey.*
5. *Stopping for a breather at one of the magnificent locations visited.*
6. *A vital part of the walk was stopping, chatting and remembering.*
7. *Peaceful reflection (and a cwttch) at the start of the final day*
8. *Which way now!*



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The Diary of a Bugler in June 2022
Falklands 40th Anniversary Commemorations
 by Helen Furnell

It was the privilege and honour for Kelvyn Jenkins, late Welsh Guards, to sound the Last Post on several occasions during June 2022 at just a few of the many Falklands War commemorative events.

Monday, 6th June – Brecon Peace Garden.

The Falklands 40th Anniversary Bicycle Ride, the brainchild of Falklands veteran Gus Hales, had departed Cardiff the day before, making its way to Brecon via Merthyr Tydfil.

A ukulele orchestra was assembled to greet the riders, local dignitaries, and members of the public. The Brecon Hive was tasked with putting together a short service at the Falklands Memorial within the Peace Garden, with a wreath being laid by Gurkha soldiers based at Brecon Barracks. Among those present were the Senedd Cymru Member for Brecon and Radnor, James Evans MS and the Mayor of

Brecon, Cllr David Meredith. The service was led by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, The Right Reverend John Lomas, himself is a Falklands veteran. Hymns and the National Anthems were sung by a mixed voice choir.

Tuesday 7th June – St Martin's Church, Hereford.

The bike ride had made its way to Hereford from Brecon the day before and all were gathered at the Church for a service, organised by Kelvyn, to remember the 19 members of the SAS, Capt JG Hamilton MC, and the pilot of the Sea King helicopter that crashed while on operations in the Falklands War. They were joined by families and survivors of this tragic



accident. Leanne Elizabeth Williams, a student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, gave a beautiful rendition of Abide With Me and wreaths were laid at the memorial. Special wooden crosses, individually named and with Regimental crests

were placed to remember each of the Fallen. The service was led by the Rector of St Martin's, Rev'd Anne Dowdeswell.

Following the service, everyone moved inside the Church for refreshments and the presentation of awards, and where a poppy cascade, made by Kelvyn and his good friend Peter Bloodworth, ably assisted by Kelvyn's 4-year-old granddaughter Freya, had been hung to mark the anniversary.

Wednesday 8th June – Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd.

Organised by The Welsh Guards Association East Glamorgan Branch, this service commemorated the anniversary of the loss of six local Welsh Guardsmen, as a result of the bombing





of the RFA Sir Galahad on 8 Jun 82. Wreaths were laid at the Falklands memorial and the service was attended by, amongst others, Senedd Cymru Member Mr Mick Antoniw MS, The Lord Lieutenant, Mr Peter Vaughan, The High Sheriff Mrs Maria Thomas BEM and the Mayor of Pontypridd, Cllr Lyndon Bengough. The service was led by Rev'd Charlotte Rushton.

Friday 10th June – HM Tower of London.

Kelvyn was invited by Yeoman Warder Darren Hardy, to sound Last Post at the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, at a service organised by Paul Cunliffe MBE RVM, late Drill Sergeant Welsh Guards, Falklands veteran and now Yeoman Warder. With the chapel filled with veterans, their families and friends, this was a particularly moving remembrance which continued after the service at the HM Towers own pub "The Keys", until just before the gates were locked for the night.

Sunday 19th June – Hereford Cathedral.

A service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark the anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands was led by the Dean, The Very Reverend Sarah Brown. Among a near 1,000-strong congregation were the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire Edward Harley OBE, the Mayor of Hereford, Chairman of Herefordshire Council and the High Sheriff of Herefordshire. Hereford Cathedral Choir, directed by Canon Geraint Bowen led the hymns; the Organist was Assistant Director of Music,





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Peter Dyke. The service included a Commemoration of the Departed – the 28 men of Herefordshire who died in the Falklands War.

Sunday 26th June – The Groe, Builth Wells.

Gathered to commemorate the World War II SOE Agent Violette Szabo¹ on her birthday, her daughter Tania Szabo, Kelvyn, Brecon and Radnor MP Fay Jones, Royal British Legion Standards, the Welsh Guards Pilgrims Standard, and members of the public joined Major Frederick Greenhow, MBE (Royal Artillery Falklands veteran) to remember all those who served in the Falklands War, with the laying of the Welsh Guards wreath. The service was led by Rev Bob Murrin, retired military padre and Lauren Elizabeth Williams impressed once more singing Abide With Me.

¹ Violette Szabo was a British-French Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent during the Second World War. Parachuted into France in the days after D-Day in June 1944, Violette was captured by the Nazis, interrogated and tortured. Taken to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp, Violette was killed there by the Nazis in February 1945. She was aged just 23.



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- 1&2 Falklands 40th Commemorative Service at HM Tower of London
- 3,4,5&6 Hereford Cathedral and the 40th Anniversary Bicycle Riders at St Martins Church Hereford
- 7 Violette Szabo remembrance event
- 8 Kelvyn in action



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HMS Queen Elizabeth Reception Wednesday 20th July 2022

An email from the Assistant Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales, Captain Ed Andersen on Mon 18 Jul alerted us to a reception being organised by SAMA 82 onboard the Fleet Flagship, the aircraft carrier HM Queen Elizabeth just two days later on Wed 20 July 2022 at the HM Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth.

The event had not been particularly well disseminated and no Welsh Guardsmen had

applied to attend and, with HRH The Prince of Wales in attendance, it was important for the Welsh Guards to be represented.

A quick "shout-out" on social media via the various Welsh Guards groups resulted in three willing Welsh Guards Falklands veteran volunteers coming forward and able to travel to Portsmouth at short notice to represent the Regiment.

We are indebted to; Eric Padmore (24125015), Kim Hibberd (24220131) and Paul Morgan (24578071) for representing us and flying the flag at such short notice.

1. Eric Padmore (24125015)
2. Kim Hibberd (24220131) and Paul Morgan (24578071) – refreshments.
3. Group assembled onboard.
4. L-R; Kim Hibberd (24220131), Eric Padmore (24125015), Paul Morgan (24578071) onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth.





40th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Falklands Islands

by Kim Burnell (24464758)

On Thursday 22nd September 2022, a group of 11 Welsh Guards Falklands Veterans made the 8,068 mile journey back to the Islands for the 40th anniversary of the 1982 war. The group comprised of:

Kevin Webber	(24263823, Sp Coy LCpl in 1982)	Robert Griffiths	(24491745, Sp Coy Gdsm in 1982)
Steve Jones	(24388798, Sp Coy LCpl in 1982)	Andy Roberts	(24558754, Sp Coy Gdsm in 1982)
Lenny Price	(24263845, Sp Coy LCpl in 1982)	Kim Burnell	(24464758, 3 Coy Gdsm in 1982)
Tony Price	(24366469, Sp Coy Gdsm in 1982)	Mark Evans	(24589907, 3 Coy Gdsm in 1982)
Marcus Townley	(24438007, Sp Coy Gdsm in 1982)	Ken Williams	(24513820, 3 Coy Gdsm in 1982)
Robert Jones	(24491788, Sp Coy Gdsm in 1982)		

Travelling on the airbridge from RAF Brize Norton, readers will not be surprised to learn that the flight, which was due to depart at 0110 hrs, was delayed for 4 hours which simply resulted in the banter starting earlier than expected and, not unusual either, was Marcus Townley not willing to part with any of his money for the numerous vending machines in the vicinity -but when he did eventually open his wallet, the moths and cobwebs soon appeared!

We eventually took off 4 hours later than expected and the banter and chatter continued unabated throughout the flight, resulting in not much sleep for anyone. It became very noticeable very quickly that Lenny Price had a ferocious appetite as his hand was always the first raised when any extra portions of food were on offer!

The itinerary of events was meticulously planned by

Kevin Webber who organised the trip and to whom we are all eternally grateful. It was a great trip, Kev booked absolutely everything, flights, accommodation, and transport on the Island for the duration of our visit. If you can imagine "herding cats", that is just a snapshot of each morning at our accommodation, the wonderful Liberty Lodge (Kim Burnell and Lenny Price were able to escape the madness

each night as they were accommodated elsewhere with a local family)! In our heads it was 1982 and we were still fit and in our prime, but our bodies told us otherwise! Our morning routine was a thing to behold; breakfast, the taking of the various medications for the variety of ailments, the decision of what to take with us for the day, was it cold, would it rain, who was going on what vehicle, what

time were we leaving - each morning was like a comedy sketch - but it was great, and we loved it.

Friday 23rd saw us eased gently into what would be an emotional trip for us all, and we visited the Museum in Stanley followed by the mandatory visit to the local hosteleries (aka pubs) to introduce ourselves to the locals and rehydrate after our long flight - as advised



by all medical professionals, keeping hydrated is important!

Saturday 24th was a well-planned and executed battlefield tour of Darwin, Goose Green, San Carlos, and Teal Inlet where we managed to visit all the memorials and pay our respects to all of those that had paid the ultimate price in 1982. There was an interesting visit to Teal Inlet where we came across Argentine helicopters that had been destroyed by the victorious British Sea and Land Forces.

Sunday 25th was another day in the vehicles visiting the battlefields and places of interest, namely, Fitzroy, Two Sisters, Mount Harriet, Tumbledown and of course the memorial to LCpl Christopher Thomas 03 (aka Bowser). At each and every location we paid our respects and honoured all of those that never returned, regardless of cap badge. Throughout our two-day battlefield tour memories were rekindled and our thoughts flashed back to 1982, remembering what happened and the many friends we had lost. Emotional? Yes, Cathartic? Yes – would I go again? Yes, in a heartbeat.

Monday 26th was another emotional day amongst a rollercoaster of emotional days, with a visit to the Memorial Wood. Memorial Wood is located close to the Stanley Cemetery and is an area set aside to commemorate members of the British forces who served and died during the 1982 Falklands War, with a tree

planted for every serviceman killed. Here we visited each and every cross belonging to our brother Welsh Guardsmen and we drank a toast to their memories and promised that they would never be forgotten.

Following the emotional visit to Memorial Wood, we then went on to visit the penguins at Bluff Cove and to Yellow Beach where Bn HQ, 2 Coy and members of Sp Coy landed in the early hours of 8th Jun 82 after a particularly awful landing craft journey having left HMS Fearless, leaving POWs, 3 and elements of Sp Coy on board.

Tuesday 27th was an admin day for the group with some deciding to revisit Memorial Wood to have their own private moments of reflection alone, whilst others went back to Mount Harriet to find their “dig in” positions from 1982 at both Goats Ridge and Mount Harriet. This was also the same area where John Mahoney (24511400) and Kevin Sincok (24498669) fired the Milan missile at night to take out the Argentinian gun post that was holding up the attack on Mount Harriet. Another highlight of the journey for Lenny Price was finding the family home and a member of the family where he and other Welsh Guardsmen used to go to for baths - that day proved to be very emotional for both Lenny, the family and myself.

Wednesday 28th saw the morning set aside for personal admin and in the afternoon, we visited the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) where we had

a tour of their facilities and vehicles followed by an invite to honour the Falklands Islands Commonwealth Games athletes.

Thursday 29th We all had to prepare ourselves emotionally for this day, the day we would all don our suits and medals and hold our private service at the Welsh Guards Memorial at Fitzroy. We all raised a glass and toasted our friends and comrades who remain there to this day and again promised them that they would never ever be forgotten by us or future generations of Welsh Guardsmen. There were lots of hugs and tears as the group came together to support each other, but, in true Welsh Guards tradition, the banter and mickey taking re-started as soon as we were in the vehicles to start the journey back to Stanley – it is what the lad's left behind would have wanted and would have expected – we know that as we are all Welsh Guardsmen.

In the afternoon we visited the Governors House in Stanley followed in the evening by a meal with all of the support staff that had made our journey worthwhile. Throughout our adventure, the group were able to share so many memories of their journey in 1982, how they felt then and how they are feeling now. We grew stronger each day, cried many times, hugged every day and gave support to each other. For any Welsh Guardsman Falklands Veteran that has not returned, then please do so, you will not be disappointed and will be



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welcomed with open arms by the wonderful Falkland Islanders. We are indebted to Kev Webber for organising the trip and making it a reality and to the Welsh Guards Charity Trustees for subsidising it for us. Cymru am Byth.



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1. Welsh Guards Memorial Fitzroy, L-R; Lenny Price, Andy Roberts, Kev Webber, Steve Jones 98, Bob Griffiths 45, Ken Williams 20, Mark Evans 07, Kim Burnell, Tony Price 69, Marcus Townley, Robert Jones 88
2. The Welsh Guards Memorial
3. The group let loose on military equipment
4. The Band of Brothers, Back Row, L-R; Tony Price 69, Andy Roberts, Steven Jones 98, Bob Griffiths 45, Lenny Price, Kev Webber, Marcus Townley. Front Row; Robert Jones 88, Kim Burnell, Ken Williams 20, Mark Evans 07
5. Outside Liberty Lodge
6. The group at Memorial Wood,
7. Our farewell thank you meal to all those locals who helped make our trip what it was
8. The author at the memorial to Christopher Thomas 24454603 (aka Bowser)



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Recruiting Update

Infantry Engagement Team North (IET(N)) and Infantry Engagement Team South (IET(S))

by Warrant Officer Class 2 MD Green, Recruiting Warrant Officer

Despite changes to key personnel within the Regimental Support Teams, certain limitations imposed on how we can employ them and our rebranding as Infantry Engagement Teams (IET) under the ownership of Infantry Headquarters, the Welsh Guards recruiting teams have continued to deliver to a high standard. Solid foundations, self-evaluation, striving for continuous improvement and the use of initiative has meant that our recruiters have still managed to load over 55 candidates into training between Sept 21 and Sept 22.

The Recruiting Warrant Officer has changed twice. WO2 Hughes assuming the role of RQMS(T) meant that WO1 Peters took over the role before handing over the reins to myself. Sgt Lewis replaced Sgt Shapland as the commander of IET(S),

LSgt Davies 35 took over as commander of IET(N) and LSgt Morgan assumed the role of recruiter at the Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) Swansea to allow the outgoing LSgt Crowley to start his transition to a new career in the civilian world.

The hard work, dedication and strong relationships that were formed by the outgoing teams has allowed for a seamless transition and continued positive outcomes. With IET taskings increased throughout this twelve-month period and the continued approach of recruiting for the Infantry and not just "The Welsh Guards," the team have had to step up their efforts to find a new, innovative approach to keep the Welsh Guards brand at the forefront without having the scarlet tunic and bearskin on display.

The presence of our recruiters within the Military Preparation Colleges (MPCs) has paid dividends. Our teams deliver high calibre lessons and instruction, have a thorough knowledge of the recruiting system and

offer candidates continuous support as they go through the application process. A combination of these factors has ensured our recruiting pipeline has remained strong. This professional approach has encouraged learners to engage with our team for advice and guidance as they aim to start their military careers, with the majority loaded to training this past year attracted to the regiment through the commitment given by our Guardsmen embedded within this organisation.

The range of activities delivered by the IETs is ever increasing. From military style bootcamps delivered by LSgt Devine at Merthyr Mawr sand dunes to Newport County U18's Academy and Risca Football Club, our increased engagement



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has set the standard for recruiting activities across Wales. We have also run team building exercises and Physical Training delivery to further education colleges across South Wales as well as keeping the Tunic and Bearskin in the public eye through supporting the annual Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, the Falklands 40th Anniversary Memorial Parade in Bridgend and the Welsh Veteran Awards in Cardiff. We are always on the lookout for new opportunities!

Regular visits to Army Cadet Centres across North and Mid Wales and across the border to Cheshire South and West College (a new relationship forged this year) to deliver low level fieldcraft lessons

and kit displays with the option to try on our kit. Visits to local sports clubs to deliver presentations on sporting opportunities and fitness within the Army. Continuous IET surges into towns on either side of the Welsh border as well as supporting gun salutes at Caernarfon Castle and most recently military processions at Cardiff Castle and the Senedd for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's passing and the Proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III are some of the events supported and delivered by IET(N).

The dedicated approach from the IET's and excellent work by the likes of LSgt Oxtoby in the AFCCO's has resulted in 45 new Guardsman joining the Battalion with

a first-time pass, some who have immediately deployed overseas as part of the Battalion's operational commitments. A credit to the efforts of the team and something we strive to continue and improve over the next 12 months.

1. MPCT Wrexham during a military skills package provided by IET(N)
2. LCpl Jackson delivering a kit packing and preparation lesson to MPCT learners
3. LCpl Morris and Gdsm Hathaway at the Royal Welsh Agricultural show
4. LSgt Davies 35 and LCpls Jackson and Wilkinson manning a kit display stand during a recruiting surge in Wrexham



Millfield Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

by Warrant Officer Class 2 Rob Seeley, School Staff Instructor

Following a brilliant CCF Annual camp over the previous summer, this Year got off to an excellent start when our shooting team won the South West Regional Bisley competition achieving the highest score in the country. The championships, which were held at Yoxter over a weekend, saw our team compete in both team and individual shoots over 300, 500 and 600 metre ranges against other Combined Cadet Forces (CCF), Cadet Force Schools, Army Cadet Forces and Air Training Corps.

The team was captained by Upper Sixth, Sgt Sam Pepler and consisted of: Year 10 Cdt James Bratton, Cdt Harrison Cox and Cdt Zac Cooper including reserves Lower Sixth Eddie Wang, Year 10

Harry Falconer and Sam Jeffreys.

Their achievement was all the more impressive as they were complete beginners, going from novice to

competitors in ten days under expert tuition.

Our new Year 9s Cohort were brought in and for the first time Instructed by our own Senior Cadets

who concurrently were completing the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We held a Regimental meal to celebrate the 3rd birthday (anniversary) of Millfield CCF, have developed and promoted our Senior Cadets, competed in Laser Tag on site, conducted Air Rifle shoots, utilised the Weapon training facilities at HMS Heron, had a Lord Lieutenant Cadet selected (congratulations to Sgt Sam Curwin), played paintball and got down and dirty numerous times. They say variety is the spice of life and we certainly try to provide variety and challenge at Millfield CCF and will continue to do so in the future.





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- 1 Roll call at the CCF Camp
- 2 Weapon training at the HMS Heron DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer)
- 3&4 Laser Tag, great fun, but exhausting.
- 5 January 2022, Regimental Dinner to celebrate the 3rd anniversary/birthday of the formation of Millfield CCF with the guest of honour being Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Somerset Mrs Annie Maws. Numerous promotions and awards were given out at the event.
- 6 CCF training night.
- 7 The victorious Millfield CCF shooting team, winners of the SW Regionals.
- 8 Air rifle shoot coaching
- 9 In Sept 21 Sgt Sam Curwin was selected to be the Lord Lieutenant (Somerset) CCF Cadet and has enjoyed a year in role accompanying the Lord Lieutenant at many functions. Sam accompanied the Lord Lieutenant during the visit of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to Roundhill Primary School in Southdown where Sam was fortunate enough to be introduced to Her Royal Highness.



Dulwich College Combined Cadet Force (DCCCF)

by Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major Polly Roberts

The lockdown years of the pandemic proved to be some of the most difficult ones in all aspects of life, not least in organisations which rely on communication and teamwork at the heart of their success. Striking a stark difference from our COVID-19 operations in the preceding two years, not only has the Dulwich College CCF hastily returned back to normal but has thrived in these new conditions. Returning to an unrestricted world was always going to be a challenge, and this year we have had to adapt to a new generation of lockdown-conditioned children.



Towards the beginning of every year, we hold a camp for the newest year 9 recruits. Here 100 cadets are given a whistle stop tour of a selection of stands, ranging from cooking in the field to individual fire and manoeuvre to the DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer). Setting the tone for their next year of the CCF, this camp was a formative experience for all the new recruits, a huge contrast to their last two years and a valuable learning experience for those teaching too.

In the second major event on the calendar, Dulwich College and the other Foundation schools hold their annual Remembrance Parade. The professionalism displayed by both cadets and officers alike during this period of remembrance is always impressive and last year's Parade was well in keeping with this. From the main site to the Chapel of God's Gift in Dulwich Village, the Cadets from Dulwich march to meet those from Alleyn's School to join each other and local members of the public to

show our respect and thanks to those who have fought for their country. All cadets who attended did themselves proud.

Next on the agenda was deciding on the team for the Cadet Cambrian Patrol. This challenging yet rewarding annual event combines physicality, and military tactics. To choose the perfect eight to go to Sennybridge, we hold a selection weekend, where any cadet who signs themselves up has the opportunity to display their talents and convince the Officers they deserve to be there. After the team is hand picked, they then train together in the weeks leading up to the competition, practicing section attacks, first aid, navigation and all manner of other competencies tested in the competition.

We left for Cambrian Patrol on the 8 April. There we were met with 15 other CCF and ACF teams from all across the UK. Once settled in, we received orders for the next day, our kit was checked, and we got a few hours' sleep in preparation for the day ahead. Our main day of patrolling totalled at around 35 kilometres, where we toured around the picturesque Sennybridge training area stopping at different stands. That night we prepared our model ahead of receiving our orders for the patrol action the following day. After the competition was finished and the points counted, we were awarded a Gold Medal. Our Section Commander, Francesco Dembinski, was awarded the prize for 'Best Section Commander'.

A large chunk of our syllabus



is focused around First Aid. This year cadets who showed particular potential were put forward to compete in the London District First Aid Competition. With both a senior and junior team in the competition, we were hopeful to come away with more silverware, but we exceeded expectations with both teams finishing in first and second place overall and qualifying for the National First Aid Competition in October. We wish them luck and hope for a similar outcome!





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In the summer, we hold our longest camp, and another contrast to the pandemic years. Our five days at Digbate Camp, in St Martins Plain, consisted of OBUA (Operating in a Built-Up Area), laser clay pigeon shooting, section attacks, section in defence, mine clearing and culminating with a 48hr exercise.

Even with 150 years' history, we can still pass milestones. At our summer camp each year, the position of RSM is ceremonially passed on to the new holder by its incumbent. This year, Francesco handed over his rank slide to his successor, Polly Roberts: DCCCF now has its first ever female RSM. There are other achievements to celebrate as we saw three of the cadets from Dulwich pass their AOSB (Army Officer Selection Board), two of whom were awarded full scholarship.

DCCCF has bounced back stronger than ever from the Covid-induced turmoil of the last two years, and our new cadets have risen to the challenge of adapting admirably. We are extremely

proud of all our cadets and their achievements this year and also grateful to our extremely dedicated team of CCF Officers who make everything possible.

1. Cadet Cambrian Patrol 2022
2. CCF Officers at camp
3. Flying the flag at the Cadet Cambrian Patrol 2022
4. Taking a breather at the Cadet Cambrian Patrol 2022
5. Map appreciation during Cadet Cambrian Patrol 2022
6. Manning an Op during Summer Camp 2022
7. "Can you see me" - The RSM during Summer Camp 2022
8. Gold Medal Winners 2022
9. Two Army Scholars, Toma Cornisteanu Bailey and Matteo Dembinski



1st Battalion the Welsh Guards – Platinum Jubilee 2022
by Second Lieutenant W Moss

June this year saw a marching detachment of twenty-four other ranks and two officers from The Prince of Wales's Company participating in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant. The Pageant was the culmination of four days of celebration in London to mark Her Majesty's 70th year on the throne, with a large military and civil parade through the streets of London.

The parade aimed to show the full scope of Her Majesty's reign and included detachments from all three services making it, numerically at least, one of the larger ceremonial events the Battalion has undertaken in recent memory. All told, around eighteen-hundred sailors, soldiers and airmen marched the route.

Each Guards regiment provided a detachment for the parade, but none had less time to prepare than the Welsh Guards. With such a crowded schedule since last coming off public duties and given only a few days to bring Guardsmen who had never worn a tunic before up to standard, the detachment's effort did it huge credit. Of

the twenty-six who marched and two spares, only a small handful had their own tunic ten days out from the Pageant. Special mention must go to Sergeants Lewis and Chambers, whose rigorous lessons and inspections brought the group up to scratch in very little time.

Rehearsals for the Army group began in Pirbright, with a route around Brunswick Lines marked to replicate the one in London. Although quite a simple parade, the choreography required to form up, dress and evenly space the entire parade was considerable. Regiments who have Her Majesty as Colonel or Colonel in Chief were chosen to march.

Thus Lifeguards, Lancers, line infantry, logisticians and everything in between were present, making for an eclectic parade and colourful rehearsals. This was only added to when detachments from a number of Commonwealth nations arrived. On the day, marching troops covered over a mile of ground at once.

The Pageant was on Sunday 3rd June, with the Queen's Birthday Parade the previous Thursday and a service of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral between the two. Wellington Barracks was thus crammed to the rafters during the early morning (read 'all night') rehearsal for the Pageant and on the day itself.



The route saw troops march out of Wellington Barracks and form up on Constitution Hill—the parade square not being big enough to hold the entire group. From there, they marched past Buckingham Palace, along Birdcage Walk, around Parliament Square, down Whitehall, through Admiralty Arch and up the Mall. On the second visit to Buckingham Palace, The Prince of Wales took the salute before the parade disappeared back into Wellington Barracks. Even the more seasoned Guardsmen present admitted that, at over two miles with the rifle in the slope, it was ‘a bit of a lick’.

The parade went excellently, with both rain and excessive heat holding off. Despite being a young and relatively inexperienced group, the Jamboys involved were frequently called out for their high standards in turnout and drill, and this has given the company a welcome head-start on ceremonial duties to be undertaken in 2023.

1. *Sergeant Chambers inspecting the Marching Party*
2. *Sgt Lewis 88*
3. *The complete Welsh Guards marching party in Wellington Barracks*
4. *CSM Davies having a word*
5. *On Parade*



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Cadet Training Centre (CTC) Frimley Park – The Cadet Experience

by Captain J Owen

On promotion to WO1 I was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Cadet Training Centre Frimley Park (CTC). The CTC is the home of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Army Cadet Force (ACF) and is located next door to Frimley Park hospital. Frimley Manor was built in 1699 by James and Mary Tichborne, the sixth generation of the family to own the estate. Sir Henry Tichborne sold the house and estate to James Laurell in 1790 for £20,000 and George IV, as Prince of Wales, was a frequent visitor to the house. It was James Laurell's son who, it is said, staked and lost the estate in 1857 at cards to one John Tekel in the presence of the Prince.

The estate was then 1,457 acres and included Tekel's Park, Barossa Common and the whole of what is now Camberley. In 1860, after Tekel died, his widow, daughter of the third Earl of Stanhope and niece of William Pitt, divided and sold Barossa Common's estate, becoming additional

training grounds for the new Royal Military College, Sandhurst. The estate changed hands several times, but the next known owner was Colonel (later Sir Malcolm) Fox of the Black Watch, Inspector of Gymnasias, who lived in the house until 1897.

In 1898 The Crown Prince of Siam was a gentleman cadet at RMC Sandhurst and was subsequently attached to Army units in the Aldershot area. During this time, he lived at Frimley Park; his bedroom was one of the smallest rooms at the top of the house because Siamese royal protocol

ordained that members of the royal family must sleep above the commoners and servants of the royal household.

During the Second World War, the house became a maternity hospital, Marlborough Hall being the delivery room. From 1947 to 1950, the house was used by the Officers' Association. In 1951, the War Department for the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) Staff College took over the house and grounds, which remained in situ until 1957. 181 Regular and 34 Territorial Officers of the WRAC passed through the college during that period.

In 1956, with the War over and national service ending, the government set up the Amery Committee to report on cadets' future organisation and training. The Amery Report,



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published in 1957, proposed that a training centre for the ACF and CCF be established under a Board of Governors, and the War Office decided its home should be the manor house at Frimley Park.

The Cadet Training Centre (CTC) Frimley Park opened its doors in 1959, and the first course assembled on 5 April. An ACF Officers' King George VI Memorial Leadership Course of 18 students. The course was first to run in 1955 at the School of Infantry, Warminster, paid for by the KGV Foundation, which had been set up for leadership development. A capital sum of £10,000 plus £1,000 a year for five years was provided. The course runs at CTC to this day.

The primary purpose of CTC is to train Cadet Force adult volunteers (CFAVs). The training ensures that CFAVs can teach and train their Cadets safely whilst highlighting new training methods. Courses range from leadership and management to instructional qualifications such as skill at arms and SA (M) (07).

CTC also hosts the Master Cadet Course, established in

1989 to broaden and develop the leadership skills of the best young Cadets from around the country who spend five challenging days working to achieve the status of Master Cadet.

The Cadets are helping young people to achieve their potential. Recent academic studies have proven the positive impact young people joining a CCF, or ACF detachment, can have on themselves and society. For example, children excluded from schools are significantly more likely to have improved attendance and behaviour on return to education if they joined a Cadet detachment. The financial savings the Cadets make to the UK is greater than twice the amount the MOD spends annually on the Cadets.

Part of my responsibility as Regimental Sergeant Major was to prepare several detachments of Cadets to take part in the Service of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, where the Cadets paraded their Banner along with the Royal British Legion standards. The Cadets performed admirably in front



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of a large crowd and television cameras, which was a massive credit to them and their adult volunteers.

Sadly, during my tenure, the Colonel in Chief of the Army Cadet Force, his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, passed away. The Duke of Edinburgh had held this position since 1952. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Cadets would be unable to participate in the funeral as was the original plan. The Cadets did, however, get the chance to give thanks and to celebrate the Duke of Edinburgh's life and relationship with the Cadets by attending the memorial service at Westminster Abbey.

The Cadets had the privilege of lining the route of Her Royal Highness the Queen on her arrival at the abbey.

In closing, my two years as Regimental Sergeant Major of CTC were an interesting and rewarding experience different from anything I have done before. Happily, the appointment of WO1 Regimental Sergeant Major Peters will see the position filled by another Welsh Guardsman.



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1. Frimley Manor, home to the CTC
2. Cadets at the festival of Remembrance
3. RSM Owen handing over to RSM Peters
4. An eclectic mix of students



Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force Band

by Kerrie Green

Being a Cadet Musician in the Band and Drums of Gwent and Powys Army Cadet Force is something that brings a huge sense of pride and achievement. They are honoured to wear the cap badge of the Welsh Guards and are thrilled to be intrinsically linked to the Band of the Welsh Guards with the support and guidance that they bring. This year has seen the youngsters perform in some particularly exciting and very high-profile events.



On 2nd June the Band and Drums were honoured to be part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Cardiff Bay. The glorious June sunshine brought in thousands to witness the 42-gun salute and festival which followed, alongside dignitaries from across Wales.

As the gunfire died away, along with the final notes from the specially commissioned fanfare, 'Majesty', played by The Band of the Prince of Wales, the Gwent and Powys cadets marched on to 'Rising of the Lark' played by the Corps of Drums, led by County Drum Major, Staff Cadet Colour Sergeant Chloe Meredith. The atmosphere was incredible, and certainly a daunting prospect for a group of youngsters - however, as always, they did themselves proud.

The group were joined by the very first member of

their new academy, which provides instruments, music lessons and support for youngsters not quite old enough to join officially as cadets. Emily Braby, aged 11, played clarinet as part of the event and thoroughly enjoyed her day! The Band and Drums were also joined by Corporals Brad and Wendy Robert from the Band of the Mercian Regiment, who were given permission to perform alongside their daughter Lily, in her first parade. Lily was the first cadet to join the ACF under the new regulations which now allow youngsters to sign up as soon as they turn 12.

Conducting the Band and Drums for the first time was Major James Marshall, who retired from the Regular Army in June and has since taken up a role with The Band of the Royal Engineers. Major Marshall, previous Director of Music of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and the

Household Cavalry Bands, is also looking forward to joining Gwent & Powys officially as a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer. The event was certainly something special and will stand out as a highlight in the Cadet careers of many of those involved.

Only a few weeks later, cadets from The Band and Drums were proud to support Wales Armed Forces Day, which this year was hosted by Wrexham and kicked off a week of celebrations across

the UK. The event was a spectacular one and drew thousands to the city centre to find out more about the role of the Armed Forces and to take part in some exciting activities.

This year, the Band and Drums were invited to Wrexham to entertain the crowds in Queen's Square, where military vehicles, including a tank, were on display, and different regiments and charities showcased their work. The

Band and Drums performed a range of popular military marches and tunes, finishing with something a little more upbeat - the infamous 'Crazy Train'! The Corps of Drums also put on a fantastic display in front of the tank, which was an amazing backdrop for traditional pieces including 'Men of Harlech'. The Band and Drums thoroughly enjoyed their day, including chatting to members of the public about what they do and even handing over the bearskins for a few photos!

Cardiff Castle, where they will be entertaining guests during the reception. On their last training weekend, following a successful application process and board, they promoted Staff Cadet Colour Sergeant Zoe Brown to the position of Band Sergeant Major, and Staff Cadet Colour Sergeant Jake Thomas to the position of Assistant Band Sergeant Major. Alongside the current County Drum Major, Chloe Meredith, this makes for an extremely strong senior cadet team to lead the Band and Drums forwards. They are also busy fundraising to support three members of the Band and Drums who will be travelling to South Africa next Summer to take part in conservation, community work and a battlefields tour - certainly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The Band and Drums welcomes youngsters who are interested in learning to play, or currently play an instrument. Instruments, lessons and uniform are provided, and there are opportunities to play at a whole host of events across the UK and further afield. If you would like to find out more about what we do, why not get in touch?



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In the Summer, members of the Band and Drums travelled to London to work with the Pipes, Bands and Drums from 51 (Scottish) Brigade. The culmination of the week was a Beating Retreat performed at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which was an incredible experience and an opportunity to make links with cadet musicians from across the UK.

The group are currently training hard, having welcomed new players into their ranks, and are preparing for National Music Camp, Remembrance and a Christmas Dinner Night at



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1. *Playing in Queen's Square, Wrexham for Armed Forces Day*
2. *Marching on to Roald Dahl Plas in Cardiff Bay as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations*
3. *County Drum Major Chloe Meredith*
4. *At the Royal Hospital, Chelsea with Lord Lingfield following a Beating Retreat with the Bands, Pipes and Drums from 51 Brigade.*



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24577415 Paul Bromwell – Helping the Community
by Warren Williams (24788725)

Paul joined the Welsh Guards and reported to the Guards Depot in July 1979. When he completed his training, it wasn't long before he deployed to Kenya on exercise with the Battalion, he also served in Cyprus and in Hohne, Germany.

In 1982, as an 18-year-old Guardsman in the Battalion Recce Platoon, he deployed with the Battalion to the Falkland Islands aboard the QE2, training and keeping fit the entire journey, before transferring onto the SS Canberra and then the RFA Sir Geraint for the final leg of the journey. Arriving at Fitzroy, the Recce Platoon then tabbed in full kit, with the Gurkhas, to Darwin, coming under fire en-route and it was then that he realised just how young and inexperienced he was within the Platoon. This gave him that bit of extra motivation and compelled him to ensure that he didn't let anyone down in this hostile environment. It was hard, gruelling, and demanding territory and it upsets him to this day that the sheer amount of work and graft that was carried out by the Battalion was never really recognized by other Regiments that served there. It was this period in the Falklands as a young man that Paul believes shaped him to become the successful businessman he is today.

Paul left the Army in 1984 and returned to the Rhondda and started working the doors at many pubs and nightclubs in Merthyr and Cardiff. He tried his hand at Close Protection work in London, but started to drink heavily, Bacardi & Coke was his drink of choice and he used this to drown out the memories and feelings he had after losing so many good friends and colleagues from during the Falklands War.

He wasn't coping well, and his doctor advised him to seek more specialist help and so he started seeing a psychiatrist. It wasn't long before he was directed to Combat Stress who help former servicemen and women to deal with issues like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression. Today they provide specialist treatment and support for veterans from every service and conflict, focusing on those with complex mental Health issues related to their military service.

When Paul attended



Shrewsbury for treatment, he couldn't believe that half of his old section and members his Regiment were in attendance also. His treatment was for a full year, and he attended outstations working with horses and then he learnt how to ride. It was this that spurred on his decision to build his own stables back home in Ton Pentre. He has purchased and trained three horses which are cross breed of cob/shire and, with funding help from Hafal, Wind Farm and the Armed Forces Covenant fund to support him with feeding, hay, vet bills, insurance, and equipment he is now well placed to help others.

Utilizing horses has helped him with his mental health and given him the energy and confidence to direct other veterans who are suffering with their mental health to supporting charities and organizations to help and support them. Over the years he has had approximately 70-80 horses which had been neglected and he has transformed their health and lives by training and keeping them fit and healthy and understanding their various individual characteristics.

He has spent a substantial amount of his own money and charitable money to build stables and a set up a centre for the Valley Veterans Club where he helps ex-soldiers by directing them to services

that can help provide and support them, be it for housing, family support, mental Health, debt, and drug or alcohol addiction. He now has the support and backing from the local authority, high-ranking officials in the military, Hafal the mental health charity and, most importantly, the backing of the Armed Forces Covenant which he has worked hard to establish over the years by attending structured meetings with the Welsh Government, Department of Working Pensions.

Since he has turned his life around, Paul has won three-Armed Forces Covenant Awards and a Star of the Community Award for helping others.

1. *Welsh Veterans Award ceremony*
2. *Horse training*
3. *The Valley Veterans logo adorned with the Poppy for Remembrance Day*
4. *Food bank in the community centre*
5. *Award up at the allotment*
6. *GMB award*
7. *Armed Forces Covenant Awards*

helpline@combatstress@org.uk
Helpline: 0800 1381619

hafal@hafal.org
Helpline: 01792 816 600 / 832 400



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



INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES

St David's Day 2022

by Lieutenant G E C Cadogan, Platoon Commander

There's no date in the calendar the Welsh look forward to more than that of their Patron Saint, Saint David. In typical Welsh Guards fashion, the day began with some mischief and fun as the Battalion paraded in fancy dress for some 'light' physical exercise. Lance Corporal Tucker and SSgt Hammond had proudly dressed as daffodils, whilst some members of the Battalion resorted to full fancy dress, others to PT kit and everything in between, including one Gdsm dressed as a rabbit. Following the ever more complex physical feats demanded by SSgt Hammond and his staff the Battalion was fallen out for a quick turnaround before the parade and to prepare for the main event in jovial spirits.

Parading again, but this time in suitable military attire, the companies formed up in anticipation. Sat opposite them were the esteemed guests of the Battalion and many proud family members. Major General Ghika CBE, General Officer Commanding London District and Major General Commanding the Household Division, had come down from London for the day to give out the traditional leeks and take the salute, but first as Welshman, we had to sing. The room burst into song as 'Land of my Fathers' ignited the atmosphere of the Welsh gathering. The Welsh Guards collect in Welsh followed; mercifully the picquet officer didn't have to deliver this. Forming up in an orderly line, the Officers and Warrant Officers each received their leek from the Major General who exchanged a few words

with familiar faces. Seizing bundles of leeks, the Company Commanders and Late Entry officers charged amongst the formed-up ranks distributing them. Major Campbell took particular glee by "mistaking" Second Lieutenants for Guardsmen and offering them a second leek. One leek or two, everyone at least had a leek and it was time for lunch.

In the preceding days the Battalion's gymnasium had been transformed! Rows of weights, lifting stations and an ever-energetic SSgt Hammond had been replaced by kegs of beer, platters of curry and a suitably enthusiastic crowd of hungry and thirsty revellers. The chefs had produced mountains of curry that was devoured by all and both the Wye Valley Brewery and Felinfoel Brewery had each provided us with three kegs of



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beer. The very large utilitarian gymnasium had become a cosy marquee, complete with 'Blue, Red, Blue' lining finishing off the atmosphere. With the Guardsmen and their families happily sat at the round tables, I thought I'd sneak through the buffet. I promptly discovered a Welsh cake launched onto my plate and in the same instant, the curry sauce was applied on top! Not one to shy away from new flavours, I put this down to the traditional way it is eaten rather than the efficiency of

the buffet. Washed down with a healthy glug of Welsh ale, the party began, although not for all.

The newly inaugurated 'Soko Trophy' has quickly become one of the most hotly contested trophies in battalion where the Guardsmen battle it out with the Lance Corporals for glory on the rugby pitch. With a far smaller pool to recruit from, the Lance Corporals must rely on their superior fitness and experience. The Guardsmen on



the other hand relied on sheer numbers, able to substitute players nearly as regularly as the ball was passed. After a fiercely contested game with some heavy tackles, the Lance Corporals came away with 34-31 win and for this year at least, a score was settled. To top off a fantastic day, Major General Ghika promoted now Warrant Officer 1st Class Heath and the crowds dispersed back to Combermere for more beers, music and celebrations. The letters of thanks that arrived in both Regimental Headquarter and Battalion Headquarters show how important this day is to the wider Welsh Guards diaspora and we look forward to welcoming those at ERE, the Welsh guards Club and the Association back in 2023.



1. Col Tom Bonas, Regt/ Adjt, arriving early to ensure everything was in place
2. St David's Day Service
3. Battalion Second in Command, Major Tom Spencer-Smith welcoming the Major General to St David's Day
4. Maj Young and Capt Parkinson handing out leeks to the rank and file
5. Major General Talbot-Rice CBE with the Captain of HMS Prince of Wales





5th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) – The Tiger Battalion

by Lieutenant Colonel Chris Gilmore, Commanding Officer

It is an honour to be able to write to our brothers and sisters of the Welsh Guards, and I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed 2022 as much as we have here in Darwin (in Australia's Northern Territory). Although our climates may differ greatly, one thing will always remain the same – all battles end with and are won by the infanteer. It is this link more than any that will always forge us forward in soldiering.



Before I progress any further, I offer my most sincere condolences to The Welsh Guards on the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Her leadership through conflict and prosperity over 70 years was a true inspiration to all and Her Majesty was the embodiment of the stoic qualities we strive to achieve in our service lives. Despite the sadness felt at Her Majesty's passing, we continue to look forward to serving under King Charles III and continuing in our own regimental motto of putting our 'Duty First'.

2022 has been a busy year for the Tiger Battalion. We have seen our Tiger teams employed across a vast array of security cooperation activities, training serials,

courses and unit events. Whilst the Companies and Headquarters have been busy, the Battalion is in great shape, and we continue to strive to provide a warfighting unit that judges itself by professionalism and humility.

Earlier this year, Delta Company deployed to Malaysia for three months and executed a successful rotation 135 of Rifle Company Butterworth. Bravo Company successfully completed their mission on the Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines (JATT-P), a four-month deployment supporting one of our most important partners. Mid-year we saw Bravo and Support Company form the Mobile Training Teams

Bravo and Charlie (MTT-B & MTT-C) providing instruction to the Forças Defesa Timor Lorosae (FFDTL) in Timor Leste. Later throughout the year, Charlie Company also deployed to Indonesia on two separate occasions for Exercise GARUDA SHIELD and Exercise WIRRA JAYA. As we have emerged from the dark cloud of COVID-19, the men and women of the Tiger Battalion have truly enjoyed the opportunity to deploy offshore and experience the adventure that is unique to military service in an Infantry Battalion.

Despite having the opportunity to deploy offshore after a few years, we were called to duty domestically, having our soldiers serve on three different operations. We had teams support Operation COVID-19 Assist in supporting some of Australia's most isolated communities. We deployed a 60 Officer and Soldier strong team to South-East Queensland to reinforce the Aged Care sector in February, and in March we deployed our Headquarters and Logistic Company to

Northern New South Wales to support several communities that were severely affected by flooding.

Charlie Company continues to develop our littoral warfighting capability and successfully completed Combat Team sized insertions (through Crocodile inhabited waters – a joy of the Northern Territory) to enable Littoral Operations on Exercise TIGERS RUN 22 and Exercise PREDATORS RUN 22. Exercise PREDATORS RUN 22 was an outstanding opportunity, with over 3,000 Soldiers (Australian, Malaysian and Philippine) and United States Marines deployed to Mount Bundey Training Area. With an average daily temperature exceeding 36°C, it proved to be an exercise where resilience was built, and international friendships were forged through the conduct of Combined Arms Warfighting.

Other training opportunities that the Tiger Battalion has pursued this year has seen Charlie Company execute the Advanced Small Craft Operator Course (ASCO) to



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qualify soldiers in amphibious and littoral operations using small boats. Our Support Company have conducted their basic courses for our new wave of specialized soldiers and officers so that we maintain our Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Snipers (RSS), Direct Fire Support Weapons (DFFSW), Mortars and Signal Platoons.

The adage that it has been a 'busy year' is one used in any Infantry battalion, and this year was no different (as will be next year). Though we were fortunate enough to recommence

offshore activities with our South-East Asian and United States Marine Corps (USMC) partners, we still ensured we celebrated the unit's history and culture.

Binh Ba Week (6 – 9 Jun – commemorating the Battle of Binh Ba from 1969) was an opportunity to gather and reflect on the history of 5 RAR and commemorate not only The Battle of Binh Ba, but all of the combat actions the Tiger Battalion have been involved in from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Most importantly for the current generation was the



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opportunity to host a number of Veterans of the 5th Battalion, and the 5th/7th Battalion for the week. The energy, enthusiasm and stories of actions past provided us with sense of pride in what the Tiger Battalion represents. The effort of past veterans to travel to Darwin was brilliant (with some travelling over 3000km to be here); and we will look to build on this again next year and make it even better.

I must also extend my gratitude to MAJGEN Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC for reviewing the Binh Ba Parade at the Darwin Cenotaph; and MAJGEN Caughey AM, CSC, the COL COMDT of the Royal Australian Regiment for hosting the parade. We were also fortunate that our Infantry Head of Corps, BRIG Mick Garraway AM, CSC and Corps RSM, WO1 Rob Munro (former RSM 5 RAR) for their attendance. Ultimately, the week could not have got off the ground without the current RSM, WO1 Sean Casey's tireless work.

With everything the Tigers have already achieved this year, there is no slowing down – and as always these men and women of the Tiger Battalion continue to represent the Battalion, the RAR, the 1st Brigade and the Army outstandingly. We look forward to having a busy 2023, as we continue our security cooperation activities and training in the Darwin region. Most importantly, I look forward to maintaining our relationship with the Welsh Guards and, should our operations have us serving together in the same area, I hope that we can affect marry up and continue to build the relationship with our partner Battalion.

Duty First.



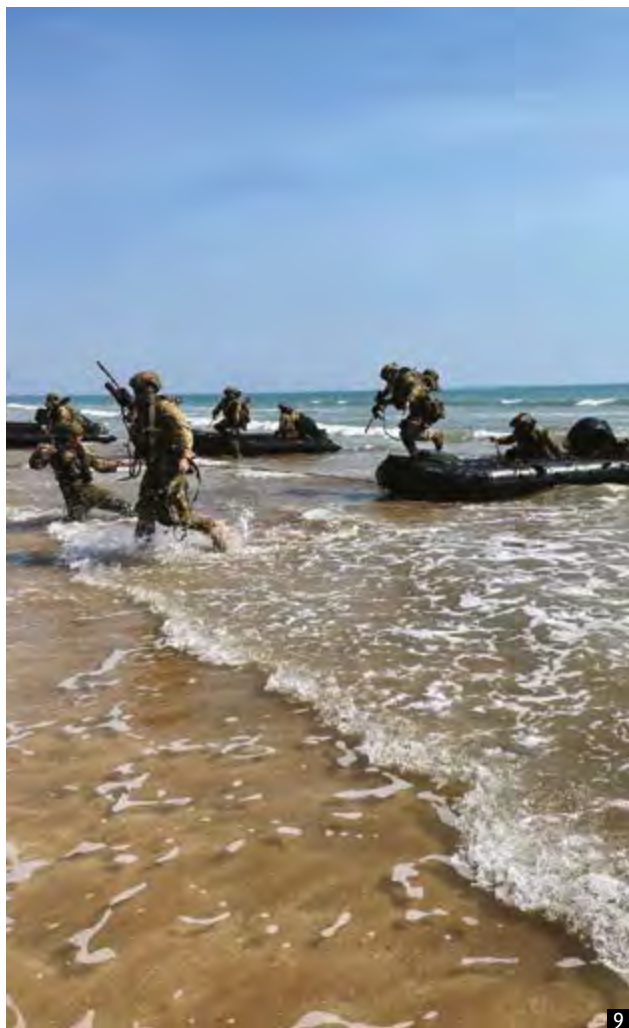
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1. LTCOL Chris Gilmore, Commanding Officer of 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
2. Soldiers from Reconnaissance and Snipers Platoon Conducting an Urban Clearance in the Tigers Den. The facility has been upgraded in 2022, allowing teams to construct custom floorplans for clearances using Non-Lethal Training Ammunition such as Paint (Simunition) or Airsoft. Opposed, reality-based training has become a core part of routine barracks training, with creative and demanding activities regularly planned and executed by our Battalions junior leaders.
3. Soldiers from Charlie Company supporting the evacuation of elderly members of the community as part of a Defence wide response to flooding on Australia's East Coast. OP FLOOD ASSIST saw soldiers on short notice deploy from Darwin to a number of different regions in Queensland and New South Wales.
4. Soldiers from Bravo Company instruct members of the AFOP whilst deployed to the Joint Australian Training Team – Philippines. A contingent of 5 RAR soldiers trained a number of units at Fort Magsaysay in Combat Shooting, Urban Tactics and Explosive Breaching.
5. 5RAR Soldiers conducting a littoral insertion aboard F470 Zodiac during Ex TIGERS RUN. The craft have been primarily operated by ASCO qualified soldiers from Charlie Company, supporting 5 RAR and 1st Brigade soldiers on multiple training exercises in 2022.
6. Soldiers conducting a CASEVAC as part of the 5 RAR Section Competition. The competition, known as Kennedy's Cup, involved shooting assessments, force on force urban clearances, navigation, simulated call for fire, CASEVAC and a physical fitness assessment. The champion section was 63D from Reconnaissance and Snipers Platoon, commanded by CPL Lincoln Goldspink.
7. Charlie Company soldiers preparing to board a US Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter as part of Exercise GARUDA SHIELD. Airmobile operations and Jungle Warfighting formed the core of the multinational exercise which took place in Indonesia this year.
8. MAJGEN Jake Ellwood pinning battle honours from East Timor and Iraq to the Battalions Regimental Colours during a Beating Retreat parade at Darwin Cenotaph. The parade was the culminating event of a busy Binh Ba Week.
9. 5RAR Soldiers conducting a littoral insertion aboard F470 Zodiac during Ex TIGERS RUN. The craft have been primarily operated by ASCO qualified soldiers from Charlie Company, supporting 5 RAR and 1st Brigade soldiers on multiple training exercises in 2022.
10. LT Collingwood and CFN Gallacher compete in the units Fight Night. Soldiers and Officers of the Battalion gathered in the Gary Holmes Club to watch men and women from 5 RAR duke it out to be crowned champion of their weight division.



HMS PRINCE OF WALES

by Lieutenant Commander Kevin Roffey Royal Navy, Senior Air Engineer

2022 has been a varied and busy year for HMS PRINCE OF WALES. Operating areas have ranged from the cold of the high north to the heat of the Mediterranean. The ship achieved the milestone of its 1000th deck landing, conducted by a Royal Air Force Chinook of 27 Squadron. Notable visitors to HMS PRINCE OF WALES during 2022 have included our Lady Sponsor HM The Queen Consort (in her former capacity as HRH Duchess of Cornwall); the Secretary of State for Defence The Right Honourable Ben Wallace MP; and Honorary Colonel of the Royal Marines Bear Grylls OBE. At sea and alongside, the ship's company train continually to ensure they are ready to respond to a range of emergencies, including fire, flood, armed attack, and aviation incidents.



On New Year's Day, HMS PRINCE OF WALES assumed the role of the NATO Afloat Command Platform for the maritime element of the NATO High-Readiness Force. A ceremony was held onboard attended by Defence Attachés from across our NATO allies.

From February to April, HMS PRINCE OF WALES was at sea working up for, and participating in, Exercise COLD

RESPONSE 22, the largest NATO exercise in the Arctic in 30 years involving around 35,000 troops from 28 nations operating over land, sea and air. As the Afloat Command Platform, HMS PRINCE OF WALES led the NATO task group of 19 ships from the UK and partner nations, coordinating anti-submarine exercises and amphibious landings. Hundreds of landings to our flight deck were

achieved by 820 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) Merlin Mk2, 815 NAS Wildcat, and NATO aircraft including US Marine Corps (USMC) MV-22 Osprey and CH-53E Super Stallion. The ship accomplished its first foreign port visit to Reykjavik, where the ship's company were able to explore the city, and take the opportunity to strengthen UK Defence relationships with Iceland.

On departing Iceland, the ship sailed above the final resting place of HMS HOOD; sunk in 1941 as a result of action against the German battleship BISMARCK with the loss of 1,415 lives and only 3 survivors. A memorial service was held by the ship's company, during which a wreath was committed to the sea by our youngest sailor, aged 17 ^{3/4}, and one of our sailors whose great



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grandfather was lost at sea in the sinking of HMS HOOD.

Afterwards, and a first for a Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carrier, HMS PRINCE OF WALES sailed inside the Arctic Circle within 900 miles of the North Pole. This allowed the ship to expand the envelope of UK carrier operations through extensive trials to assess the performance of our complex marine engineering, weapon engineering, and flight deck systems in the inhospitable Arctic conditions. Operating in one of the world's harshest environments, with wind chill as low as -23 degrees C, demanded adaptations to cope with nature including snow and ice on the flight deck, requiring the sailors to develop new procedures to clear the "runway" using a snowplough, de-icer pumps and lots of manual spade work.

On 23 May, Captain Richard Hewitt OBE Royal Navy took command of HMS PRINCE OF WALES and in June the ship's company enjoyed a 'street party' on the flight deck, at sea, to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee before sailing south to the Mediterranean region. With

four Merlin Mk2 of 820 NAS embarked, the ship took part in FLOTEX, a multi-national exercise off the Spanish coast, which was an opportunity to develop operational procedures with partner nations.

Following time alongside in HM Naval Base Portsmouth for essential maintenance and some well-earned leave, the ship sailed in late August bound for the USA for capability-enhancing aviation trials. Unfortunately, the ship experienced a defect with its starboard propeller shaft which necessitated a return to Portsmouth. With poignant timing, this meant 400 members of the ship's company were honoured to be able to represent the Royal Navy by providing support to the Greater London Authority for the state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

With the ship preparing for an unscheduled period in dry-dock in Scotland for repairs, the ship's company of HMS PRINCE OF WALES is now looking forward to a renewed operational programme in early 2023.



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1. *The Northern Lights over the flight deck of HMS PRINCE OF WALES during EX COLD RESPONSE*
2. *HMS PRINCE OF WALES leading the NATO Task Group during EX COLD RESPONSE*
3. *USMC CH-53E Super Stallion conducting a deck landing during EX COLD RESPONSE 22.*
4. *Live fire training of upper deck force protection personnel*
5. *Force protection during a port visit to Reykjavik during EX COLD RESPONSE*
6. *Firefighting continuation training*
7. *Inside the Arctic Circle, members of the Ship's Company gather on the flight deck*



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Welsh Guards Commissioned Paintings

by Major Carl Taylor

On 25 March 2021, the Welsh Guards Regimental Trustees held a meeting and on the agenda was the subject of paintings. Major General Richard Stanford CB MBE, then Chairman of Trustees, put forward a proposal that a painting should be commissioned of any Welsh Guardsman that holds the prestigious rank of Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) and an appointment listed in Group (i), which is the highest Non-Commissioned Officer rank in the Army. WO1 Billy Mott OBE MVO fell into this category in his role as Garrison Sergeant Major, (GSM) London District. His commissioned painting was unveiled on St David's Day 2008 and hangs proudly in the Battalion Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

More recently the Academy Sergeant Major (AcSM), WO1 Carl Taylor and Home Command, Command Sergeant Major (HC ComdSM), WO1 Dean Morgan were appointed into positions within the 'Group (i)' category, therefore, the Regimental Trustees wanted to commission a painting to mark the Welsh Guards representation in these prestigious roles.

For those that are not aware of the Warrant Officer classifications, the following extract is taken from Queen's Regulations for the Army 1975, Amdt 37, May 2019, Chapter 9 para 9.169 stating the Warrant Officer – class 1, group (i) appointments.

The Welsh Guards Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tom Bonas, on behalf of the Regimental

Trustees, contacted the Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 Dan Cope for approval of the paintings to be commissioned for presentation to the Mess. Needless to say, the Sarn't Major was delight and happy to oblige.

Mr Nicholas J Smith, the critically acclaimed portrait artist known for producing highly realistic

and meticulously crafted oil paintings for both private commission and public collections was highly recommended to take on this project and on 31 March 2021 Carl contacted Nicholas about the project and arranged the first sitting on 02 August 2021. Nicholas was hosted by Carl at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) where he had a tour of the Academy to

develop understanding and talk through the process of the project.

Originally, the painting was going to be of AcSM WO1 Carl Taylor in front of a set of Regimental Colours, or Sandhurst Colours. However, all AcSM's have had their photograph taken on appointment with the incredible backdrop of Old College, this would put context to the portrait and the appointment held. This was proposed to Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) and given the go ahead. As the second ever Welsh Guards AcSM to take on the role and the first Late Entry Officer to march up the steps of Old College, this picture hangs proudly in Academy Headquarters and in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at RMAS with every other AcSM.

The image below was the starting point.



Although the original picture is impressive, to capture some of the history and add to the prestige of the appointment there are nine subtle but important historic and personal factors that were incorporated into this piece:

1. The Flag.

On top of Old College is the Union Flag which is always flying, it is only changed when The Sovereign is taking a parade and will bear the Royal Standard.

2.The Gods.

Above the Grand Entrance to Old College the prostyle hexastyle portico carries a pediment that bears a roundel of the monogram of King George III flanked by Mars and Minerva, the ancient gods of War and Wisdom. These gods are there as a reminder to all newly commissioned officers as they march up the steps.

9.169. Warrant Officers.

Rank	Group	Appointment
Warrant Officer - class 1	(i)	The Army Command Sergeant Major Command Sergeant Majors (To include both the Royal Artillery Sergeant Major and the Academy Sergeant Major, RMAS) Garrison Sergeant Major London District Conductor, RLC
	(ii)	Master Gunner, RA
	(iii)	Garrison Sergeant Major (except London District)
	(iv)	Regimental Corporal Major Regimental Sergeant Major Bandmaster Staff Sergeant Major, RLC or AGC(SPS) Sergeant Major Any other appointment on the establishment of a unit or corps carrying the rank of warrant officer, class 1, eg. Artillery Sergeant Major, Superintending draughtsman

3. The Gun.

The 'Waterloo Guns' in front of Old College are proudly displayed and consist of French 12 pounders captured at Waterloo, and British 6 pounders used for training.

4.The Red Post Box.

Situated at the side of the steps is a red post box that forms part of the administration side of Old College.

5. Sword.

The AcSM has a dedicated sword donated by Robert Pooley from Pooley Swords Ltd. It is kept on display in Academy HQ and carried by the AcSM on every parade.

6. Pacestick.

The pacestick in the portrait is the one Carl used as a Colour Sergeant Instructor when he was at the academy in 2008, he went on to become a Company Sergeant Major at the Academy in 2012. He worked as a Ceremonial Advisor to the Royal Hashemite Court in Jordan in 2014 and helped establish the Jordanian Pacesticking Team. He was Regimental Sergeant Major of the Welsh Guards in 2016 and then the AcSM in 2017, a brass plaque on the pacestick is inscribed with these two positions and their dates. This pacestick has huge sentimental

value and the screw that holds the two legs together bears the crown of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Carl donated this with the entire AcSM uniform and accoutrements to RHQ for the Welsh Guards Museum on completion of the appointment.

7. Old College Frame.

The choice of frame was a subject of discussion and just as important as the portrait, originally set as gold to match the GSM's frame but given the historic background of the painting and the artists recommendation, a black frame was chosen to compliment the look of the portrait and is also Old College colours. The frame is historically correct and compliments the portrait in the context of RMAS.

8. Hall Porter.

Those that have been to Old College at RMAS will have known that a hall porter looks after the upkeep of the building, they uphold the standards, discipline, and history that the Academy prides itself on. Mr John Archibald has been the hall porter for over 30 years, he received the Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2022 New Year's honours list for his services and is the very fabric of Old College, a careful



eye can spot him captured in the doorway of Old College Grand Entrance overlooking the parade ground.

9. The Cap Badge.

Although Carl is a Welsh Guardsman, as the AcSM he wears the capbadge of RMAS with the motto 'Serve to Lead' and is the only member of permanent staff to do so. There is no affiliation to Welsh Guards in his uniform as he represents the Academy. You will notice buttons are also RMAS crested, and the buff belt buckle is General Service.

ON the left is the finished painting incorporating all the above.

With the initial contact made to Nicholas on 31 March 2021, and the first sitting taking place on 03 August 2021, the project took just over 4 months to complete and was delivered to RHQ on 08 December 2021. The painting was later unveiled on St David's Day 2022 in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Cavalry Barracks, Windsor with the AcSM (now Major Carl Taylor) and the Portrait Artist, Nicholas J Smith (see photo on left), hosted by the Regimental Sergeant Major, members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, and the Welsh Guards Association.





The Army School of Ceremonial

by Captain Michael Little Scots Guards, Officer Commanding

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A Ceremonial parade, provides an occasion to express pride in performance, pride in Regiment or Corps and pride in the profession of Arms

On a bright Spring afternoon, the sound of boots crunching on gravel accompanied by a series of emotionally charged, but sombre musical pieces, set the stage for an event that would pay tribute to a life dedicated to service and unite the Country in what had been a fraught, turbulent pandemic year.

Against the immaculate green of Windsor Castle Quadrangle, the Armed Forces were fully represented. Alongside the stirring sound of the bag pipes, mass of the Corps of Drums and the significance of a Tri-Service synchronised display lowering arms in respect as the coffin of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh emerged, all demonstrating a unified, proud nation not drawn into chaos due to the restraints of Coronavirus.

Drumming was the primary means of communication on

the battlefield until the turn of the Century, regulating routine and commands to soldiers drilled to react to orders in and enforce discipline. Whilst modern warfare relies on integrated communications, a drummer today has a direct combat role such as Assault Pioneer or Machine Gunner, but the principles that ceremonial activity provide remain and Infantry Musicians are regularly called upon to regenerate routine and esprit de corps.



Ceremonial activity is intrinsic to the UK's international influence, there is an expectation of ceremony associated with British culture, as described within, House of Lords – Persuasion and Power in the Modern World (2020). British ceremony conjures a familiar image of streets lined by armed soldiers, horses, and marching bands. All aimed at presenting a welcoming, diplomatic, organised, and capable partner as further detailed by House of Lords (2019).

The lineage to achieving these influential events begins with an understanding of their importance and processes. Soldiers are trained in the art of delivering ceremonial activity at the Army School of Ceremonial (ASC) in Catterick, after which they cascade the training across the Army.

The ASC consists of a drill and drumming wing, each led by a WO1, within the Infantry Training Centre (ITC). The drill wing is similar to that most readers can relate to from



Pirbright, training NCOs to become drill instructors and the drumming wing taking Infantry soldiers from scratch to produce drummers, buglers and flautists to Corps of Drums and Rifles Bugles Platoons.

Courses run all year, with eight two-week basic drill and two three-week advanced drill instructors, learning funeral, colour, and sword drill. The basic drummer runs twice a year

over 16 weeks (currently in review to shorten) and one two-week advanced drummer course.

As well as the regular course output, the ASC support all ceremonial activity across Defence and partners, be that a death in service, bespoke parade training or overseas support, most recently in Kuwait supporting the Officer Cadets commissioning parade.

The process of gathering soldiers together to produce a synchronised parade also serves a cognitive purpose to generate Oxytocin within the brain, in a similar way completing a marathon or other achievement sparks a sense of pride and creates cohesion in the team's success. For soldiers in training this provides a valuable base to forge a unit, generate ethos, instil pride, professionalism and ultimately increase the standard of output.

brain cells react by changing shape, cells ignite with such force that a hard wiring of the memory and the emotion occur. This experience is then stored and triggered on hearing associated music, perhaps similarly to the way smell or colour does.

As well as supporting unit cohesion and inspiring success, ceremonial activity can change behaviour directly influence decision making. Other nations present the full force of their Defence capability by way of a Presidential Review, missile carriers, tanks, and synchronised marching soldier's parade down main streets to masses of seemingly supportive cheers and waves in front of a head of state. All generating national support but also deterring likely opportunists or aggressors. On a more subtle scale, the UK demonstrates a similar effect through ceremonial visits from foreign heads of states accompanied by capability demonstrations, amplifying





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a worthy partner with an armed force ready for action.

Ceremonial processes “bookend” an operational deployment, with rehearsals, training, preparation, re-role or beret parades, thereafter welcome home, and medal parades, all generating cohesiveness which serves the delivery of output on operations.

Preparation- Soldiers conduct initial, subsequent trade and

mission specific training. All focused on giving skills, confidence, discipline, and team cohesion. Training to react to situations and orders in a process simplified on the drill square. The culmination of training would see a parade of sorts congratulating soldiers on meeting the standard, supported by regimental music, further bonding the team. The unit may parade during a resubordination (beret changing) parade

clearly defining the unit’s role, its commander and mission.

Deployment- the training in preparation supports performance during the operational commitment. Although the ceremonial aspects are more intertwined throughout a soldier’s career, to give confidence in ability and the team during periods of high tension and decision making. Ceremonial forms the glue to unite a team under its insignia, cap badge, banner, regimental motto or musical march. All with the aim to define the units’ mission and give confidence in each-other.

Post deployment- in theatre a flag changing ceremony would signify the end of a commitment accompanied by bugle calls and formation parade. The immediate return of troops, would see a well routined unit through post operational administration, return to barracks march in with musical support observed by families and a

medal parade. All supporting the success, recognition of the team and confidence.

The use of ceremonial effect, in these three stages of operational commitments or defence of the realm clearly defines its use in today’s Army.

As the House of Lords (2019) describes, imperialism is in the past, the UK must prove its value in other ways such as aid and assistance, but also demonstrating its Armed Forces capability as a deterrent and ally. The soft power influence of ceremonial duties requires a depth of understanding and parity across the Army, education and empowerment at a lower level is one method to achieving this.

1. *Op FORTH BRIDGE*
2. *Advanced Drill Course – Pace Sticks*
3. *ASC training team in Kuwait*
4. *The Guards of Honour Salute*
5. *Kuwait parade training team*
6. *Advanced Drill Course – Colours*



The Veterans Awards 2022
Rewarding Veterans, Serving Reservists and those Companies that provide Support
in the areas of Business, Fitness, Sport and the Wider Community

Welsh Guards Winners 2022



Lifetime Achievement

Winner – Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Davies OBE, Welsh
 Guards Veteran
 (Presented by Simon Ellis of Hugh James Law Firm)



Contribution to the Scottish Fitness Industry and Society

Winner – (30043600) Gavin Bilton, Welsh Guards veteran
 (Presented by Angela Windsor of Print Inc Embroidery & Print)



The Community Award

Silver – (24577415) Paul Bromwell, Welsh Guards Veteran
 Chief Executive of Valley Veterans
 (Mrs Sian Bromwell accepted the award on behalf of her
 husband)



**Entrepreneur of the Year & Veteran Owned Business
 of the Year**

Silver – (24901419) Michael Smith, Welsh Guards Veteran
 (Presented by Clive Hamilton of Pinnacle Complete Office
 Solutions)



LIEUTENANT COLONEL TONY DAVIES OBE

Welsh Veterans Awards - Lifetime Achievement

The following is the citation submitted in consideration for Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE (affectionately known as 22 by the entire Regiment) to be awarded the prestigious Welsh Veterans Lifetime Achievement Award:

Tony Davies has served the Crown, his Country and wider community for an extraordinary 60 plus years. The positive impact he has had and continues to have on the Serving and Ex-Service community has been immeasurable. Joining the Army as a boy soldier in 1961, he had a full career serving with distinction for an incredible 32 years throughout the world with the Welsh Guards and Royal Regiment of Wales. As the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) during the Falklands War, he was awarded the MBE for conspicuous service in November 1982 and then commissioned shortly afterwards.

He retired from the Regular

Army in 1993 and took up the post of Welsh Brigade Quartermaster (Territorial Army (TA)) in 1997, after which he took over the office of Camp Commandant showing enthusiasm, commitment and motivation in all matters. Throughout that period, he demonstrated professionalism and excellence resulting in him being selected as Quartermaster for the Queens Golden Jubilee celebrations in London. In this post he ensured all logistical operations were run with efficiency, expertise and had the welfare of the soldier at the heart of his mindset, whilst enabling the Armed Forces to play their key part in the celebration. Through his flexibility, attention to detail, creativity and collaborative approach, he ensured those involved were able to give of their best which resulted in a highly successful Golden Jubilee celebration befitting the Queen's extraordinary reign.

Alongside his TA duties, in 1993 Tony was employed by The Royal British Legion (RBL) as one of the very first County Field Officers. As this was a completely new and innovative way of operating at the time, it led to some significant tensions, which could have resulted in those that needed the support not getting it. With great tact, diplomacy, charm and hard work he quickly turned around a potentially volatile situation to a productive and supportive environment. After 3 years, he was then promoted to the Regional Manager for Wales and Ireland. He quickly and effectively established a presence across the areas he was responsible for, ensuring individuals that needed help were getting the best support package they could.

After 6 years of helping thousands of beneficiaries, many in very difficult circumstances, he moved to become the Head of

the Poppy Appeal. With his trademark enthusiasm, drive, persuasion, and passion, he grew the appeal from £18.77 million in 1999 to £21.46 million when he finished in 2001. This increase in funds directly enabled the organisation to help thousands of additional beneficiaries worldwide needing help. Even when he left the RBL as a member of staff in 2002, he became the Volunteer Chairperson to Mais House, which is one of the Legion's Care Homes. For 3 years he dedicated himself to making sure our most vulnerable Veterans were provided with the highest quality of care.

He then joined The Union Jack Club in 2002 as first the Deputy Chief Executive and was then promoted to the Chief Executive. It would be fair to say that through his leadership, hard work and wanting the best for the Serving and the Ex-Service community, he completely



6

transformed the fortunes of the Club and member experience. He oversaw a comprehensive redecoration, review of staff conditions and enhanced the member offer. Included in this was a much-improved employee offer encompassing such things as a pension scheme for the first time in the Club's history. In conjunction with this, was a focus at recruiting and re-training Veterans in hospitality at all levels of the club to live and breath the

values of the community it serves. The net result of this was to increase occupancy to an

average of 85% and turn the club to profit making for the first time in many years benefitting tens of thousands of the Armed Forces community during his tenure. For his service to that community, he was awarded the OBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours List on his retirement.

In tandem with the above, Tony was one of the Founding Members of South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 (SAMA 82) serving as both Treasurer from 2007 - 2010 and then as the Chairperson. He is now a Life Vice President. In addition to this, he helped set up and is currently the Chairperson of the Falklands Veterans Foundation (FVF). Initially set up to support the 20th Anniversary Reunion, this then became a charity in

2002 building a reputation as the go to organisation for pilgrimages to the Falkland Islands, reconciliation, education and therapy for Veterans of the Falklands War. Tony greatly assisted in raising funds for the building of Liberty Lodge in the Falkland Islands, a quiet and tranquil accommodation for Veterans to stay during their Pilgrimage. Over the years Tony has been central in leading the direction of the charity whilst fundraising to support its work. This has enabled thousands of Veterans, Serving Personnel and family members to return to the Falkland Islands or participate in activities connected to the War.

In his spare time, Tony is the President of Welsh Guards Reunited Branch of the Welsh Guards Association, a member only worldwide online channel that thousands of Veterans remain connected and supported via a virtual platform. Through this he



7

continues to support ex-Guardsman and their families by frequently signposting and facilitating help via ex-Service charities. This year, the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War, he has been an advisor to the Welsh Government for an event being held in Llandaff Cathedral to commemorate the part played by all Welsh Service Personnel. In this role he draws from a life of ceremonial duties and service planning the commemoration service, meeting dignitaries and introducing the roll for the First Minister of Wales.

As if not busy enough, he has also just taken up the presidency of the Household Division Late Entry (LE) Officers Association. This association provides shared experience, networking and comradeship for LE

Officer Veterans of the Household Division. Lastly and by no means least, he is a committed, active and supportive part of an extensive network of family and friends, whilst squeezing in some time gardening alongside his equally incredible wife Beverley.

In summary, Tony's leadership, humility, kindness and positive impact on the Armed Forces community has to date positively life changing impact on tens of thousands of individuals.

His wide-ranging professional achievements both briefly mentioned above speak for themselves. He is a selfless mentor, teacher and trainer that has shaped a generation of Officers and Soldiers and then leaders, managers, staff and volunteers in the civilian

world. His diplomacy, tact and forgiveness has helped heal the scars of conflict of both British and Argentinian Veterans. However, his real impact whilst serving his Queen and Country are his compassion, respect and generosity to his fellow human being. He is the very best of us, has service coursing through his veins and is an example to all around him. This submission hopefully articulates the reason why it is believed he is a worthy recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Welsh Veterans Awards

5. *Lieutenant Colonel A J Davies OBE and Mrs Beverley Davies, flanked by members of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. From left to right; Drill Sergeant D Evans 31, Warrant Officer Class 2 J Thomas 90, Warrant Officer Class 2 S Marsh and Sergeant W Lewis 88*
6. *Sean Molino.*
- 7&8 *Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE*





Life at the Army Training Regiment Winchester
(A long-awaited return to somewhere I have fond memories)

by Warrant Officer Class Two (Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant) D Lewis

I was previously posted into the Army Training Regiment Winchester, ATR(W) as a Section Commander from 2010 to 2012 and, having had an amazing time in the Regiment, with great memories of time spent with my wife and friends in Winchester, I always hoped I would get an opportunity to return.

There have been several Welsh Guardsmen that have followed in my footsteps, who have all left a good impression of the Battalion. The Civil Servants who have been here for many years, always ask "how is LSgt xxx?" with a smile on their face and a story to tell. Very much like Battalion, there is a family feel to ATR(W) and I believe those members of the Battalion listed below, having been here also, would agree.

CSgt Cummins
Sgt Shapland
LCpl Morris 41
LSgt Millins

The last 12 months has seen ATR(W) continue to deliver the Common Military Syllabus Senior Entry, host a Royal visit, conduct a number of overseas sporting events and undertake adventurous training also.

Unfortunately, we were also informed that Sir John Moore Barracks, ATR(W) will close in 2026.

During the Royal visit I had the opportunity to act as the Regimental Sergeant Major due to a delayed HOTO period

of 7 weeks. This meant having the responsibility of assisting in the delivery, planning and hosting The Princess Royal, Princess Anne. I was also privileged to host the Princess Royal as the senior member of the Warrant Officer' and Sergeant' Mess.

The experiences I had gained whilst being the Drill Sergeant in the Battalion meant that The Princess Royal and ATR(W) had a wonderful day.

The ATR(W) triathlon team have provided 12 of its members with the amazing





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opportunity to train together at Club la Santa, Lanzarote, and to compete in the Volcanic Olympic Distance Triathlon. A great experience was had by all and I intend to run the same trip again in 2023. Due to the success of the trip, we now have a team of 7 triathletes that regularly attend Army Triathlon Association (ATA) events on behalf of ATR(W). Knowing there are a few keen triathletes in the Battalion I look forward to racing against them whilst posted, as it gives me the opportunity to see fellow Welsh Guardsmen enjoying the ATA events.

1. RQMS Lewis accompanying HRH The Princess Royal during her visit.
2. HRH The Princess Royal presenting awards during the Passing Off parade.
3. The ATR Winchester team at the Club La Santa Volcano Triathlon.
4. Spinning through the gears on the 40km bike ride.



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My Welsh Guards Medal Collection

by Dave Martin (24623872)

served as a Welsh Guardsman for five years, having started basic training in Sept 82 at the Guards Depot, Pirbright in an all-Welsh Guards platoon – sadly a platoon bolstered in numbers to act as replacements for the horrific regimental losses in the Falklands Islands. On completion of training in 83 I walked less than a mile up the road to Elizabeth Barracks and joined 3 Platoon, The Prince of Wales's Company (POWs Coy) and immediately started on the ceremonial duties' treadmill which was interrupted in Sept 83 by a five-week exercise in Cyprus, Ex MOONBASE.



In early 1984 the Battalion then moved to Campbell Barracks, Hohne, West Germany where we seemed to be constantly either on exercise, preparing to go on exercise or recovering from exercise – we spent very little time in barracks and in 1985, after completing the All-Arms Clerks Course at Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut I moved to work in Battalion Headquarters. I was attached back to my old company, POWs Coy in Mar 86, for the six-month tour of West Belfast and I left the army in the summer of 87 after 5 years' service.

collecting Grenadier Guards medals! As we know, the Welsh Guards were formed relatively recently, in medal collecting terms, in 1915, so collecting medals awarded to Grenadier Guardsmen gave the hobby a broader scope. I still own Grenadier Guards medals from all periods from the Peninsular Wars to modern campaigns - a 200-year time span.

Having only a single battalion in the Great War, Welsh Guards World War 1 (WW1) medals are relatively scarce. Guardsmen who landed in France in 1915, with the original battalion, earned three medals, affectionately referred to as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred", they are the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal - all of these are named. I own several 1914-15 Star trios to men who were killed in action, died of wounds, or who were wounded and one group to a Prisoner of War (there were only 27 Welsh Guardsman captured in the Great War). If a soldier was killed, his next of kin would receive their medals, a named bronze death plaque and a named memorial scroll.



My interest in collecting military medals dates back over thirty years and stems from me having my late father's Police Long Service Medal and two-family groups of medals, from the First and Second World Wars. Collecting is not just about owning the medals, it's as much about researching the human story behind them, finding out about the men, the battles in which they fought and how they won their medals.

As a Welsh Guardsman it may seem strange, but I started

From the end of WW1 until the start of World War 2 (WW2) there were no campaign medals issued to the Welsh Guards. Unlike the Great War, where all issued medals were named, WW2 medals were issued unnamed. To the medal collector this creates a bit of a dilemma as WW2 medals were hard earned, but most soldiers simply received the unnamed medals, which of course are unattributable, although many do still have the original paperwork, or an addressed medal box.

I only collect Welsh Guards WW2 medals that are accompanied by an additional "named" medal and this medal is usually a General Service Medal (GSM) with the Palestine 1945-48 clasp. My aim is to own a Welsh Guards WW2 group containing a Military Medal (MM), but I have never seen one for sale – but will continue to look.

One of my prized WW2 medal groups is to a Welsh Guardsman captured at Boulogne with the 2nd Battalion in May 1940. Having endured five years of captivity, you would think he would want to be demobbed. Instead he opted to re-enlist and served with the 1st Battalion in Palestine, earning a GSM with the Palestine 1945-48 clasp. He was discharged in 1950.

A composite company of Welsh Guardsmen served in Cyprus during the conflict in the 1950s, attached to 1st Battalion Irish Guards, earning a GSM with the Cyprus clasp. Also in the 1950s, the Welsh Guards were deployed to guard the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt and although no medal was issued at the time, some fifty

years after the event, in 2003, a retrospective GSM with the Canal Zone clasp was issued. The medal had to be applied for by the soldier or his next of kin. Men who had already earned a GSM, usually with the Palestine 1945-48 clasp, simply received the Canal Zone clasp to attach to their existing GSM.

In the mid 1960s the Welsh Guards were in action in Aden. It was an active tour and there were several gallantry medals awarded. The men earned the GSM 1962, more commonly known as the Campaign Service Medal (CSM), with the South Arabia clasp.

More recently Welsh Guardsmen have taken part in medal earning campaigns in Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and various other UN deployments and some people may ask why servicemen and women sell their medals? There are all kinds of reasons, and not all necessarily financial. In the case of a sole Northern Ireland medal, they really are not that expensive. I would expect that many Welsh Guardsmen who served in my era and who take an interest, have seen Falklands medals for sale. I must have seen around thirty, many to men that I knew personally.

I will give a couple of examples of the medals in my collection and the details available which help build a picture of the recipient.

My **Guardsman (No 1005) Selby George Jones** group includes his 1914-15 Star trio of medals, death plaque, memorial scroll, photographs, letters from his comrades and many original documents. One of the letters

shows that he was a Lewis gunner, an obvious target for German fire. The collection also includes Jones' Soldiers' Small Book, a personal record of a soldiers' details, some written in Jones' own hand. This would normally be carried by the soldier, but was probably left behind in pack equipment, before moving up to the front line.

Selby Jones married Sarah Watkins in Newport in February 1914 and their daughter, Thelma, was born in Chepstow a year later. He enlisted into the Grenadier Guards on 4th January 1915 in Newport, before the formation of the Welsh Guards, and transferred into the newly formed regiment the day after their formation, on 27th February 1915. He was 21 years old, a fireman by trade and resided with his family in Caldicot, a market town located between the old and new Severn bridges.

He landed in Havre, France, with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards on the morning of 18th August 1915. They were part of the 1st Guards Brigade within the Guards Division. Their first major action was during the Battle of Loos in September 1915; the battle is noteworthy as poison gas was used for the first time by the British. During the next year there were smaller actions, training and the routine of life in the trenches.

A postcard, signed by Selby on 5th September 1916 and sent on 7th September, tells, in sparse detail, how he was well and had received a parcel from home. His family were given the briefest idea of how he was. But he was at least safe. A few days later this would change. The Battle of Ginchy (referred to sometimes as Quinchy) took place on 9-10 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme and involved the capture of the German held village.



It was a bloody fight which saw the Welsh Guards suffer 205 casualties, including Jones, who was reported missing on 10th September 1916. He had been killed in action on that day, but his body was never found (he would be later commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial on The Somme).

Sergeant O Ashford (No 24) of the Welsh Guards wrote from The Northern General Hospital in Newcastle on 28th March 1917: "I last saw Jones going back wounded from our trenches at Quinchy on September 10th. He was hit in the arm, and had I think a rough field dressing on, and as he was missing, I am afraid must almost certainly have been hit before he reached the dressing station."

Private W Johnson (No 1568),

Number 2 Platoon, Prince of Wales Company, wrote on 25th April 1917: "The information with reference to Pte S G Jones is that he was in Corporal J Farley's Lewis Gun Team and that the last I saw of him was when he was alive and well in action on 10th September 1916 since when I have heard or seen nothing of him."

Sergeant O Ashford later won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Private Johnson the Military Medal and Corporal Farley, from Aberdare, in charge of the Lewis Gun team, was killed in action on 16th September 1916 – a few days after Jones' death.

Further letters show Sarah's desperate search for information on the fate of her husband. A letter from the Ministry of Pensions tells



Mrs Jones that her separation allowance will cease on the 20th May 1917 and that she had been awarded a pension of 13 shillings and ninepence a week and an allowance of 5 shillings per week for her daughter Thelma, with effect from 21st May 1917. It adds: "The change in payment must not be taken as indicating that there is any proof of the death of your husband."

August 1917 brings a further letter to Garden Cottages, Westend in Caldicot for Sarah Jones, saying bleakly: "nothing further has been heard of Private Jones. As he has not been traced as a prisoner of war, and in view of the lapse of time, it is feared that he cannot have survived."

A letter of 9th October 1917 reads: "that it is not possible to hold out any hope that Private Jones can have survived, his case will now be considered with a view to the acceptance of his death for official purposes." By 1921, more documents arrived on the doormat of Garden Cottages with the medals earned by Private Jones: the 1915 Star and the British War and Victory medals. The memorial plaque and scroll would follow. The fate of Jones' widow is not known, but many war widows remarried. Their daughter,

Thema, married in Bath in 1935, settled in Plymouth and had many children.

My extensive Selby George Jones collection tells a poignant story of a tragedy which was played out across the country far too commonly.

In complete contrast to the Jones collection, I am fortunate enough to own the medals to **Lieutenant Colonel Newton Webb-Bowen**. Some readers may have known him, he was Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Welsh Guards for just over two years, from January 1968, and was Second in Command for the Aden tour in the mid 1960s.

During his service he earned the Campaign Service Medal with the South Arabia clasp and the Elizabeth II Coronation Medal - these are court mounted, as worn. Sometime after 2003, his next of kin applied for the General Service Medal with the Canal Zone clasp. As previously stated, this was a retrospective medal, given for service in Suez Canal Zone in Egypt in the 1950s. This medal is still in the box of issue and was never mounted with the other medals.

Senior officers' medals are hard to come by, but are easier to research. Webb-Bowen's



obituary appeared in the Guards Magazine, so details of his civilian life are also known.

Lieutenant Colonel Webb-Bowen was born in London in 1928, the son of Air Vice Marshal Sir Tom Webb-Bowen of Haverfordwest, who was one of the first officers of the Royal Air Force on its creation in 1918. He received a private education, later attending Cambridge, and was called up for National Service in 1948. He was selected as the best Officer Cadet and awarded the Sword of Honour by His Majesty The King at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in July 1948 and was commissioned into the Welsh Guards as a Second Lieutenant on 20th August 1948. He took part in the first Trooping the Colour since the Second World War on 9th June 1949, where he bore the Regiment's new Colour presented by His Majesty The King.

As with many officers, he was away from the 1st Battalion for much of his career. He was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in November 1952 in Berlin (he combined an eye for detail with the ability to put a name to a face and was thus able to identify the man on parade who fell below his own high standards). He became Regimental Adjutant in 1962 after attending the Staff College and in 1964 he returned to the 1st Battalion as Second in Command. The Household Brigade Magazine of Spring 1965, which details the funeral of Winston Churchill, lists Major Webb-Bowen as one of the six Welsh Guards officers on duty at the lying in state, and also as the officer commanding the Welsh Guards marching detachment for the funeral

procession.

He remained Second in Command for the Aden tour, beginning in autumn 1965 and he returned to the United Kingdom in May 1966 to become Second in Command of the Guards Depot. A year later he went to the Joint Services Staff College before returning to command the 1st Battalion in Windsor in 1968.

Lieutenant Colonel Webb-Bowen was Commanding Officer during 18-year-old Princess Anne's first public engagement in her own right. She was at Pirbright Camp to mark St David's Day on Saturday 1st March 1969 and presented leeks to the Guardsmen. He remained Commanding Officer until 1970, before taking up a staff appointment and eventually retiring in 1972.

He started a second successful career in the city in the mid-seventies. He had a keen interest in sailing and became a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1967 and for seventeen years he was Race Officer. In 1994 he organised "Hampshire Remembers D-Day" - a parade of ex-Servicemen at Netley Abbey at which The Duke of Edinburgh took the salute and which extended to hundreds of yachts anchored off the Isle of Wight reviewed from HMY Britannia which had been anchored off-shore in Southampton Water. Lieutenant Colonel Webb-Bowen died at home in the New Forest, Hampshire, on 20th December 2002, he never married and had no children.

Hopefully, I have given the reader an insight into my hobby, and I hope to write



further articles for future Regimental Magazines detailing the stories and human side behind the medals of Welsh Guardsmen who have gone before us.

1. The author (on the right as you look at the photo) on exercise in Germany 1984
2. The author (holding the wreath) at a local Remembrance Day parade
3. Guardsman (1005) Selby George Jones - from his recruit squad postcard 1915
4. Selby George Jones with his wife Sarah and daughter Thelma

5. Selby George Jones medals and death plaque
6. Selby George Jones Memorial Scroll
7. The first letter (Army Form B104-83) that Sarah would receive, informing her that her husband, Selby George Jones was missing
8. Lt Col Webb-Bowen medal collection
9. Lt Col Webb-Bowen, group photo, NATO exercise, Texas Circa 1968
10. Lt Col Webb-Bowen with HRH Prince Philip, Colonel Welsh Guards, Circa 1968
11. Senior Under Officer N Webb-Bowen being presented the Sword of Honour by HM The King in July 1948



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RECEIVING THE SWORD OF HONOUR FROM THE KING AT SANDHURST: SENIOR UNDER-OFFICER N. WEBB-BOWEN.
The King took the salute at the passing-out parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on July 14. It was the largest passing-out parade at Sandhurst. His Majesty was accompanied by the Commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Major-General H. C. Stockwell, and the Secretary of State for War.

**23877354 HAROLD HOLLAND MM**

by Warren Williams (24788725)

Born in 1940 Capel Coch, Near Llangefni, Harold Holland, more affectionately known as Harry, was raised and brought up by his older sister Kate Jones as his parents died when he was only four years old.

At just 15 he served with the Merchant Navy between 1955-1961, initially from Holyhead and Liverpool, before travelling further afield and visiting many countries such as Africa, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Holland, France, Venezuela, India, Pakistan, Malta, and Gibraltar.

Harry joined the Welsh Guards in 1962 after travelling to Lime Street Army Careers Office in Liverpool where the Recruiting Sergeant there tried to persuade him to join the Irish Guards, but the 6'3 tall Harry told the Recruiting Sergeant that he was too tall to go into a tank and that he wanted to join the Welsh Guards.

He then served in the Welsh Guards in the Prince of Wales's Company between 1962-1968 and was posted to Gort Barracks, Dusseldorf, Germany and carried out winter warfare training for six weeks in Norway as well as a six-week training package in Canada. On his return from Germany to Chelsea Barracks he served with Guardsman Arwel Jones 28 and John Harding who all remain good friends and meet occasionally.

He served in Al-Milah, Dhala, Aden between 1965-1966. On the 26 March 1966 whilst manning Picquet Hill with the Section they were attacked by Yemeni tribesmen, where L/





CPL David Head got injured and Harry Holland carried our first aid and took control of the situation.

On the 24 August 1966 Guardsman Harry Holland was awarded the Military Medal, this was announced in London Gazette No 9486, an extract of which is below with the citation for the award:

1. Guardsman Holland MM on patrol in Aden in 1966.
2. Guardsman Holland's medals in order of MM, General Service Medal (GSM) 1962 with Clasp South Arabia
3. Guardsman Holland received his Military Medal at Buckingham Palace
4. Sergeant Spooners platoon at the Guards Depot 1962, Harry is middle row fourth from left as you look at it
5. Guardsman Holland at Prince of Wales's Company outstation in Aden



23877354 Guardsman Harold HOLLAND, Welsh Guards.

At approximately 2253 hours 16th March 1966, Picquet Hill manned by a section of Prince of Wales Company, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, came under small arms fire from the direction of Approach Ridge, four hundred yards to the east. This was quickly accompanied by a series of five Blindicide Rockets fired from the same direction. Picquet Hill sustained one direct hit and one near miss. This was followed by more small arms fire, including automatic weapons for quite some time.

At the outset of the engagement both Non-Commissioned Officers were wounded and put out of action. From then on Guardsman Holland took command of the situation until the arrival of the Platoon Commander and Medical Orderly some time later from a neighbouring position. He controlled the fire of the section General Purpose Machine Gun, kept the Platoon Commander informed of the situation by radio and attended to the wounded. One of the Non-Commissioned Officer's injuries were quite serious and but for Guardsman Holland's attention this Non-Commissioned Officer would have lost much blood and suffered very considerable pain.

The whole section behaved admirably throughout this action and Guardsman Holland's cool courage, bravery and calm handling of the situation under fire was beyond praise.

The Guards Parachute Platoon

by Captain J H L Goble Irish Guards, Platoon Commander

It is a great pleasure to contribute to the annual journal of the Welsh Guards. Since the reformation of Guards Parachute Platoon in 2001, the Welsh Guards has always had strong representation with a former Platoon Commander and three Platoon Sergeants coming from the Battalion. This support remains strong today with four Welsh Guards currently serving with the Platoon.

The most recent chapter for Guards Para has been one of reunification after an extended period dispersed across the globe. Earlier in the year, members of the Platoon were scattered from the swamps of Louisiana to the Jungles of Belize as well as overseas on operational commitments. Whilst coordinating such a range of activity has its challenges, I believe this resumé is an excellent insight into the opportunities available to the Household Division through the Platoon.

The summer of 2022 saw the 40th Anniversary of Op CORPORATE. Whilst in Windsor, the commemoration is rightly focused on the lives lost on the Sir Galahad, the Battle for Mt Longdon was the focus of the memorial in 3 PARA. Although in 1982, the Independent Guards Parachute Company had been disbanded some six years before, it was a great privilege to meet some of the former members of 6 Platoon, including Major General Johnathan Shaw who was the Platoon Commander during the campaign.

3 PARA has now assumed readiness as the Lead Air Manoeuvre Battle Group, held on a rapid notice-to-move as the UK's Global Response Force. Whilst AMBG can conjure images of sitting on bergans, it does not feel long since the Platoon was mobilised to support Op PITTING and the evacuation of the Kabul Airport. For Sgt Williams, then in role as a section commander in Guards Para, the sudden turnaround from Colchester to the Baron Hotel in Kabul illustrates the realities of the readiness commitment. The Platoon

has been training relentlessly on exercise and in camp to meet these challenges in good order.

While most of the Platoon stood down for some well-deserved summer leave, the ever-tenacious Sgt Parry attended Exercise Saint Michel, a three-week skydiving expedition in Pamiers, Southern France. The exercise was in danger of cancellation after some last-minute dropouts, and so the opportunity fell to Sgt Parry. The course was a progression from total beginner through



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to full A licence qualification, and Sgt Parry left France with a total of 35 jumps, and an introduction to basic team formation flying. This now sees Guards Parachute Platoon with three licensed skydivers and raises the question of why the Household Division is still lacking a parachute display team. For those interested and qualified in Battalion, Sgt Parry is now your man!

To conclude, the past year has been busy both operationally and in training and has presented members of the Platoon with a vast range of opportunities both foreseen and unexpected. As ever, the success of this small organisation is only possible through the continued support of the Battalions and Regiments of the Household Division. As the Platoon Commander, I am extremely grateful for this support and

remind the Welsh Guards that the next Pegasus Company course will start in January 2023.

Septem Juncta in Uno,
Utrinque Paratus

1. *Guards Parachute Platoon. The Welsh Guards is represented by Sgt Parry, LCpl Jones, Gdsm Dowdeswell and Gdsm Humphries.*
2. *Members of Guards Parachute Platoon on parade at the National Memorial Arboretum with Major General Johnathan Shaw CB CBE.*
3. *Sgt Parry in freefall above southern France during Exercise Saint Michel.*



A Baltic Adventure

by Lieutenant Colonel C T Sargent Welsh Guards

Friday the 21st February 2020 saw me sitting in a rather sparse UN waiting area, drinking a strong cup of Ethiopian Coffee, smoking a Somali cigarette and reading an out of date Daily Telegraph whilst I awaited a flight in an MI8 Helicopter to Mogadishu. Nothing particularly memorable save for an article in that tatty newspaper which peaked my interest and led to a series of events that culminated in a drive of some 7500km across Germany, Scandinavia, the Baltic States and Poland - the Baltic Sea Circle Rally.

Arriving some hours later in a hot and humid Mogadishu, I established comms with a chum in the King's Royal Hussars and suggested that this might be the very thing for us to do in our dotage. I thought nothing more of it until a month later when he informed me that he had purchased a vehicle, paid the deposit and entered us into the rally. Needless to say, Covid put paid to the plans for 2021 but almost two years to the day since I read the article, we were set and ready on the line of departure in Hamburg.

The Baltic Sea Circle Rally is organised and run by a company called the Superlative Adventure Club, they run a number of rallies across the world and have a well-set formula. Cars should be over 25 years old, SATNAV is not allowed and motorways are verboten. Along the way, a series of challenges are set for each team to try and achieve in order to gain additional points. All seemed pretty simple and not beyond the wit of man, however, the sheer distance, weather conditions and age of our vehicle were to test us throughout the 15-day adventure.

I was extremely fortunate with my teammate, a serving cavalry officer with a huge knowledge of all thing mechanical and an excellent all terrain driver. He sourced the

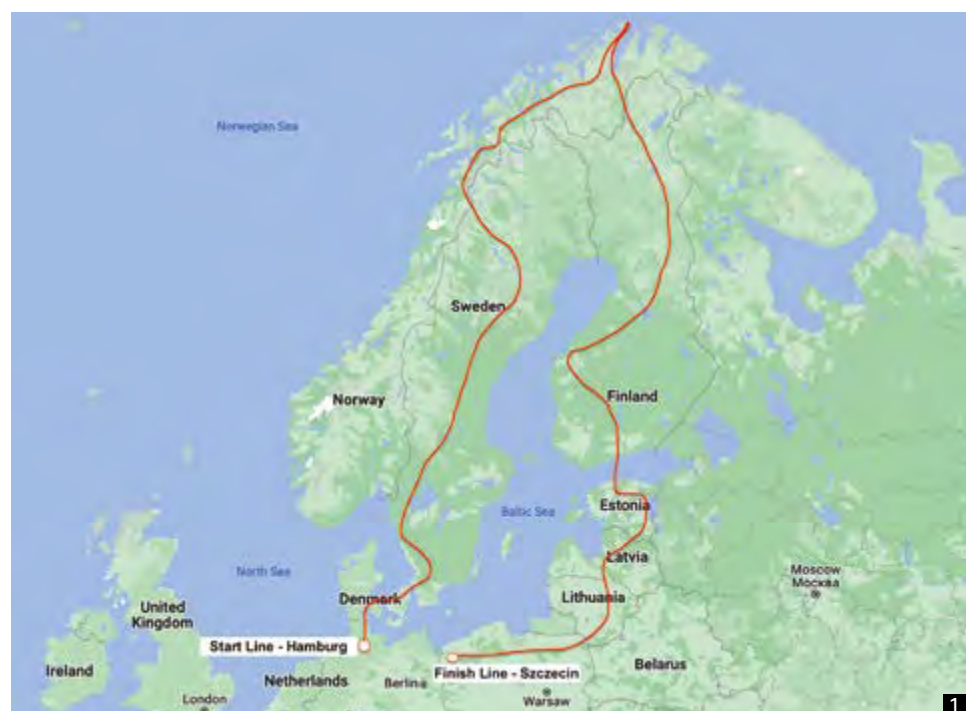
vehicle and equipped it for all the likely challenges we would face. Sand traps, winches, all terrain tyres and all the equipment that we would need to live and sleep in the vehicle for a two-week trip. All had been sourced and then stored in the vehicle which had been fully adapted to meet the demands of driving within the arctic circle.

Some 70 vehicles with teams from across Europe met at a rather salubrious 1960s petrol station on the 20th February preparing for the start. As we crossed the start line, Russian forces were doing the very same in eastern Ukraine. Given the nature of my role within Multinational Corps Northeast

in Poland, I knew that I was going to have to remain flexible and be prepared to turn around and return to work if the situation escalated, the BBC World Service was to be a near constant companion keeping us abreast of events for the next two weeks and I regularly had to call in to get SITREPs from the HQ on the need for my return.

Luckily despite the looming clouds of war to the east, we managed to coax our aged Land Rover Defender 110 around the route. An old British Telecom workhorse which could achieve a top speed of 50mph, she did us proud for the entire trip and with some judicious first

parades and a weather eye on the POL situation, she did not miss a beat for the entire trip. Whilst not the Cavalry and Guards club, she proved to be a comfortable bed down location if a little bit chilly despite arctic sleeping bags and issue arctic socks. What did become apparent was that sleeping in the back of a Land Rover although a charming idea, is very much easier when one is in one's twenties and not fifties. One night the author managed to kick the door open in his sleep, leaving one's toes outside in -28 degrees not including wind chill is not conducive to good circulation, I am happy to report that full feeling returned to my left foot in early April.



The route itself took us through some breathtaking scenery, forests, lakes, ice, tundra and mountains. Departing Hamburg we drove north to Denmark and then onto Sweden, camping at night on the coast or deep in some forests. Driving up through Sweden we crossed into the arctic circle and immediately one could see the change in scenery and temperature, driving became treacherous and ice studs the order of the day. I spent a very chilly 45 minutes drilling ice studs into the tyres of the vehicle, despite numb hands to go with my frozen feet, the end result was game changing and far more effective than traditional snow chains. On into Norway heading north towards the top end of Europe we managed to find our way to the most northerly whisky distillery in the world (highly recommended) and passed through the WW2 battlefields surrounding Narvik and the site of the sinking of the Tirpitz. Both were salient reminders of the struggles that the British Armed Forces had faced some 80 years previously and sobering to think that they had to live and fight in conditions that cold and bleak. Our goal was to make it to the Northern Cape, the most northerly tip of Europe, sadly we were defeated by the elements and 13km short were stopped due to blizzards and snow drifts. By now temperatures were -25 on a good day and visibility shocking. The Land Rover was put to good use pulling random vehicles out of drifts and for rescuing a number of other competitors. One couple in particular were almost hysterical with fear when we found them and their Nissan

Micra in a snowdrift on the side of a road. No warm kit, no chains, no ice studs and an automatic vehicle, not conducive to survivability in the arctic. We dug them out and towed them to the nearest town where we found out that they also had a two-year-old baby with them! A beautiful landscape but very dangerous if unprepared.

On from our failed attempt at the North Cape and into Finland, another beautiful but desolate country where people are hard out of necessity, I am very glad that they are now on our side and a part of NATO. A land of lakes, ice and forests with miles and miles of nothing between small villages and towns suddenly appearing out of the forests. Fighting in this terrain would be brutal indeed and on a par if not worse than fighting in the jungle, I was very glad to be sleeping inside, even if it was in a Land Rover, it was infinitely preferable to a basha in these conditions. Having worked our way down through Finland, racing against Skidoos, dodging reindeer and fortifying ourselves with the local moonshine, we made it back out of the arctic circle and into the relatively warmer climes of Helsinki. The original route had seen us destined for St Petersburg, however, Putin's actions in Ukraine had heralded a change to the route which saw us crossing the Gulf of Finland via ferry and an overnight stop in Tallinn. An added advantage of this change was an opportunity to catch up with Colonel D W N Bevan erstwhile Commanding Officer of the Welsh Guards and currently Commander CABRIT in Estonia. Although it was a joy to catch up, I think



my lack of effective ablutions for ten days may have been noticeable to Colonel and Mrs Bevan!

By now it had become apparent that events in Ukraine were not going to go away and a decision was made to withdraw from the rally and head back to Poland and Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast. That said, we still had to essentially complete the 7500km route but we did this under our own steam. Having said our goodbyes, we continued south across the Baltic States and into Poland crossing through the Suwalki Corridor and passing Kaliningrad, a scene of much heightened tensions and military activity as a result of the deterioration in relationships and rhetoric from both sides. As passed through southern Lithuania and eastern Poland, the scene of much fighting during WW2, I wondered if we were on the precipice of another European War. If so, this terrain would yet again likely be the frontline given its proximity to Belarus and Kaliningrad - all desperately sad.

We headed across Poland at max speed - 50mph, with a final stop at Malbork Castle and Torun before arriving in Szczecin where we called it ENDEX, some 250km short of the finish line. A 7250km epic adventure across some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe and Scandinavia. Nine countries over 15 days in an old Land Rover, as I arrived back in the HQ at 0600hrs the next day to start planning for the defence of the Baltic States I pondered on what we had just completed and hoped that it would remain just an adventure and not a recce for something more sinister as a result of the threats emanating from the east.

1. *The Baltic Sea Rally Route*
2. *Bed For the night*
3. *The author in deep snow*
4. *Fitting ice studs*
5. *End of the road in a blizzard at the North Cape*
6. *Incredible scenery in Finland*
7. *Col DWN Bevan and the author in Tallinn*
8. *ENDEX after 7,250km*



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An Outsiders Perspective

by Captain A Gould, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Battalion Plans Officer

In January 2022 I was offered the chance to come and work with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, while in Patagonia an email dropped into my inbox congratulating me on my selection to join the Battalion as their Intelligence Officer. I was told of the family environment, the close bond between soldiers and officers, the opportunity to deploy across the world and represent the Army on State Ceremonial occasions, it all sounded too good to be true.

The Guards, I had heard, were a stiff formal bunch; overly concerned with etiquette, dress standards and maintaining distance between the ranks. How wrong this stereotype is – from the moment I arrived I felt utterly at home and welcomed into the group. Yes, I was gently teased for being a “sloppy line officer” who must learn not to bend at the waist when bringing himself to attention, but it was all in good humour and my drill has come on leaps and bounds.

“Ysbryd” I have learned is a core aspect of the Battalion,

and never has it been more on show than when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away in September. Every man and woman came together over a remarkably short time and threw their collective efforts behind ensuring that we gave Her Majesty the best send-off possible. Humour, hard work, attention to detail, repetition in the pursuit of excellence was demonstrated at every turn. Those long hours of hard work paid off as 1WG provided an immaculate showing on the day of the funeral. This is a Battalion that thrives in the thick of it, when

their back is against the wall.

It is not all work in Windsor, there is time for play and 1WG does it well. Sport – rugby and boxing are a key component not just in enjoying yourself but in building discipline, teamwork and resilience. I learnt this first-hand when I stepped into the ring with a number of personnel who were preparing for the Household Division boxing night. I walked away with a bloody nose (see photo for proof) and a large smile; gladiatorial competition was mixed with banter, ribbing and bonding.

I can honestly say that my time so far in 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has been a fantastic experience and one I shall shout about to all who listen. The booklet I was handed on my first day say it all – “First we are a family. As Welsh Guardsmen, we are part of an organisation greater than the sum of our parts. We are fundamentally Welsh in character, and we are fighting men and women.”



The Kings Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard

by Warren Williams (24788725)

This year has been extremely busy catching up on the backlog of duties which were put on hold due to the COVID Pandemic and with last years cancelled Investitures, there have been double duties at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle as well as St James's Palace.

Sadly, HM The Queen Elizabeth II, passed away on the 8 September 2022 at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, at the age of 96, after her reign of 70 years and 214 days and The Queens Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard automatically changed its name to become The Kings Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard when HM The Queen Elizabeth II was succeeded by her eldest child, King Charles III. The Kings Body Guard conducted duties during the lying-in state and the State Funeral of HM The Queen Elizabeth II.

John Davies RVM



Messenger Sergeant Major John Davies RVM receiving his silver retirement presentation at the Roger Monk dinner on 6 April 2022.



On the left is Messenger Sergeant Major John Davies RVM and seventh from the left is Divisional Sergeant Major Peter Evans on duty for a Maundy service at Leicester cathedral.

John joined the Welsh Guards in 1969 and left as a Warrant Officer Class 2 in 1991 having completed 22 years' service. During his service, he served several tours of Northern Ireland and served in Berlin, Cyprus, Germany, Falklands, Pirbright and Belize. He served in 1982 during the Falklands war in Number Two Company as a Platoon Sergeant and was on the ground when the RFA Sir Galahad was hit by Argentine forces, having left HMS Fearless the day prior.

He was a keen sportsman and represented the Regiment in rugby and played on the wing, centre, and outside half and, once his playing days were over, he went on to coach the Battalion team for four years. In addition, he represented the Army Rugby Team and was capped in 1976 and was part of the very successful Battalion team that had been both BAOR

(British Army on the Rhine) and London District Champions. He served three separate terms at the Guards Depot as Lance Sergeant Physical Training Instructor (PTI), Company Quartermaster Sergeant and then as a Company Sergeant Major.

He left the Welsh Guards in 1991 as Warrant Officer Class 2 and was selected to become the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Combined Cadet Force at Harrow School – a round peg in a round hole. In 1995 he was (B) commissioned as a Captain Quartermaster until 2005 when he retired. He joined the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard in 1992 and has served 30 years.

John rose through the ranks and achieved the 2nd Messenger Sergeant Major post in 2018 and held the appointment until

2021, where his last duty was at His Royal Highnesses The Duke of Edinburgh's funeral at Windsor Castle on 17 April 2021. John Rhys Davies was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver) on HM The Queen's Birthday Honours list 2021 which was published in the London Gazette on 12 June 2021.

Roger Monk Dinner

Roger Monk, Esquire, formerly an EXON of the Yeomen of the Guard, and who died in the month of October 1831, by his will dated 10 April 1928, gave the residue of his estate and effects to the Tallow Chandlers' Company of the City of London a payment to the Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard. This bequest continues today and is much appreciated and goes towards the cost of port at the dinner, and is attended by all members of the Body Guard, past and present, after the Loyal Toast has been drunk, glasses are raised to the memory of EXON Roger Monk.

This year the Roger Monk Dinner took place at the London District Garrison Sergeants' Mess on Wednesday 6 April 2022 where the current serving Welsh Guard members presented a Silver Dragon Lighter to the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard.



From left to right: Major Simon Treadgold Exon, Divisional Sergeant Major (DSM) Peter Evans, Messenger Sergeant Major (MSM) John Davies RVM, Yeoman Warren Williams and Yeoman Terry Jones.



Yeoman Terry Jones 71



Yeoman Warren Williams at Westminster Palace for HM The Queen Elizabeth II lying-in state duties.

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	2019	Present	Yeomen
Served Welsh Guards	1987	2011	RQMS



In Memory of Lennard Davies RVM



Messenger Sergeant Major (MSM) Lennard Davies RVM



HM The Queen Elizabeth II inspecting the Queens Body Guard

Sadly, we celebrated the life of Lennard Davies on Monday 25th April 2022 at All Saints' Church, Cyncoed Road, Cardiff at 12.45pm followed by a committal at The Briwnant Chapel, Thornhill Crematorium at 2.25pm and later at Manor Park Hotel. Members of the Queens' Body Guard past and present and his friends from the Welsh Guards ensured he had a good send off and final farewell.

Husband of Anne, father of Christopher and Matthew, grandfather of Leo, brother of Brian and the late Allan, sisters Sylvia and Gaynor, friend, soldier, Free Mason. Len was born in 1941, Ystrad Rhondda to Cliff and Eva, a mining family and their third son. On finishing his education at 15 years old he followed his father and brothers into the coal industry. After three years, deciding that a life in dust and darkness was not for him he set his sights on the military, not following his brothers into the Welch Fusiliers and he instead enlisted into Her Majesty Fifth Regiment of Foot

Guards, the Welsh Guards in 1958 and after training joined The Prince of Wales's Company, aka "The Jam Boys".

Len Served in Aden, Germany, Cyprus, Kenya, Northern Ireland and conducted public duties in London and Windsor. During the Falklands War in 1982, he provided vital help and support to the families and liaised with the Regiment on their behalf.

He served at the Defence Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centre (DCBRNC), Winterbourne Gunner and also as a Combat Training Instructor at the Army Apprentice College Chepstow. His last appointment before retirement saw him recruiting back home in Wales in both Cardiff and Pontypridd.

He completed his service in 1984 after 26 years loyal service as a Warrant Officer Class 2. He then went onto a career in Agricultural Insurance and the Prison Service maintaining his military links through the Welsh Guards Association, the Royal British Legion, he was Secretary off

the United Services Mess, Cardiff and then with the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Len conducted many duties, including; State Visits, Banquets, Investitures, Garden Parties, the State Opening of Parliament, Royal Maundy and Epiphany Services, Garter ceremonies and other state occasions such as the Lying in State of the late Queen Mother in Westminster Hall.

He became the Messenger Sergeant Major and Wardrobe Keeper on 25 November 2002.

Big Len as he was affectionately known, was on the superannuated and exempt list after retiring from the Queens' Bodyguard where he held the appointment of the Messenger Sergeant Major and served from 1985 – 2011 and during that time received the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver) on the Queen's Birthday Honours list published on 30 December 2006.



MSM Len Davies RVM leading from the front.



MSM Len Davies RVM



A Welsh Guardsman in US Central Command

by Lieutenant Colonel AJ Salusbury

served at US Central Command (CENTCOM) as the military assistant to the Senior British Military Advisor from spring 2021 for what turned out to be a particularly busy year. The coalition withdrew from Afghanistan, Israel was incorporated into the CENTCOM area of responsibility, a high tempo of operations was maintained in the Middle East, and CENTCOM orientated to the ambiguous circumstances that emerged in Eastern Europe in late 2021 prior to Russia's further invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

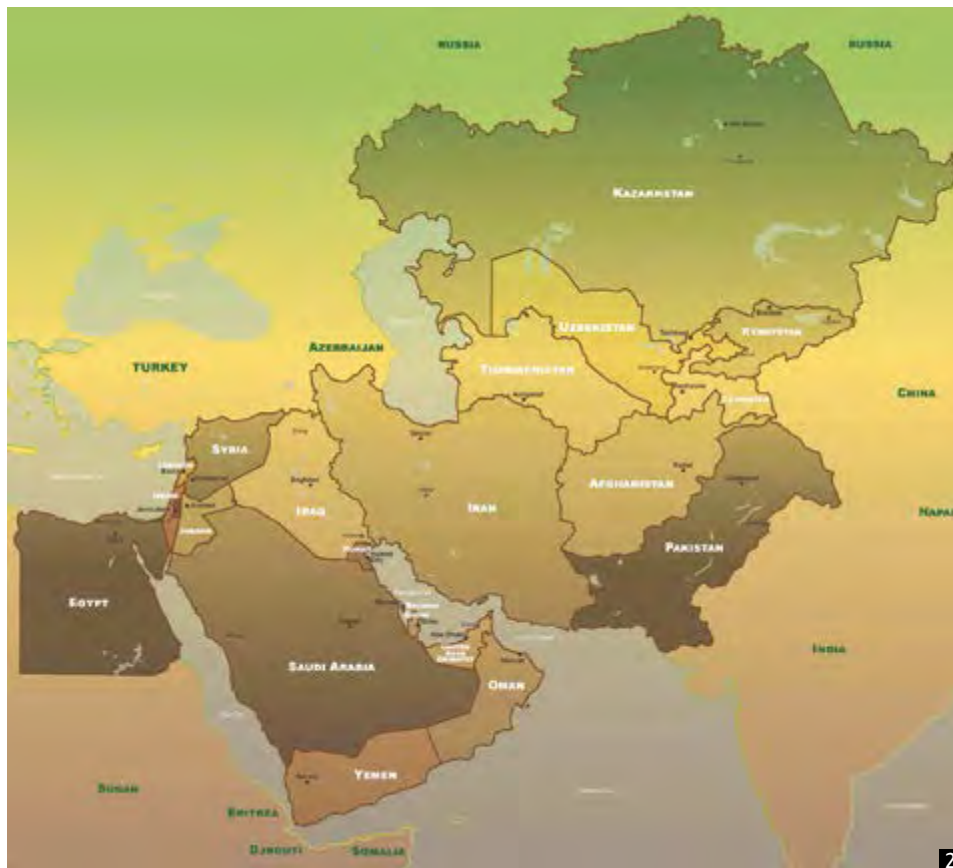
The year's deployment involved unique exposure to the US joint strategic level and the UK policy-military interface. Throughout my time, the Senior British Military Advisor (Lieutenant General Andy Harrison until Jan 22, Air Vice-Marshal Mark Chappell thereafter) carefully represented the views of the Chief of Joint Operations to General McKenzie and the broader team in CENTCOM. For someone who has spent

much of his staff time in overseas defence engagement posts, this provided me with invaluable lessons in military diplomacy. This was particularly the case during Operation PITTING when difficult decisions, rarely based on complete information, needed to be made quickly.

The US military has combatant commands across the globe. CENTCOM, the headquarters of which is based in Tampa, is

one of six unified combatant commands and is the smallest by area, covering principally the Middle East and Central Asia. Since the attacks carried out on American soil in September 2001 which were coordinated from within the CENTCOM area of responsibility, it has been the best resourced combatant command. Following the strategic pivot towards the Far East announced by the Obama administration, a re-balancing

of resources towards Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) has been planned. To a degree this has been achieved, but a tension remains due to CENTCOM's drawing of an irreducible minimum of resources that are required to deliver a steady drumbeat of largely non-discretionary operations in the region, most of which are partnered with indigenous forces and remain outside the view and immediate concern of the popular media.



The UK footprint in CENTCOM remains relatively large despite it having reduced markedly since the height of the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Consisting of the Senior British Military Advisor (a 2*), a policy advisor (POLAD), the military assistant and a small signals detachment, the broader footprint includes a significant number of exchange officers including two 1* officers: the Deputy J2 and the Deputy J5. The UK is not alone in having a significant number of officers employed in exchange capacities in the headquarters, with other 'Five Eye' partners possessing a fair number. Regardless, the close working relationship and mutual respect between the UK and US militaries is clear in the way that the UK

team is incorporated into the headquarters. The UK is also the only partner nation to be represented by a 2*, an expensive investment by the UK which continues to pay dividends in what is traditionally the most operational of combatant commands.

The US operates in the Middle East through coalitions and bilateral partnerships. As such, CENTCOM is the only combatant command to invite a large number of partner nations (circa 30) to be permanently represented in a 'Multinational Coordination Center' (MNCC), a purpose-built building across the road from the vast and impressive headquarters building. With such a broad range of partner nations represented, common national positions and shared viewpoints tend to be rare. For the US staff in CENTCOM, engaging with the large body of coalition representatives can often represent a challenge of diplomacy and, on occasion, patience. The relationship with the broader coalition requires a high level of persistent effort on behalf of the US staff. Difficult enough to maintain when things are 'steady', this becomes all the more challenging when the tempo of operations increases. However, it is of course when the tempo of operations increases that coordination is most required through coalition representatives in the MNCC. As a result, there must be times when the US staff quietly cast doubt upon Churchill's famous maxim that "There is only one thing worse than fighting with allies, and that is fighting without them".



3

The extent of the lessons that can be drawn from Operation PITTING, the UK name for the operation for the withdrawal of entitled persons and force elements from Afghanistan, is unlikely to be fully discernible so soon after the events of summer 2021. However, from within the headquarters it was apparent that different parts of the command recognized the gravity of the crisis at different stages, which resulted in real challenges being experienced in cohering a response. Intelligence analysts are employed to analyse and when events begin to move as quickly as they did in the summer of 2021, achieving deliberate and considered analysis becomes more difficult: J3 reporting and J2 analysis begin to have more in common. As the situation quickly deteriorated, it was increasingly difficult to discern the reality being experienced on the ground as strategic intelligence assessment, designed and structured for the analysis of longer-term trends, became poorly placed to keep up with the pace of events as they rapidly played out. Despite the inadequacy of the coalition's indicators and warnings, the achievements

of the forces deployed to execute the operation to extract entitled Afghans were particularly impressive (US, UK and broader coalition). The coordination on the ground between US, UK and the remaining host nation forces largely ran smoothly, despite some inaccurate and unhelpful reporting to the contrary in the media. This was due in no small measure to the well-established interpersonal relationships – the human and procedural interoperability – that are the result of decades of close UK-US military cooperation.

Following the tragic events of 26th August at Abbey Gate when at least 180 Afghans and 13 US service personnel (11 US marines, a soldier and a sailor) were killed, operational pressures reached an unprecedented level. This required leadership of the highest order and in the immediate aftermath of the incident an impressive singularity of purpose was demonstrated by General Frank McKenzie (Commander CENTCOM) and by Vice-Admiral (now Admiral) Sir Ben Key (Chief of Joint Operations). Three days later on 29th

August, with intelligence indicating the imminence of a subsequent attack, a strike on a vehicle suspected of carrying Islamic State – Khorasan Province (IS-KP) members (the group to which the Abbey Gate bombing had been quickly attributed) was executed. Despite during the eight hours preceding the strike all the indicators having pointed towards a threat having been posed by the vehicle and its occupants, the strike demonstrated that if it can go wrong in this type of operational environment, it invariably will. Tragically, the occupant turned out to be an aid worker and several innocent Afghans, many of whom were children, were killed.

Following an initial investigation, General McKenzie, adept in his handling of the media and his external communications, released as much information as possible about the events of 29th August to be upfront about the mistake and to forestall any unhelpful speculation and commentary in the media. This took the form of an extensive and detailed press briefing on 17th September

delivered remotely by General McKenzie from his office in Tampa to journalists in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room. The briefing achieved its aim and, as far as is possible after an event as catastrophic as a strike on innocent civilians, Commander CENTCOM was able to draw a temporary line under the incident and retain focus on continued operational delivery in the region. I drew an important lesson from this: when it goes wrong, the investigation that ensues must be conducted thoroughly and, equally importantly, quickly. This allows the leadership to be upfront and get ahead of fanciful speculation in the media.

CENTCOM is a unique environment in which to serve as a military assistant due to the vast range of interests and organizations represented in the headquarters. What made the job particularly interesting, challenging and at times frustrating was the lack of comprehension amongst some of the sheer scale at which CENTCOM and the US military

operates. Something which is often taken for granted by British officers is the relatively nimble and agile manner in which the UK military can operate owing to its small size. When one considers that the US military is larger than the British military by (broadly speaking) a factor of 10, it becomes more understandable why the average US staff officer naturally adheres to process more than his British counterpart. US regulations concerning the outputs of its military are seemingly endless (the Judge Advocate General's Corps plays a central role in any US headquarters) and their adherence to the chain of command can at times appear rigid beyond belief but without these things, chaos would undoubtedly reign in an organization as enormous as the US military. It is essential that this is appreciated when working with our closest partner.

As I drove out of Tampa on 24th February 2022 to return to our family home in Austin, Texas at the end

of my tour of duty, the first reports were coming in over the radio of Russian units having advanced into Ukraine following a prolonged build-up on the border over the autumn and winter of 2021. With the focus of the Joint Staff having been squarely on CENTCOM at the beginning of my deployment in spring 2021, the further encroachment of Russia into Ukraine heralded a new era of Europe being at the centre of the immediate strategic concerns of the Joint Staff. Meanwhile, the longer-term geo-strategic pivot of the United States towards the Indo-Pacific to maintain security partnerships in the region and compete strategically with China continues. Given the finite nature of the resources at the disposal of the US military, it is clear given this context why the natural allies of the US such as the UK, France and other European partners will henceforth need to contribute significantly more to the provision of security in Europe through principally the construct

of NATO. Exacerbating still further the trend of stretched US global hegemony, the characteristic instability of the CENTCOM area of responsibility shows no sign of abating and, given the propensity of the region for crises to emerge spontaneously and the requirement for local partnerships in the region to be nurtured over time in order to prevail militarily, it will be to the West's peril should the US allow the pendulum to swing too far away from the CENTCOM region.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK Ministry of Defence, the US Department of Defense, or US Central Command.

1. CENTCOM crest
2. The CENTCOM area of responsibility covering the Middle East and Central Asia
3. UK liaison and exchange staff working at CENTCOM in May 2021 (those wearing civilian clothes are the Policy Advisor and the Fujitsu contractor). The author is sixth from the left in the front row



The Household Division Late Entry Officers' Association

by Captain Billy Matthews, formerly Coldstream Guards - Honorary Secretary

The Household Division Late Entry Officers' Association (HDLEO Assn) is a dining club to which all Warrant Officers of the Household Division commissioned into one of the seven Regiments of the Household Division are eligible to become members.

In theory all newly commissioned Late Entry officers, commissioned into one of the seven Regiments of the Household Division, should be automatically added to the roll of members but the Data

Protection Act 2018 requires Clubs and Associations to obtain permission from members to hold their information and so unless entitled officers give that permission to the Association

Secretary they cannot be added to the database.

Late Entry (LE) Officers from outside of the Household Division who transfer into a regiment of the Household

Division also qualify for membership. Officers of the Royal Corps of Army Music holding LE commissions posted to be Directors of Music of Household Cavalry and Foot Guards Bands



are also eligible to take up membership (as Honorary Members) for the duration of their appointment to a Household Division Band. The rules do not, however, allow for Warrant Officers of the Household Division commissioned into Regiments or Corps outside of the Household Division to take up membership.

The Association came into being as a result of a meeting held on the 21st December 1908, at which time it was decided that a dining club should be formed comprising of those officers of the Household Division who were commissioned from the ranks and who held a Regular Commission. A committee was duly formed and appointed to draw up the necessary rules for the Association which was named the Household

Division Riding Masters, Quartermasters and Directors of Music Association. An inaugural dinner took place on the 7th May 1909 when 18 members were seated for dinner, and this annual event remained unchanged until April 1954 when membership was extended to encompass those officers who had been appointed to a Regular Army Short Service Commission from the ranks in their individual Regiments.

Additionally, in the same year membership was opened to those appointed to Emergency Commissions in their Regiments during the 1939/45 war. In 1970 it was agreed that Warrant Officers from the Household Division, commissioned from the ranks, into a regiment of the Household Division whether to a Quartermaster class

commission or otherwise, would also qualify for membership.

A book was produced by the Late Major D Hall (Former Director of Music, 2nd Life Guards) at the first dinner in 1908 to record those members dining. The dining members signed the book and this tradition continues to this day.

On 29th November 2019 at a meeting to which all members were invited a decision was taken to change the name of the Association to the Household Division Late Entry Officers' Association to better reflect the type of commission held by officers commissioned from the ranks.

The object of the Association is to provide continuity of comradeship by providing the opportunity for members to sit down and dine at least once a year. To enable this we hold a formal, Black Tie, dinner, usually in April, to which the Major General is invited and who very kindly briefs members and their guests on Household Division activities past, present and future. A less formal, but nonetheless enjoyable lunch is held towards the end of the year also in the Cavalry and Guards Club. Members can take guests to either of the two functions. There are no subscriptions and therefore the costs of functions are borne by those dining.

An officer from the membership is appointed to be President for one year and the next in line to be President usually holds the appointment of Vice President until the President's year ends

and he takes over. Volunteers from the membership fill the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice President in 2022/2023 are both Welsh Guardsmen, Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE and Major Tony Bowen respectively. Major Bowen will assume the presidency for the year 2023/2024.

If there are Late Entry Officers reading this article who are not members of the Household Division Late Entry Officers' Association, I would encourage them to "sign up". It is a perfect opportunity to meet with old friends from across the Household Division, while enjoying good food and drink in a prestigious venue – I promise they will not regret it. Please get in touch with the Secretary at

rhqfinance@outlook.com



1. *Household Division Star*
2. *Fine Dining at the Cavalry and Guards Club*
3. *Excuse the poor quality, The President and Vice President of the H Div LE Offrs Assn acting as bookends in this photograph from St David's Day 1985 in Campbell Barracks, Hohna. L-R: Lt AJ (Tony) Davies 22 MBE MTO, Capt G (Chalky) White QM, Maj DN (Derek) Taylor DOM, Capt EL (Em) Pridham QM(T), Lt AO (Tony) Bowen UFO.*



The Prince of Wales's Company Op SHADER Medals Parade

by Lieutenant C G Clarke, Officer Commanding Number 2 Platoon

On 8 March 2022, The Prince of Wales's Company and attachments conducted a medals parade following their 6-Month deployment to Erbil, Iraq on Op SHADER 13. The medals were presented by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Colonel of the Regiment; who was joined by Brigadier Ben Cattermole, Commander 11 Brigade; and Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant. The event marked the first Medals Parade conducted by members of the Battalion since 2019, on return from Op TORAL. On this occasion, The Prince of Wales also presented medals to members of the Battalion.

Having returned from a well-deserved Post Operational Leave, The Prince of Wales's Company arrived back in Combermere Barracks to the news that they would shortly be redeploying to Kenya on Ex Askari Storm in March. As ever, the Company immediately rose to the challenge, beginning to prepare themselves for a conventionally focused, demanding overseas exercise. The Company had only 2 days between parade and deployment. The days in the build-up were spent achieving both ceremonial perfection for the parade and preparedness for Kenya. The Guardsmen and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Company, in particular, proved that this was well within their capabilities. For most of the Junior

Guardsmen yet to experience life on the Blue [ceremonial] Line, this was a small insight into our unique dual role.

With COVID having hampered the Battalion's ability to host families in recent years, the parade marked the welcome return of large-scale events. Those receiving medals were able to invite family and friends; a brilliant opportunity for the Battalion to say a small thank you to those who had been so supportive of their loved ones whilst away.

The day was also the first time in over a year where the full strength of the Company was co-located. This provided the opportunity to renew the Company photo, whilst also making up the lack of a Prince of Wales's Company review, by having

HRH The Prince of Wales join us in formally recording the occasion.

For many, including the author, this was their first Medals Parade, for others this was one of many. Regardless, it was a privilege to have HRH The Prince of Wales mark the end of a successful year of Pre-Deployment Training and Operations. In a period where deployments with medallic recognition are few and far between, The Prince of Wales's Company will be proudly showing them off whilst on Public Duties in London District next year.

1. Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant, HRH The Prince of Wales, Captain Ed Andersen, Temporary Equerry and Mr Jiffy Myers MBE, Regimental Veterans Officer
2. CSgt (CQMS) Marsh receiving his Op SHADER medal from HRH The Prince of Wales
3. Eyes Front!
4. HRH The Prince of Wales presenting Gdsm Hewitt with his Op SHADER medal
5. The Commanding Officer asks for leave to march the parade off
6. The Prince of Wales's Company
7. The Sergeant Major and HRH The Prince of Wales





1

**The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club Annual Dinner
Saturday 1 October 2022 at Combermere Barracks Windsor**
by Major D Pridmore, Club Chairman

The Regimental Sergeant Major had kindly offered the use of the Mess, which was a fitting location to usher in some new, and well received changes for the club. Firstly, LSgts have now been formally voted in as full members of the club. The driving message was for everyone who had served in the Welsh Guards Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to come and catch up with old friends or meet new ones to mark this historic change to our constitution. The club has changed several times since its creation, Warrant Officers were the original members, before then adding CSgts and Sgts and now, getting LSgts involved is the final piece in bringing this dining club together.

Secondly, we now have a permanent standing committee from across the serving and veteran community (more on that later) and this has given us some continuity to grow the club and encourage better attendance and it will also mean we can manage membership, finances, and planning for future dinners.

In only a short space of time

we have gone from just 5 Veterans and 45 serving members attending last years dinner, to seeing 38 veterans sit down with 15 serving members this year, a huge success after only one year with the new Committee and reassurance that the right message is getting out. The aim for all of us is to make this a fun and friendly environment, to meet old friends, and to bring the club



2

up to date - including LSgts as full members is the final piece of the jigsaw.

On the night itself many a tall tale was told, several by the Battalion's 'rain man' Major Andy Campbell, his memory is still intact even if he is aging 'ungracefully'. We also had a superb speech from our President, Lt Col Nicky Mott MBE, who was in possession of the last letter we received from HM the Queen before her death, wishing us her fraternal thanks, followed promptly by a last and abiding toast to Her Majesty before toasting the King for the very first time. A very poignant moment for us all.

Best of all Adrian Davies 86 has agreed to be our guest speaker for our next dinner (if he can remember being asked) – I and many others would pay good money just to see him talk without a great dinner included!

Our new committee, spanning and representing many generations, is made up of serving and veteran members as follows:

President

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
Nicky Mott MBE

Chairman

Major Darren Pridmore

Vice-Chairman

WO1 (RSM) Dan Cope

Secretary

Paul Dunn and 'Jiffy' Myers
MBE

Treasurer

WO2 (RQMS) Leighton Wilks
and Ed Mills

Media

Sgt Chris Morgan 65 and Nigel
Jones 89

Entertainment/Guests/ Presentations

Martin Topps, Captain (Retired)
Chris Hopkins, Kim Burnell, Al
Roberts 34, and Ade Riley

All of those listed were not pressed-ganged, they volunteered and offered up their time to see if we can encourage membership and plan future dinners with maximum attendance. We now have a dedicated team of individuals to track



minutes, finance, venues and seek feedback from the club members for any ideas for future events. But it can only grow if we have your details!!

Please send your email address and postal address, which must include your name, rank, and number to the RHQ RQMS; **Leighton. wilks441@mod.gov.uk** or the Chairman **darren. pridmore858@mod.gov.uk** we will then amend our records and send out the necessary GDPR form to request permission to hold your details.

We hope these changes will encourage attendance and bring the club back to life, so whether you have been out for 5 or 50 years if you served as a LSgt and above we would love to welcome you back to the club and meet up with old friends.

The one thing we have in common, regardless of rank, is we have all been members of the fantastic Warrant Officers and Sgt's Mess, a great honour and one to be proud of.



We will need support and importantly time to grow the club, we must update the database to allow us to capture more than just the Facebook members, and we are reaching out to Association Secretaries to help, but all of you, as readers of this article, can get involved - talk to your friends and spread the word, but more importantly sign up and come to the dinner next year which will be held in Windsor, on Saturday 25 February 2023.

1. *Leighton Ryan looking on with disdain about the Carbs Steve O'Brien is putting away, Jimmy Broe is disgusted!*
2. *Paul Dunn, with his Antarctic beard, tells Andy Campbell, Darren Pridmore and Ade Riley, how to catch penguins.*
3. *This is before...you don't want to see the ones after!*
4. *Nige 'Para' Jones on the receiving end of a 'friendly' greeting from Carwyn Bee.*
5. *Nige 'Para' Jones trying to work out how a camera works with Derek Griffiths sagely looking on*



The Welsh Guards Charity and Regimental Veterans Officer
by Jiffy Myers MBE, Regimental Veterans Officer

During the period covered by this publication, the Welsh Guards Charity has, at the time of going to press, received 59 requests for financial assistance through welfare grants. Over £37,000 has been paid out in individual grants to directly support our serving soldiers, veterans and their families, with a further £5,000 paid directly to the Soldier's Charity (Army Benevolent Fund) to further support Welsh Guardsmen, whether serving or retired and their families over the past 12 months.

Some examples of how the Welsh Guards Charity has provided support with grants are as follows:

- Many Veterans with a limited income have been provided grants to purchase necessary household items that they wouldn't be able to afford or obtain any other support for.
- Grants to purchase electric powered vehicles to provide mobility for elderly and disabled Veterans.
- Veterans have been provided grants for essential clothing and bedding
- A Fijian Veteran was provided a grant to repair his fishing boat so that he can provide an income for his family.
- Grants have been provided to support Veterans and their families with priority debts when no other means of funding has been available.

- Respite breaks for some of our bereaved families have been entirely funded by the Welsh Guards Charity.

- Bonds and deposit grants have been provided for Veterans who may have become homeless otherwise.

Case study 1.

A Veteran, who moved back home to Fiji, needed some repairs done to his fishing boat. This boat provides him with his only source of income to support his family and with no other means of paying available, the Welsh Guards Charity provided a grant to complete the necessary repairs.

Case study 2.

An elderly and disabled Veteran who has mobility issues and couldn't travel outside of his home was provided with a grant towards the cost of purchasing an Electrical Personal Vehicle (EPV - mobility scooter).

Case study 3.

A Veteran, whose daughter has



special learning needs, was required to move home to be nearer to her school. He was provided with a grant to cover the cost of the deposit needed for a new home.

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.

The oldest Veteran supported by a grant this year is 85 years old and the youngest is 32 years old

The above examples are just a few of the cases that are dealt with "behind the scenes" on

Welsh Guards Charity website. The Welsh Guards Charity website provides up to date information on



3

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 Day's Pay Scheme – take up has never been higher and for that we thank you all. In addition, for wider awareness and information there is another chart which shows the income and expenditure over the five-year period Apr 17 to Apr 22, which clearly demonstrates how Welsh Guards Charity funds are spent.

Each year a Charity Impact Statement (see photo 5) is compiled and published on the website for all to read and this report gives an in-depth review on the Charity's support throughout the year. The

Welsh Guards Charity website is at the following link: www.welshguardscharity.co.uk



5

The Regimental Veterans Officer (RVO). 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 can 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/Personal Independence Payment (PIP) applications, war pension applications etc.

The RVO also represents Veterans at meetings,

presentations, briefings and events, highlighting issues that need support or policy changes/additions.

Over the past 12 months the RVO has conducted over 70 home/local visits to WG Veterans and families. Any welfare issues are treated with the strictest of confidence and referrals for specialist support can be made. A lot of the cases are linked to mental health issues and in some cases, where there are indications of Service-related PTSD, individuals 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, 101 Veterans, who were not physically injured during Operations, have been referred to the RVO, either by themselves making contact by phone, email or Facebook. In some cases, a friend or family member makes the initial contact.

The RVO does not report back to the Battalion and only

provides RHQ with statistical information and trends in the types of cases etc. All cases are 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.

If you know of someone who may need some form of support, please contact the Regimental veterans Officer (RVO)- Jiffy Myers MBE.

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



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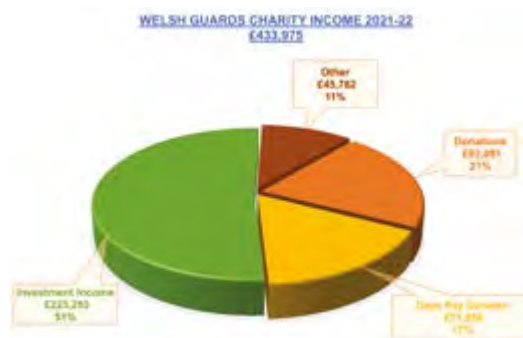


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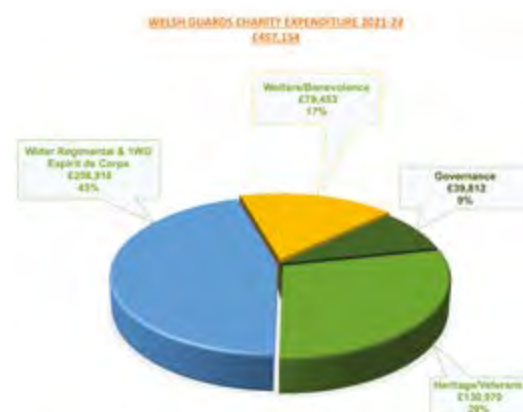
1. RVO presenting Adam Hobbs with Wheelchair enclosure Rugby tickets funded by the Welsh Guards Charity for the Wales v New Zealand Autumn International at the Principality Stadium on 5 Nov 22
2. The RVO representing the Regiment at that National Memorial Arboretum naming ceremony for Sgt Gavin Hillier RIP
3. The RVO visiting WG Veteran Shane Jones
4. The RVO visiting WG Veteran Len Davies RVM (62) RIP, who has since sadly passed away.
5. Charity Impact Report 2021/22.
6. The Welsh Guards Charity Christmas card 2022. A Christmas Gathering from a painting by Sean Bolan.

7&8. Welsh Guards Charity Income and Expenditure for 2021/22.

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Welsh Guards Welfare

by Captain M Parry, Unit Welfare Officer

2022 has been a busy year for the Welfare department. With many soldiers deployed on Operations, the support for loved ones left behind has been vital. The Padre (Capt Mark Nightingale) is a key member of the Welfare department, offering pastoral, spiritual and moral support.

Each week, the Welfare team hosts a coffee morning at the local community centre on Broom Farm, Windsor. Coffee mornings provide a forum for ideas and concerns to be expressed by the soldiers and their families and during one such coffee morning, the wives expressed how they would like to celebrate the Jubilee weekend as a community. The Welfare team created a committee, chaired by the wives, where they organised the whole day's events. The Jubilee celebration was a huge

success, with families able to relax and enjoy themselves in a safe and secure environment in the company of their friends and other families

The Welfare team held a bonfire night at the local school to bring together soldiers and their families from the HCMR, HCR Band, 1 COLDM GDS and 1WG. The event provided an opportunity for all three Regiments to form a close bond and a sense of community spirit with the main emphasis on fun and



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time spent with the families.

The Welfare team have organised many open days at the community centre, arranging fun activities for the families and the wives also created a 'baby group' with support from the welfare team, providing mothers whose husbands were away with a venue for support and company.

We work closely with the Coldstream Guards Welfare team. This year the COLDM

GDS organised the Easter Egg hunt, with support from the WG Welfare Office. This close relationship allows both welfare teams to pool their resources, enhancing the provisions available for the soldiers and their families.

Sgt Frowen qualified this year as a mental health (MH) instructor. He now delivers MH briefs to the Battalion, sharing important information, and creating a stigma free environment when dealing with MH issues.

With many soldiers spending their weekends in Barracks, the Welfare team organised a snooker table that was situated in the NAFFI. This communal area encourages the soldiers to leave their single rooms and enjoy each other's company.

1. Bonfire night - Fireworks display
2. Jubilee Celebrations.
3. Jubilee Celebrations – Sgt Frowen having fun!
4. Sgt Frowen delivering the Mental Health Presentation
5. The Welfare team



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Welfare support to veterans involved in the legacy process

The Army Operational Legacy Branch (AOLB) was established to support investigations, inquests and inquiries into past operations such as Op BANNER, Op TELIC and Op HERRICK. One of AOLB's fundamental roles is to provide welfare support to any veteran who has become involved in the legal process related to a legacy operation, and currently, AOLB supports over 60 Northern Ireland (Op BANNER) veterans due to a wider effort to address the legacy of 'the Troubles'.

For many veterans the first thing they know about their involvement in this process is

when they receive a letter from the coroner or a phone call from the MoD's Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy (DJEP) informing them that they are required to give evidence. This can be a protracted and stressful process so AOLB's Veteran Visiting Officers (VVOs) are here to help.

The VVOs are fulltime reservist captains with a wealth of experience: they understand the legacy processes; have a background of service on operations and possess significant experience in welfare support. The VVOs provide 'End to End' support to the veteran to explain

and support them throughout the process. This includes assessing the needs of each individual and referring them to other specialist welfare organisations where necessary. The VVO support includes regular home visits and 'check-ins' to reassure and guide the veteran through the legacy process; coordination of any broader welfare or administrative support they may require; as well as matters such as accompanying them to give evidence in court where necessary. Throughout the process, the VVOs work closely with the Regimental Headquarters / 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 beyond the duration of the legacy process.

Legal Support. 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 DJEP. AOLB does not provide legal support or advice but can help you to make contact with DJEP if you are unsure how to do so.

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:

Postal Address:

Army Operational Legacy Branch
Army Personnel Services Group
Ramillies Building
Army Headquarters
Monxton Road
Andover SP11 8HJ

Telephone: 0300 1514039

Mobile: 07813 007392

Email: APSG-AOLB-Legacy-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) Debentures

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



The Welsh Guards Charity are delighted to be able to continue providing two tickets for each home game in the Principality Stadium to individuals selected Regimentally and by the Commanding Officer.

The WRU have stopped issuing physical tickets and in future all tickets will be issued via their Principality Stadium ticketing app. 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. 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.

Tickets for the 2022 Autumn Internationals were issued as follows:

Date	Game	Recipients
12 Feb 22	Wales v Scotland	Gdsm Perring Gdsm Roberts 28
11 Mar 22	Wales v France	Gdsm Gurung 40 Gdsm Weldon
19 Mar 22	Wales v Italy	Gdsm Gallier Gdsm Hughes 21
05 Nov 22	Wales v New Zealand	CSM Davies CSM Davies
12 Nov 22	Wales v Argentina	Gdsm Laqaretabua Gdsm Wass-Williams
19 Nov 22	Wales v Georgia	Sgt Williams 43 LSgt Millin
26 Nov 22	Wales v Australia	Gdsm Williams 93 Gdsm Newth

The details of selected recipients for all tickets are also posted as and when presented on the WG Charity website and 1WG social media.

1. Gdsm Roberts 28 and Gdsm Perring, both 3 Coy, being presented with their tickets for Wales v Scotland on 12 Feb 22
2. Gdsm Weldon and Gdsm Gurung, both POWs Coy being presented with their tickets for Wales vs France on 11 Mar 22



Welsh Guards Charity Fundraising

by Major M E Browne BEM, Assistant Regimental Adjutant

The Welsh Guards Charity is fortunate to have some wonderful supporters who unfailingly raise funds and support the charity year on year and these, combined with the generous donations made by our Friends of the Regiment (FOTR) provides around 25% of all income to the charity per annum. There are too many to list here, but these are just a few examples of some of the wonderful fundraising events and ideas throughout 2022:

- In May, Capt Mike Parry, the Unit Welfare Officer and a team ran the Wales 500 around the coats of Wales.

- Veteran Welsh Guardsmen Tyson Ley and Mark Ellis completed as Falklands Anniversary walk of Hadrian's Wall.

- Kim Burnell organised a group Falklands memorial walk up Pen-y-Fan.

- Keeping it in the family, Kelsey Burnell opted for a birthday fundraiser on Facebook raising funds for the WG Charity.

- Son of a Welsh Guards veteran, Josh Morris

completed the 3 Peaks Challenge

- 1WG LAD REME lifted the weight of the RFA Sir Galahad (3332 tonnes) during the month of May with funds raised to be split between the Welsh Guards Charity and the Falklands Veterans Foundation.

- Maj Adam Smith completed a Thames river swim between Marlow and Henley-on-Thames.

- Bob Chambers, the Ogmore Branch Secretary held a group night under the stars and held a novel "guess the weight of the giant pumpkin"!

- Captain Charlie Morgan and his wife Elaine, each year raise funds through the sale of smoothies at a music festival.

- Sean Molino and Forces Fitness support the charity each year and this year is no exception. Throughout the month of October a team will hold a virtual walk/run of the entire perimeter of Wales (1,653 km) raising funds for the WG Charity.

- Paul Morgan 71 organised a reunion weekend in Llandudno, held a charity auction/raffle and raised a substantial amount for the WG charity.

Our fundraisers are absolutely superb, and we do not take any of them for granted and really do appreciate all they do to support the charity – without them we simply could not do the work we do and support our veteran and serving community so well.

Photo 1 - Mark Ellis and Tysson Ley at the end of their Hadrian's Wall walk (86 miles) from the Irish Sea to the banks of the River Tyne by the North Sea. They carried all the kit and equipment needed to complete the task on their backs and complete the "TAB" within 4 days.

The following short article explains just one of these fundraising activities.



Falklands 40th Commemorative Walk and Welsh Guards Charity Fundraising

by Kim Burnell (24464758)

Following in the footsteps of many other commemorative and charity fundraising walks, I decided to organise a walk-up Pen-y-Fan, at 886 metres the highest peak in South Wales, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War and to remember all Welsh Guardsmen and attached personnel who paid the ultimate price and who remain there to this day.



In doing so I also hoped to raise a few pounds for the Welsh Guards Charity, although fundraising was secondary to remembering and commemorating. I set an achievable fundraising target of £300 which I would be more than happy with.

Arranged entirely through social media, as always, the wider Welsh Guards family got on board quickly and without even the hint of any persuasion needed, our numbers soon swelled to around 50 expressing an interest in taking part and our Just Giving page started to see an influx of cash donations.

As can be seen from the selection of photographs, Brecon being Brecon the weather can never be assured and on Sat 30 Jul, the day of our walk, it was forecast to be a typical misty, wet and cold Brecon day! In all 53 veterans, serving soldiers, families and friends turned up at 6am for the safety brief and ready to set off at 6.30am. With friendly banter and chatting carrying us all the way to the top, it took around 90 minutes to reach the summit where, alongside a Royal British Legion Banner carried by a Standard Bearer, we held a short memorial service for all those lost in 1982, with a bugler playing the Last Post and a piper playing some traditional Welsh music. Individual wooden crosses

bearing the names of all those from the Battalion that had perished were laid as the Roll of Honour was read out.

At the conclusion, we made our way back down to the Pont ar Daf car park, arriving at around 10am and had raised over six times our target amount, coming in at the outstanding amount of £2,040. It was a tremendous day, both enjoyable and emotional and was the Welsh Guards family at its best; remembering those we have lost whilst raising funds to help those that remain now and in the future. Cymru am Byth.





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.

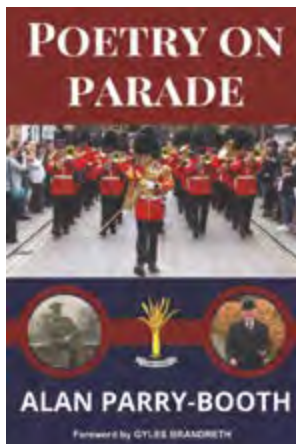
Beneficiary details

Welsh Guards Charity – Registered Charity Number 1152766

Regimental Headquarters Welsh Guards,
Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ
Tel: 0300 152 8572 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.

Welsh Guards Falklands Plaque



Measuring 9cm in diameter, this bronze lacquered zinc, felt backed replica of the plaque placed on the monument at the base of Sapper Hill in April 2018 is a wonderful memento to display or use as a paperweight.

Produced by the creators of the original plaque and costing just £50 each, plus

£4.50 p&p (which includes a presentation box) a percentage from the sale of each plaque will be donated to the Welsh Guards Charity. They are available to purchase exclusively from the WG Charity website; www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/shop/falklands-plaque

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



WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming 2022 with a new vision of being COVID free was what we were all looking forward to when I wrote my foreword for the last Regimental Magazine, with a particular emphasis on restarting our social events and activities. Things were looking good and on course for a return to “normal”.

However, the year which might have started more normal than the previous year, was not to continue in any sort of normality as President Putin launched his “special military operation” (aka invasion) in the Ukraine. We all of course follow events closely on the 24-hour newsfeeds and little did we know a few months down the line that these events would have a direct impact on the Battalion and Welsh Guards Association events, but we can all be immensely proud of the Battalion and the part they are playing on Op INTERFLEX (see separate article).

The first real main event of the year was the generous invitation extended to the Association by the Battalion to join them at Combermere Barracks to celebrate our

patron Saints Day. Some major changes this year saw the service being held in a LAD workshop and not the church, no parade on the square, but leeks presented to formed up groups in the workshop, followed by a combined, all ranks, drinks/lunch reception in the Gymnasium, rather than the various messes and even a Gdsm v Cpl’s Mess rugby match. Suffice to say the day was enjoyed by all and this is covered in a separate report. On a positive note, there have been rumblings for years for this day to become a Bank holiday and quite rightly so.

We held the Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the United Services Mess in Cardiff (with thanks to Tony Lewis the club Chairman) just prior to the Biennial lunch

and sadly with this area of Wales still experiencing ‘COVID related’ issues, there was a poor attendance of hard-line regulars, it would be nice to see more members in the future to have a say in Association matters.

The Biennial Lunch at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff immediately after the AGM was well attended and it was good to see some new faces attending this year’s event – thankfully no clash with the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) Dinner this year and we will make every effort to deconflict for any future such events.

June and the Queen’s Birthday Parade seemed to be upon us before we knew it and although fewer Association members than normal requested tickets (probably still down to the COVID reluctance to travel too far) those that did attend had a thoroughly good time and enjoyed the day even though the Battalion had very little involvement. We are all eagerly looking

forward to 2023 when the Battalion creates another piece of history and Troops their Colour in front of His Majesty The King.

2022 is an important year in the Regiments calendar as it sees the anniversary of the events of the 1982 Falklands war where the Battalion received its newest Battle honour. For me personally, I knew the year would be an emotional one, several “official” services of remembrance arranged across Wales, led by many different organisations, but the most important and personal ones to me were those arranged by family members. Veterans were well represented at each and every one, many of us have become good friends with the families and have vowed to never, ever forget their sons, brother’s, uncles, and Nephews - we never will, and their memories will live on forever.

A lot of work went into the National Commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and this was attended by all three services. The Royal British Legion (RBL) took the lead and extended an invite to all members including attached Arms of 1WG from 1982 and I in turn was asked to make contact with the families of the bereaved and to extend this invite to them also. Easier said than done, with the task made particularly difficult as over the intervening 40 years no records had been kept, but, thankfully, with the help of Ray Poole, Social Media



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and friends in the REME & ACC I managed to contact almost all family members of those we lost.

In the morning prior to the National Commemorative event, several Welsh and Scots Guardsmen gathered at the Household Division Memorial for a short memorial service and wreath laying ceremony followed by the sounding of the last post. The wreaths were laid by the respective 1982 commanding officers and we were joined by Linda Kitson the acclaimed war artist. Sadly, not all the Welsh Guards families managed to join us for the group photograph, but we were joined by the family of Dennis Hughes 11, Peter Edwards' family and Kate Gibby.

At the Arboretum I introduced Sgt Cliff Elley's son David, to Bryan, the son of Sgt Malcolm Wigley. Despite the many years that had passed they had never met, it was quite moving listening to them chatting especially about their "family" experiences and memories - discussions a veteran would never normally be privy to. A new friendship was formed, and both vowed to keep in touch. It was lovely also to meet Kate Gibby who had made the journey with her family and there were several other Welsh Guards veterans present, but unfortunately the organisers had not seated everyone together and, as the NMA is such an expansive site, it was difficult to pull everyone together afterwards. All in all, and exceptionally moving and emotional day.

The Welsh Guards Falklands memorial period quickly followed the NMA event,

initially with the Anglesey commemorative walk put together by Capt Jan Koops and Keith Lewis (80) the details of which are in a separate article. This was followed by the long awaited and meticulously planned Ride of Respect. A ride which would see us visit each and every WG memorial of those lost in the Falklands. The idea materialised between myself and John Geraint Hughes 31 when we accompanied the Airbourne riders on their annual ride visiting all the various graves and memorials of the Falkland fallen across the whole of the UK (which included Wales). The details of the ride are covered in a stand-alone article. I will simply say that Geraint 31 having years of experience organising motorcycle tours, took the lead on the ride and it was fantastically organised, we experienced some excellent roads and riding conditions, and the week ran like clockwork. The ride started from Combermere Barracks, which was an eye opener in itself, Geraint, Jan, Neil and myself were very kindly accommodated in the Battalions Welfare flat and arriving at the barracks we were witness to a hive of activity, outside the normal working day, bodies cutting about everywhere unloading ominous looking boxes from a variety of wagons, which turned out to be a selection of weapons mainly AK47's which were to be prepared ready to train Ukrainian troops.

As expected, the annual Wrexham Falklands reunion was well put together as always by Captain Chris Hopkins and of course very well attended. The marching column of veterans following



the Battalion detachment and Regimental Band must have been the largest and of course the smartest Wrexham has ever seen, it was great to see so many new faces from the past also and more and more non-Falkland veterans. It is a Welsh Guards Day, yes in the main, to remember those killed in 1982, but it also serves as a day of remembrance for those killed in service since. Remember the day is not about those who went, it is about remembering those who did not return.

Not forgetting of course in early June, Paul Cunliffe MBE RVM held his moving service in HM Tower of London followed by a gathering at the Yeoman Wardens bar, as usual an excellent event, "every year he says it is to be the last one," but thankfully not. We all appreciate Paul for doing this as the location of the event makes it special and memorable for those who attend, thank you to Paul for this and the annual invite to all Welsh Guardsmen. This years' service at HM Tower put a myth to bed once and for all. For years there had been rumours about Welsh Guardsmen meeting and speaking with Welsh speaking Argentine (Patagonian) prisoners. Over the years I have had many Welsh media companies seeking out these men, but no one ever admitted

to being that 'Man.' Whilst on the train travelling to London, with Dafydd Jones a former Police colleague and a 2 PARA Goose green veteran, who's brother-in-law Gareth Hughes 58 was killed on the Sir Galahad, he piped up that he was that man who had spoken in Welsh to Argentine prisoners - so it really did happen, just not a Welsh Guardsman!

Tying in with the above event, Swansea branch kindly invited me to join them on a Thames Boat trip and dinner which they had successfully linked into Pauls event at HM Tower of London, suffice to say it was an excellent event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all - thank you.

August was a WGA event free month as we were preparing for the annual association battlefield tour and service at Hechtel-Eksel. A tour which all were looking forward to as it had been cancelled two years on the bounce and deposits had been paid since 2019! Again, it is the subject of a separate report in this magazine and so I will say no more other than to say it was refreshing to see some new younger faces attending the tour for the first time and as planning for the **2023 tour and the 79th anniversary of the Liberation of Hechtel-Eksel are already under way, to apply for**



a place please contact the secretary general at secretary.general.wga@gmail.com. Priority will be given to those who have not attended previously.

The planning (Op BRIDGE) for the eventual State Funeral of Her Majesty has been in place for many years as we all know, I suppose we always hoped it would never happen, whilst knowing that nobody is immortal and so one day it would. What we and the rest of the world were to witness was absolute perfection and fitting for such a wonderful monarch. Our service personnel were magnificent, what they managed to achieve in a matter of days was simply amazing, even more so when you consider that many were serving operationally overseas and had to return to the UK to take part. Every single movement and piece of kit and equipment was caught on camera, there was no escaping the ever-invading eye and the scrutiny of the world's media and absolutely no room whatsoever for error – it was

flawless and special mention should be made of the fine young men who acted as bearers – their professionalism, pride and dignity shone through, and they did the country proud - we salute you.

I was mesmerised by the vigil at St Georges Hall, and it was truly an honour to see our Officers, accompanied by members of the Royal family in vigil, not once but twice, a special honour for the LE officers, little did they visualise at the beginning of their careers as young Guardsmen they would be carrying out such an important duty. Like many I found it difficult to accept the events of the death of Her Majesty but was truly humbled by the outpouring of love and gratitude from absolutely everyone around the world regardless of race, creed or colour – she was a truly remarkable lady, loved and admired by everyone – I do not think we will ever see her likes again – Rest in Eternal peace your Majesty. We as an Association send our deepest heartfelt condolences



to our Colonel and Colonel in Chief, King Charles III and all members of the Royal family.

Following the Battlefield tour we would normally meet up at Maindy Barracks for the eagerly anticipated annual Darts and Shoot competition! All preparations had been put in place some months before, but sadly there was still the 'Covid' effect in place and 3R Welsh were playing catch up with recruiting and training Reservists. Weekends had been taken up with Phase 1 training, the Sergeants Mess was not available due to not having a Mess Steward available and the Mess Bar, which had not been open since before the pandemic, had no stock – both crucial elements! Plans were quickly made to hold the Darts event at the Heath pub opposite the barracks and use the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) in Maindy as normal for the shoot, but sadly this had to be postponed due to the State Funeral of Her Majesty (and the subsequent loss of any DCCT operators and Maindy being used as the main staging post for all Wales involvement in the funeral). Plans to then hold the event in November proved equally as difficult as any WG DCCT range qualified staff were involved on Op INTERFLEX training Ukrainian military - which clearly trumps the needs of the WGA.

November sees the Secretaries meeting, which this year is being held at the United Services Mess (USM) in Cardiff, again due to the unavailability of Maindy Barracks.

I have managed to gain places for the Association members to march at the Cenotaph

parade this year and our numbers are healthy with 20 places filled and hopefully the same numbers will attend the Regimental Black Sunday the same afternoon at the Guards Chapel and for the short march to the Household Division Memorial at Horse Guards – refreshments are provided in the London District Sergeants Mess.

Looking forward to 2023 and the Battalions involvement in the King's Birthday Parade, Trooping their Colour, again a significant historical event for the Regiment, clearly the demand for tickets will be high you are reminded that applications need to go **through Branch Secretaries and NOT direct to Regimental Headquarters.** Consideration should also be given to requesting tickets for the either the Major Generals or Colonel reviews instead and, in addition, it is suggested that applications are made via the website **www.qbp.army.mod.uk/holding.htm** the application window opens for January and February, it goes without saying you need to be quick.

1. *The National Memorial Arboretum June 2022. L-R; WO1 (RSM) D Cope, Lt Col J Livesey Commanding Officer, Kevin Hughes, Pat Hughes, Ian Hughes, Maldwyn Jones, Linda Kitson, Brig JF Rickett CBE, Mrs F Rickett, Kate Gibby, Mandy Perkins, Babs Royles, 2 x not known, WO2 (DSgt) Davies*
2. *Welsh Guards on Ride to the Wall (photo courtesy of the Household Division Motorcycle Club)*
3. *With Geraint Hughes 31 during the Ride of Respect, note WGRRC Silver Memorial Baton on the seat.*
4. *Sgt's Mess, the eve of St David's Day*



BRANCH REPORTS

Cardiff Branch (Formed 1919)

Remembering back to Nov 21 and the Remembrance Service held in Cardiff at the Welsh National Memorial was almost back to normal following the lifting of the COVID restrictions which had been in force the previous year, and I was able to lay a wreath on both the National Memorial and Falklands Memorial on behalf of the Welsh Guards Association.

Although COVID restrictions were being eased, it was felt by the committee that the situation was not sufficiently stabilised or safe enough to organise a Christmas lunch as many of our branch members were in the "at risk" vulnerable group.

Our first real opportunity to enjoy an organised social event came on Fri 22 Apr in the form the Association Biennial lunch at the Angle Hotel, Cardiff. Organised by both the Secretary General, Maldwyn Jones and Deputy Secretary General, Neil Rice, it was heavily subsidised by the Association and was a terrific afternoon. The Branch was joined by our President, Colonel Charles Dawnay and it was exactly what was needed to lift the spirits of everyone having gone through such a perilous time. Our gratitude to Maldwyn and Neil for all their



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hard work in making it happen – thank you.

Earlier in April I had been contacted by both Maldwyn and Jiffy Myers MBE, the Regimental Veterans Officer, informing me that a member of Cardiff Branch had passed away on the 31 March 22, and asked if I could contact the family to assist with funeral arrangements. The Branch Member was (23523062) Lennard Davies RVM, affectionately known to most people as Big Len or 62.

Lennard joined the Welsh Guards in 1958 and took to military life like the proverbial duck to water and further details of his service in both the Welsh Guards and the Queen's Body Guard are contained in another article in this publication. Len was well liked and respected by all as he progressed up the promotion ladder to WO2 and continued to serve after leaving the battalion on extended service in the Pontypridd recruiting office. Lennard, with his wife Anne, supported Cardiff branch at every opportunity and the branch were delighted when they heard that he had been appointed Messenger Sergeant

President:	Lieutenant Colonel CJ Dawnay
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

Major (MSM) of the Queen's Bodyguard, considering it a great honour for Lennard, the branch and the Welsh Guards.

The Funeral of Lennard Davies RVM took place on Mon 25 Apr at All Saints' Church, Cyncoed Road, Cardiff and was followed by the committal at the Briwnant Chapel, Thornhill Crematorium. At the church Mr Alan Cunningham, Llanelli Branch Secretary, read the Welsh Guards Collect. The Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph and the Last Post was superbly sounded by Sgt Andrew Jones of the Royal Welsh.

The Association was well represented from across the branches and the wake was held at the Manor Park hotel, where Lennard's widow Mrs Anne Davies, took comfort from the large turnout of our members and their generosity on the day in donating £230 to the Royal British Legion and £500 to Alzheimer's research. When I spoke to Anne recently, she quoted Queen Elizabeth II's Words when speaking after an investiture when she said; "everyone sometimes deserves a pat on the back" and the members of the Association

get a pat on the back from me. May Len rest in eternal heavenly peace, we will always remember him.

At the time of writing, we are heading into November and will, as normal, become heavily involved in the various Remembrance events staged around the capital and before we know it Christmas will be upon us, and the year will be over in the blink of an eye and 2023 will arrive. On behalf of all the members of Cardiff Branch we wish everyone a thoroughly happy, peaceful, and safe 2023 and our thoughts and best wishes are extended to the serving members of the Regiment wherever they might be in the World.

1. Lieutenant Colonel Tony Davies OBE (aka 22) talking with Len Davies RVM (aka 62). With Len having joined in 1958 and Tony having joined in 1961 they were contemporaries who had served the majority of their Welsh Guards service together.

East Glamorgan Branch

(Formed 1920)

It is with great sadness that earlier this year we lost our loyal and dedicated Branch Secretary (23523287) Kenneth Haines (aka Eggo), who had held the post for over 20 years. Ken sadly passed away on 24 Jan aged 83, a devoted Father & Grandfather, his funeral was at Glyntaff Crematorium, Pontypridd on 7 Feb. He was an accomplished Sportsman, not only rugby, but he regularly played in the Battalion Football Team, was a valued member of the Cross Country Team and a member of the successful Battalion Tug of War Team. Rest in Peace Ken, our thoughts, prayers, and condolences are with his family.



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Windsor with our branch members John Hooper, Warren Williams, Terry Thomas, and Rob Kennerly. A thoroughly good day was had, and the Regiment laid on an excellent parade and service followed by a buffet and had decorated all the tables with fabulous daffodils.

Pontypridd Platinum Jubilee Flag Raising 2022.

On Monday 30th June, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) County Borough Council requested our presence for the official flag raising of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee at 11am outside Llys Cadwyn library, Pontypridd – and of course we duly obliged.

Falklands Commemorations 2022.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland's War and on the 8 June, the Branch held a service at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan Peter Vaughan QPM CSTJ, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Maria K Thomas BEM MSTJ JP MSc RGN, RCTCBC,

President:	Captain TC Macdonald-Milner
Chairman:	David Gaule (24141887)
Treasurer:	WJ Hooper (24364279)
Secretary:	WJ Hooper (24364279)
Telephone:	07733234140

whilst the service taken by Rev Charlotte Rushden. The service was well attended by members of the public, family of those that lost their lives and, we were supported by members of Merthyr and Ogmore Branches of the Welsh Guards Association.

Welsh Guards 40th Anniversary Bike Ride of Respect 2022.

In June there was a bike ride of remembrance around Wales, organized by Geraint Hughes which saw approximately fifty bike riders of present, past, veterans and members of the Royal British Legion ride to various monuments and plaques to those Welsh Guardsmen who tragically lost their lives in Falkland's Islands. We'd like to thank Geraint Hughes and his wife Jan for all their planning, organizing and bringing serving soldiers, past veterans and families that lost their loved ones together around the many memorials around Wales.

Armed Forces Day 2022.

On Saturday 18th June Armed Forces Day was in Ynysangharad Park from 10am -3pm and although it drizzled with rain our veterans and families attended the event after two years since the global pandemic. RCT Council was one of the first local authorities in Wales to sign up to the Armed Forces covenant

in 2012, a commitment that was reaffirmed in 2018.

In recent years, the local authority has also granted the Freedom of the County Borough to the Welsh Guards, to MOD St Athan, and to all local service personnel of the Royal Airforce, past and present. The council is also a proud holder of the Ministry of Defence's prestigious Gold Award in recognition of its approach to supporting the local Armed Forces community.

It is with great sadness that on 5th September Howard Main (23577106) passed away. He was Chairman of the East Glamorgan Branch for over 30 years and served in the Regiment during National Service between August 1958 and August 1960. His funeral was on 21st September at Glyntaff Crematorium, followed by a wake at Gelliwastad Club & Institute, Pontypridd which was attended by family, friends and colleagues. We wish you all the very best for the forthcoming year.

We pleased to see our Chairman David Gaule back making a fantastic recovery and slowly getting back to his normal self after being ill in hospital for some time.

The branch is trying to expand its membership through social media to bring in fresh members, serving soldiers and past members and of course we continue to be well supported by our associate members from other Regiments who are very supportive and regular at our monthly meetings at the Gelliwastad Club & Institute.

St David's Day 2022.

This year we attended the day at Combermere Barracks,



1. Photo of Ken Haines (23523287).
2. Falklands photo
3. Falklands photo
4. Howard Main RIP
5. Our Treasurer and Secretary bearing the Branch Standard – Mr John Hooper
6. Branch meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month at Gelliwastad Club & Institute. Back row L-R: Top

left to right: Peter Mann, Steve Perry, Terry Thomas, Bob Kennerly, Alun Davies. Front row L-R: Rob Grant, John Hooper, Dai Gaule, Mike Knowles, Jason Harris

Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire Branch (Formed 1974)

Members of the Branch attended the Remembrance Service in the Town Hall precincts in Llanelli conducted by Revd Eldon Phillips. This was followed by a dedicated service of remembrance at the Welsh Guards Memorial in the Town Hall precincts conducted by our Chaplain Revd Patrick Mansel Lewis.

On Saturday 4 Dec the branch held a Christmas luncheon at Norton House Hotel Mumbles at which the guest of honour was Colonel Tom Bonas with his wife Vivien, as well as by the outgoing branch president Major John Harding who was accompanied by his wife Georgina.

The branch thanked John Harding for his many years of service as the president of the Llanelli and Cardiganshire branch of the Association and John Harding replied in terms which included a generous donation towards the funds of the branch.

President:	The Reverend Patrick Mansel Lewis
Chairman:	Mr David "Dai" Thomas (25096095)
Treasurer:	Mr Rob Rees (RAF)
Secretary:	Mr Alan Cunningham (24125105) 9 Alden Drive Cockett Swansea SA2 0FH
Telephone:	01792 554151
Email:	alan.powcoy@outlook.com

The branch Chaplain, Revd Patrick Mansel Lewis, was, somewhat to his surprise, by general consent of the association appointed President in the place of John Harding, and he acknowledged that appointment with appreciation and thanks.

The association was very glad to have Colonel Tom and Mrs Vivien Bonas in attendance. Colonel Tom, as Regimental Adjutant, always brings a good sense of connection between the Regiment and the Associations around the country and spoke appreciatively of the value of

the work carried out by the West Wales Association.

Another event in 2021 which was not strictly speaking an Association event, but nonetheless an event which a number of members of the West Wales Association attended, was the Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) Dinner which took place on the 24 Sept at the Stradey Park Hotel Llanelli. Our Chaplain attended with his cousin Tommy MacDonald-Milner (a former serving officer in the regiment) with a few members of the branch also in attendance at what was predictably a noisy but nonetheless enjoyable event.

Jun 22 marked the 40th anniversary of the Falkland's conflict. In the West Wales area, this was sadly the occasion for the death of Lance Corporal Mark Thomas from Llanelli and Guardsman Eirwyn Phillips from Cwmffrwd in the bombing of the RFA Sir Galahad. A service of remembrance and commemoration for both men took place on the 23rd June at the Llanelli Town Hall precinct led by the Chaplain Revd Patrick Mansel Lewis and attended by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed Colonel David Mathias; followed by a further service of remembrance and commemoration at St Anne's Church Cwmffrwd led by the Association's Chaplain and the Incumbent of St Anne's Church with the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed Sara Edwards in attendance who laid a wreath on behalf of the Lieutenancy.

The secretary and members of the branch who attended the Battlefield tour would like to

express their thanks to Lyndon, Will, and Andrew for all their hard work.

To the standard bearers for representing the branch and also those that support the Branch financially from afar.

To those on the sick list a speedy recovery.

Our meeting at the Royal Naval Club for 2023 is every two months, on the second Thursday of the month.

Dates for 2023 are:

9th February AGM – 13th April – 8th June – 10th August – 12th October – 14th December.

Please come and join us or if you wish to support us from afar, we would appreciate every help!!!



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1. *Members of Llanelli Branch Welsh Guards Association visiting the Links Llanelli Mental Health Charity Remembrance stall November 2021.*
- 2,3&4. *Llanelli Branch Christmas Lunch, Saturday 4th December 2021 at the Norton House Hotel.*
5. *Llanelli Branch members with Lt Col David Macdonald-Milner at the Memorial Service for Major Ivor Ramsden MBE, late President of the Llanelli Branch held on Friday 25th March in St. Mary's Church, Pembroke. L-R: James Rogers, Howard Davies (23877382), Lt Col D C Macdonald-Milner, Alan Cunningham (24125105), Vernon Jones (22217890) (photo courtesy of Bronwen Stopford)*

London and District Branch Report (Formed 1926 renamed 2020)



Remembrance Sunday 2022.

The Regimental Remembrance service in the Guards Chapel and march to the Guards Memorial at Horse Guards Parade were both well attended by branch members.

Branch Christmas Lunch 18th December 2021.

The branch Christmas Lunch in the London District Sergeant's Mess, Wellington Barracks was again very well attended and our guests of Honour were Field Marshal The Lord and Lady Guthrie. The branch is indebted to Steve Gelly for organising the entertainment

and a very good night was had by all.

Imber Court 26th June 2022

(Contributed by Dr Malcolm Aish and Ray Isaacs)

London Branch had a Service of Remembrance at the Memorial at Imber Court on 26th June 2022. With limited numbers available, it was well supported. We were pleased that Mrs Eve Standing, daughter of Frank Keys, a driving Instructor in the Welsh Guards stationed at Sandown Park in 1944, was in attendance. She was present at Imber Court when the V1

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

landed and caused so many deaths and injuries. She was supported by her daughter and laid the wreath in memory of those killed. The Service involved Lance Sergeant Bishop and Guardsman Owen, whose presence created much interest from the public – a good advertisement for the Regiment and a reminder to Imber Court members of the sad events of 1944.

The Service followed closely that of the Welsh Guards Remembrance Day Service and was led by Doctor Malcolm Aish, an associate member of the London Branch. A second wreath was laid by the President of the London Branch, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) D R Evans MBE, in

memory of those killed during the fighting in the Falkland Islands 40 years ago.

We were grateful for the support of all the staff and management at Imber Court who made us very welcome. We were able to sit out in good weather and reflect upon the day and to hear of Eve's experience of the event in 1944. Her memory is extensive and much appreciated. The work of Ray Isaacs of the London Branch in maintaining the Memorial over 15 years was also appreciated.

The 2023 Imber Court Memorial Service will be held on the 25th June.





Falkland Island Reception June 2022 House of Commons

Contributed by Paul Dunn

I work for the British Antarctic Survey who have a close relationship with the Falkland Islands. The event was an all-party reception hosted by the speaker of the House of Commons in his residence. On behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for the Armed Forces and the Falkland Islands we were delighted to accept the invitation to attend the parliamentary reception to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Falklands war and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal graciously agreed to attend the Beating Retreat and early part of the reception.

As an ex 1WG RSM, I attended and represented Dame Jane Elizabeth Francis DCMG FRS Director at the British Antarctic Survey and, being a Welsh Guardsman I put a call out to the London branch to open the second invite out to a Welsh Guardsman who had served during the Falklands conflict in 1982. Tom Thorne quickly accepted and we were both delighted to be able to represent our wider Welsh Guards family.



1. *Regimental Remembrance Parade 2021.*
2. *Branch Christmas function in the London District Sergeants' Mess*
3. *Branch committee, L-R: Secretary - Allan Miller, President - Lt Col Ray Evans MBE, Chairman Tom Thorne*

- 4&5. *Branch Christmas function*
- 6&7. *Imber Court Memorial*
8. *Paul Dunn with the Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Lindsay Hoyle*
9. *Tom Thorne at the House of Commons Falklands Reception*



Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare Branch

(Formed full status 1957)

The Branch at last is getting back to a bit of normality with events coming in thick and fast to fill our calendar. Attendance at our monthly meetings are improving each month with new members popping along and some old dogs welcomed back into the fold.

St David's Day 2022.

As a Branch we enjoyed our own St David's Day with a fine night at Cefn Coed Rugby Club - the dinner was fantastic as always. It took a bit of eating all the courses, but heroically branch members struggled through. It was particularly good as our Branch President Captain Harry Legge-Bourke was present alongside our Chairman Tom Peters who was back in the fold after having intensive treatment for a nasty illness (welcome back Tom).

Remembrance Parades.

As a Branch we attended various Remembrance Parades throughout the valley (six in total). There were a few we couldn't attend due to timings and manpower, but like every other year we will be present at as many as we possibly can.

Glan Usk Fayre.

After the past few years of lockdown, it was fantastic

for the branch to attend the wonderful Glan Usk Estate Fayre in May. Our President, Captain Harry Legge-Bourke invites us every year and we had a great turnout. As always, the Fayre was excellent, we had a great time and entertainment was on the ball. The dinosaurs went down well, particularly with my own grandson, who attended for the first time. We look forward to attending again next year as it's going from strength to strength - onwards and upwards.

Pontypridd Park Falklands 40th.

The Branch attended this Parade in force as you can see from the photos. We would like to thank East Glamorgan Branch for the invite and the hospitality on the day. The Parade was well attended by Falkland Veterans and more importantly by Next of Kin of the Fallen. The Dignitaries were in abundance and me and the Chairman Tom Peters

President:	Captain HR Legge-Bourke
Chairman:	Tom Peters (23523035)
Treasurer/ Secretary:	Errold Jones (24581438) 18 Marshall Crescent, Penydarren Merthyr Tydfil CF47 9JA
Telephone:	07903 417048
Email:	errold438@yahoo.co.uk

had a good catch up with the Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan Mr Peter Vaughan who we have both known since our school days. A great Parade which will only grow and grow.

Dering Lines, Brecon.

Forewarned by Andy Jones 39 (aka curly) who lives in Brecon and is Veterans Officer for Gwent, a few branch members attended the open day at the Infantry Battle School (IBS) in Brecon where the Gurkhas took centre stage with dancing, unarmed combat as well as providing their renown Curry which is an experience not to be missed.

Wrexham Falklands 40th Anniversary.

Well, what can I say. Five of us travelled up to Wrexham for the first time and all that has been said since is that we will definitely be going again. The Church Service, Parade and Reception were absolutely first class and a credit to Captain Chris Hopkins who organised it all. Handshakes and hugs were too numerous to count and at every corner, some faces from the past took a bit of recognising and then most didn't.

Darts & Shoot.

As of writing the Darts and Shoot is on hold and although scheduled for 17 September

had to be postponed for obvious and so sad reasons. The Branch was looking forward to this and hopefully it can be re-arranged for a later date. Hopefully some way of getting into the WO's and Sgt's Mess as this adds something to the event.

St David's Day 2023.

As of last year, our next St David's Day is looking at being local as our Branch have indicated that's what they would prefer, rather than travel further afield. Attendance is growing every year and it seems the way forward for us as a Branch. Like many other branches our core membership is not getting any younger and travelling too far is a real concern for many, added to 1 Mar 23 being on a Wednesday would mean working members having to take a couple of days off from their working week.

Falklands 2023.

We have a branch member, Richie Morris (24497923), attending the Falklands Pilgrimage (22 Feb - 03 Mar 23), as normal, they will hold a St David's Day Service at the Fitzroy Memorial and I have asked Richie to lay a Wreath on behalf of our branch (which we have done in the past but not recently). Good luck to him and the others who are attending the





trip and we hope it's all you expect and are looking for, it was for me.

Trago Mills, Merthyr. This year the Poppy Appeal for South Wales is to be launched at Merthyr Tydfil and alongside the RBL, the Welsh Guards Merthyr Branch have been asked to attend - especially Falklands veterans from 82. There will be a display in the front entrance (as they did in June) and, as it still the 40th anniversary of the Falklands War, there will be a Falklands commemorative display in the main display area. There will be invited guests and a fair

amount of memorabilia from our members.

As always, as a branch, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of our late members, and we send our very best wishes to those who are not in the best of health - we wish them a full and speedy recovery. Our 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 2000hrs, old and new members alike will be made very welcome. Working closely with other



Organisations the Branch are optimistic about the year ahead. With parades, events, functions, and tours coming in thick and fast it's going to be a busy year.

1. Branch St David's Day Group.
2. Ladies at St David's Day.
3. Falklands Memorial event, Pontypridd
4. Merthyr Lads in Wrexham for the Falkland's reunion

Monmouthshire Branch (Formed 1920)

When a Welsh Guards Comrades Association was formed in 1920 its declared purpose was "to maintain connection between the past and serving members of the Welsh Guards and thereby promote their mutual interest and welfare of the Regiment generally." The Monmouthshire Branch was a founder member of the Association and through its one hundred and two years has maintained that contact and enjoyed doing so.

Our links with the Battalion were strengthened by the award of the Monmouthshire Branch Trophy to the Welsh Guards Sportsman of the Year and the presence of serving Welsh Guardsmen at an Annual

Reunion Dinner. Due to Covid that and other events have not taken place in the past few years but with the support of members hopefully they will be held again.

President:	Captain M G A Scriven
Chairman:	Alan Mountjoy (2392977)
Treasurer/ Secretary:	Steve Liversage BEM (24141822) 7 Shaw Close Ebbw Vale NP23 6QQ
Telephone:	01495 302567
Email:	vicar54@outlook.com

The Falklands Conflict in 1982 brought present and past serving Welsh Guardsmen even closer and the 40th Anniversary in 2022 was recognised throughout Wales. One of many events to mark the conflict was at the War Memorial in Ebbw Vale attended by three who served in the Falklands, Branch

Secretary, Steve Liversage then a Sergeant in Support Company, 24374530 Dennis Morris Headquarter Company (see photo) and Don McCuoch a Sergeant in the REME who was attached to 2nd Battalion Scots Guards.

The ever-popular Association Darts & Shooting competition

day has always been well supported by the Branch and so was an earlier competition for the Leatham Challenge small bore shooting Trophy which took place in Branches. Results were posted to Regimental Headquarters to be declared at the Annual Meeting. The Monmouthshire Branch did its shooting in the Ebbw Vale TA Centre which was organised and supervised by a local marksman who was a bronze medal winner in shooting at the Commonwealth Games.

The Branch team that won the 1962/63 competition was 2738314 Bill Knapman (2nd Battalion, Branch Secretary), 2733910 Mervyn Lewis (1st Battalion, Branch Chairman who was top scorer and 2740343 Bob Richards (Drummer 1st Battalion) all employed in the steel industry and a policeman, Chief

Inspector Edward Williams, a Branch Vice President who served in the 1st Battalion, was commissioned and fought in the 14th Army in Burma. The results, as published in the 1963 Annual Report are attached.

Members like those gave their time and support of the Branch when it was revived in 1961 and thanks to them and many who followed them, we have "maintained connection between the past and serving members of the Welsh Guards." We will share the pride of those who take part in the King's Birthday Parade in June 2023 when the Battalions' Colours will be Trooped.

1. Steve Liversage BEM (24141822) and Dennis Morris (24374530)
2. Extract from the 1963 Regimental Magazine



SMALL-BORE SHOOTING			
THE LEATHAM CHALLENGE TROPHY 1962-63			
1. Monmouthshire Branch Team		3. London Branch "A" Team	
W. J. Knapman	162	Mr Griffiths	189
R. Richards	198	Mr Davies	194
M. A. Lewis	200	Brigadier D. B. P. Hodgson, OBE	187
E. J. Williams	195	Mr Williams	189
	785		759
2. Cardiff Branch Team		4. Aberdure Branch Team	
P. Bullock	192	E. Frankton	186
R. Cooke	194	R. Hill	185
B. Clarke	193	S. Griffiths	182
C. Bassett	191	I. Davies	184
	770		737
5. London Branch "B" Team			
Mr Jordan	188		
Mr Hoddich	176		
J. Vincent	179		
A. N. Evans	177		
	720		

Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch (Formed 1950)

Branch Christmas Lunch 10 Dec 21.

As the branch approached the end 2021, we were beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel and the end of the Covid 19 lockdown restrictions in England. We were fortunate that lifting of restrictions allowed the branch to hold its Christmas Lunch at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club as we were keen to get back to some normality. The table setting was suitably spaced out giving plenty of room between tables and the food was cooked to perfection, piping hot and enjoyed by all.

Branch St David's Day Lunch, Henllan Nr Welshpool.

The lunch was planned to take place on the 20 Feb, it is normally held early to allow branch members to also attend the Battalion St David's day parade if they wish. However due to the Welsh Government's more cautious approach to coming out of the pandemic a restriction of a maximum of 30 people only was allowed to gather in one room and as the Henllan was a popular venue with a 50+ attending we regrettably decided to cancel the venue for this year.

President:	Captain B M H Branston
Chairman:	Mr J Bates (23952205)
Treasurer/ Secretary:	Mr J O Williams (23860183) 83 Balmoral Crescent Oswestry Shropshire, SY11 2XH
Telephone:	01691 653244
Mobile:	07860 829206
Email:	j83williams.wga@gmail.com

Branch Annual Luncheon at The Wroxeter Hotel Atcham, Nr Shrewsbury, 10 Jul.

This year's attendance was lower than normal and after a few last-minute cancellations we had 37 members and friends attend the luncheon. The Branch President Captain Barney Branston was not able to attend and Captain

Sir Edward Tate Bt graciously agreed to stand in. We felt that it was particularly important that we as a Branch carried on with the luncheon, even without the Branch President and in truth it turned out to be one of the best ones we have had at the Wroxeter Hotel (not may I add due to the absence of the President!). It was a lovely sunny day; the room

was nicely laid out; the food was good and our members and guests carried on chatting well after the luncheon had finished.

Falklands Islands Ride of Respect.

This Ride of Respect is covered by a standalone article in this magazine, suffice to say that I represented the Branch along with Graham Binnie (Chairman North Wales Branch) when the riders concluded their ride on Fri 24 Jun by laying a wreath at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial at Bodhyfryd, Wrexham. I would like to say thank you to all who took part in the Ride of Respect for their loyalty and respect they have shown to their fallen comrades on the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. We also attended the Laying of Wreath service for Gdsm Hughes 11, at The Holy Trinity Church, Rhosyllen which was well attended by members from around the area, with the wreath laid by Ian Hughes brother of Gdsm Hughes.

Stanier Trophy Golf Cup. 31st August.

This year we were pleased to see the Welsh Guards Golf Association returning to the area to play their 4th and final golf competition for the Stanier Trophy, at Llanymynech Golf Club, Pant Nr Oswestry. It was last played for in 2011.

The club fits the bill for the branch as you "Tee" off in the old county of Montgomeryshire and venture into Shropshire at the 4th 5th & 6th holes before returning back into Wales. The course, I'm told, was challenging but rewarding with some stunning panoramic views and covers a distance of 6,036 yards (about 3.4 Welsh miles). It was a nice sunny day with a turnout of 33 members and friends and plenty of banter. I would like to thank the members for making me feel welcome. I enjoyed the day and hopefully will see you again next year.

Steam Locomotive WD 71516 – "Welsh Guardsman".

In the 2014 Regimental Magazine Captain Berwyn Lewis wrote a piece about the Austerity Steam Engine named The Welsh Guardsman. Members might be interested to know that in 2022 the engine was moved to the Severn Valley Railway (SVR) at Bridgnorth, Shropshire and is currently based at the SVR. Although it is limited to use at the SVR due to its water capacity it does run on SVR Gala days. The engine is still owned by Felinfoel Brewery.

Steam Locomotive Royal Scot Class 46117 – "Welsh Guardsman".

The first Steam Engine to be

named Welsh Guardsman was built by the LMS Royal Scot Class. Originally built by Sir Henry Fowler and later re-built by Sir Williams Stanier. Royal Scot Class. No 6117 Welsh Guardsman was built in Nov 1927, re-built in Dec 1946 and withdrawn from service in Nov 1962 to be sadly cut up for scrap. There are two preserved Royal Scot Class, 6100 Royal Scot and 6115 Scot Guardsman. The Royal Scot Engine was originally numbered 6152. The King's Dragoon Guards, which was permanently swapped identities with 6100 in 1933. A total of 70 engines were built between 1927 -1930.

Branch Forthcoming events for 2023

Branch Christmas Lunch
10th December 2022
Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club

St David's Day Lunch
T.B.A
Henllan Nr Welshpool.

Branch Annual Lunch
9th July 2023
The Wroxeter Hotel Atcham Nr
Shrewsbury, SY5 6PH

Branch Meetings

Held at the Shrewsbury
Beaconsfield Club, Meadow
Place, Shrewsbury. SY1 1PD.

Held on Wednesday's 14:15

for 14:30 start. Dates for 2023 are; 11th Jan, 8th March, 10th May, 5th July 6th Sept and 8th November 2023. Members always welcomed.

I would like to thank members of the committee for their support and our members, their wives/partners, and friends, for supporting the branch. We hope to see you at our next years' luncheon.

1. Branch Christmas lunch, dining room layout at the Shrewsbury Beaconsfield Club
2. Bill Jones, Pat Pritchard and family from Welshpool enjoying the Branch Christmas lunch
3. Christmas lunch; John Bates, Branch Chairman, and partner Amanda (left) with Tom Evans and his wife Mary and Betty Owen with granddaughter Rebecca Laflin.
4. Capt Sir Edward Tate Br, Mrs Di Parry and Mike Astley at the Branch annual luncheon at the Wroxeter Hotel
5. Graham Moran with his family and Bill and Wyllis Turner, enjoying the excellent lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel.
6. The Arrowsmith family in the shade and chilling out before they journeyed home to Telford from Wroxeter
7. The Stanier Trophy was presented to the winner Mr Steve Gelly by Colonel Guy Bartle-Jones.
8. Welsh Guardsman Locomotive WD71516 at SVR at Bridgnorth (photo courtesy of Beryn Lewis, Felinfoel Brewery).
9. Royal Scot Class 46117 Welsh Guardsman



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North Wales Branch (Formed 1936)

Branch Activity.

For the benefit of anyone who has never attended one of our meetings, we start this year's report describing a typical, busy but enjoyable entertaining night for the North Wales Branch. We had a packed agenda for our Nov 21 meeting with a lot of business on the agenda with upcoming remembrance events, Christmas Dinner as well as planning for our 2022 events.

Following introductions and building further on the superb relationship with the Battalion, we were privileged to receive another excellent update via our Microsoft Teams video conference from CSM (Sp

Coy) Kieran Cunningham who updated us on all aspects of 1WG. He provided a detailed brief on what each company has been up to over the last months as well as what they can expect in the new year which included some fascinating multiple operational deployments.

After a quick break to refill our glasses and tuck into a couple of freshly delivered KFC buckets of chicken & chips (compliments of Ellie Burns), the meeting continued, and the evening was topped off with yet another "Gleaming" professional presentation and equipment display from LSgt Kristopher Davies &



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President:	Captain AC Hopkins (24060529)
Chairman:	Graham "The Bear" 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

LCpl Matty Wilkinson from the North Wales Regimental Support Team. They demonstrated some of the latest kit being issued to Welsh Guardsmen today and it is really heartening to see the incredible improvements in technology assisting our professional frontline infantry soldiers.

The last twelve months has seen a good turnout from our regular association members, but we still need to see more new faces joining us for our monthly meetings. If you can't make it to the club then please do at least join us via video conference using your computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone. If you are unsure how to use your device to join us remotely, I am more than happy to spend time showing you how to use this great resource. Many people, especially our older generations have embraced this technology over the lockdown period and are now reaping the benefits. If we can gain enough interest, I am also looking to introduce a monthly on-line fun quiz which I currently host once a month using Kahoot during my day job with around thirty team members. The feedback is really positive with everyone looking forward to the quizzes.

However, if you can "physically" make it to our monthly meetings the order of dress is informal/ casual and as veterans of the Welsh Guards, you are all free Honorary Members of the WGA.

Over the last couple of months, we have seen some increased interest with new members joining us for the evening, we welcome everyone to join us, rank is immaterial as is the length of time you may have served within the regiment. In addition, our Branch is also joining a wider Veterans community Breakfast club which meets every second Saturday morning at Yellow & Blue in Wrexham Town Centre. Dave Hewitt is also promoting the Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club closer to home in Buckley, to join Dave along with the wider veterans visit: www.afvbc.net

To our serving Welsh Guardsmen, I would say if you are due to leave the regiment in the near future, we understand that like ourselves, you may not wish to get involved straight away with the association as you focus on your transition into civilian life and that is fine and understood, but do drop me an email or a text with your



contact details and I can keep you up to date with future events and we will be here to welcome you onboard when you are ready to join us for some mutual support and camaraderie.

Welsh Guard Veteran Funerals.

Sadly, funerals have remained a constant factor over the last year and our branch Pall and Standard have been busy with association members paying our final respects. It is always a privilege to dress the coffins ensuring the Pall is positioned perfectly and the adorned forage cap and buff belt are gleaming in line with the floral sprays.

I always find it a deeply emotional experience knowing we are one of the last people to see our Welsh Guards brothers. Often after family and friends have left the room, in those final few minutes alone as I undress the coffins then, as they make

their way through curtains or as they are lowered into the ground it is a truly humbling experience, an honour and privilege to ensure our brethren's last moments are a befitting tribute.

2021 Armistice Day Service of Remembrance.

Again, after the last couple of years of lockdown restrictions, it was nice to be back to some normality and on Thurs 11 Nov a well-attended service was held at Queens Square in Wrexham with Branch members joining the crowds gathered to pay our respects, the Standard was also in attendance with the air raid siren notifying the people of the town of the minute silence.

2021 Remembrance Sunday Bodhyfryd Wrexham.

Last years' service was held on Sun 14 Nov, Branch President Captain Chris Hopkins on behalf of the



North Wales Branch read out the Kohima Epitaph, with the Branch Secretary John Burns on Standard Bearer duties and Chairman Graham Binnie, as he does every year, laid a wreath on behalf of the 8th Army Veterans and Alan Loose laid a wreath at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial.

2021 Wrexham Branch Christmas Meal.

This took place at the Ramada Hotel in Wrexham; it was a well-attended successful night with thirty-three members which included partners who have also supported the branch throughout the year at various events. It was an honour to have Kris and the WG RST team join us this year as a way of thanking them for all the support they provide.

St David's Day 2022.

This year saw 27 members from North Wales Branch join the Battalion in Combermere Barracks. The Associations very kindly paid for the coach

with members staying in Windsor over the two nights to enjoy the celebrations. Once again, the Sgt's mess as well as everyone within the Battalion totally surpassed our expectations. Our hosts made every member of the association feel exceptionally special and welcomed us back to the regiment with open arms. Everyone in the branch was talking about the experience on our journey back to North Wales and for weeks after. We are all eagerly awaiting our return in 2023 and looking very much forward with great enthusiasm to joining the Battalion again for our next St David's Day celebration.

North Wales Armed Forces Day.

Wrexham hosted the Armed Forces Day this year which began with a parade starting at the War Memorial in Bodhyfryd, marching through the city centre and finishing at Wrexham Guild Hall in Llwyn





7

Isaf. Warrior and Challenger 2 tanks were among the many military vehicles parked on Queen's Square right next to the WGA & The Infantry RST team gazebo and display stands, it was a pleasant surprise to see the Gwent & Powys ACF WG Band. Co-locating with Kris and the infantry RST team proved to be an excellent opportunity for promoting the WGA within the community, we had many family members and quit a few WG veterans visit the stand to chat with our members.

Armed Forces Dinner & Dance.

On Sat 14 May the Branch hosted the Annual Armed Forces Dinner and Dance at the Ramada Hotel in Wrexham, this was a well-supported black tie evening event consisting of a 4 course Meal, Dancing & Entertainment.

Falklands 40 – A Significant and Special Anniversary.

This year has seen many events organised to commemorate the memory of those who did not return, from bike rides to challenging walks around Wales, and other parts of the UK which have included members of the North Wales Branch. All these events will have their own individual reports within this year's magazine and so we will not detract from those reports as the people who organised and took part deserve full recognition for their hard work and accomplishments, we will only touch briefly on involvement at a Branch level.

The Airbourne Forces Riders (AFR) – Annual Ride of Respect.

On Sat 7 May the AFR escorted by WG Veteran Bikers briefly stopped at the Welsh Guards Falklands Memorial in

Bodhyfryd where they were met by members of the North Wales Branch of the WGA for a short memorial service with wreath laying.

Memorial Service for Sergeant Malcolm Wigley.

On 8 Jun a ceremony was held at the War Memorial in Deeside to remember Sergeant Malcolm Wigley who died aboard the Sir Galahad in 1982. The RST North & the WGA Standard Bearer and other association members were in attendance.

40th Falklands Memorial Service – Wrexham.

With all credit to our Branch President, Capt Chris Hopkins, on Saturday 25th June Wrexham hosted another impeccably planned and magnificently implemented service of remembrance for those who did not return.

HM Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Service.

On Sunday 18th September a Memorial Service took place at St Giles Parish Church in Wrexham for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Members of the North Wales Branch along with the Standard were in attendance

North Wales Sub-Branch.

Regrettably, due to dwindling numbers and ill health our

Bangor Sub-Branch wound down last year and with the North Wales Branch covering such a large area it is understandable that it can be difficult to travel to join the Wrexham Branch monthly meetings. I am aware from social media content that several groups exist where WG veterans meet along the North Wales Coast on a regular basis. I am looking for any ex-Welsh Guardsmen who may have some spare time to form a sub-branch somewhere further along the North Wales coast. Please do contact me if you would be interested. I'd be more than happy to help set up a regular venue as well as attend the monthly meetings myself to support you. In the meantime, if anyone within North Wales region would like to join the Wrexham Branch meetings via Video Conference then please do get in touch with me.

Regimental Engagement.

Over the last year CSM Kieran Cunningham, the North Wales 1WG Sgt's & WO's Mess Affiliated Branch Member, has regularly joined us when not on operations via MS Teams. Kieran is projected onto a large screen for all to see in Wrexham as well as anyone else joining us on the MS Teams video conferencing, they can also see and hear



8



everyone who is with us in the club at the branch meetings to help put a face to a name.

The regular updates from the Battalion provided by Kieran are really appreciated and valued at our meetings and this cascading of information between the Battalion and the Association is invaluable in bringing us closer together as a single community.

As well as Kieran we also have Sgt Kris Davies who leads the North Wales RST. The Branch have now built an excellent relationship with Kris and the members of the North Wales RST who regularly join us at our monthly meetings, they are now well and truly part of our family.

Throughout this year we have again been developing our Battalion and Association bond even greater through joint events such as Armed Forces Day and the upcoming North Wales Military Music Pageant.



1. November 2021 North Wales Branch Monthly Meeting – Association Members are joined by CSM Kieran Cunningham via MS Teams and L/Sgt Kristopher Davies & L/Cpl Matty Wilkinson from the North Wales Recruitment Team
2. Dressed Coffin with Pall & Standard
3. North Wales Branch Association Christmas Meal December 2021 with from top left: Gavin Francis, Ted Francis, Ellie Burns, Ann Hopkins, Jodie Jones, Susan Adamson, Ronnie Adamson, along with serving members Kris Davies, Hughes, Wilkinson, Worthington & Jones, and association members Frank Brooke, Debbie Brooke, Bill Britton, Lena Lloyd, Alan Loose, Ronnie Adamson, Chris Hopkins, Julie Le Dain, Dave Hewitt, Tony Hayes, Dick Clark, Chris Phillips, Brenda Phillips Louise Sanger, Ian Sanger.
4. North Wales Branch Association members on parade with the Battalion in Windsor for St David's Day 2022.
5. Armed Forces Day 2022, North Wales Branch members alongside the Welsh Guards Recruitment Team in Wrexham with the Association Stand.
6. Armed Forces Dinner & Dance with Chris & Ann Hopkins entertaining Wrexham MP Sarah Atherton along with other esteemed guests. John & Ellie Burns hosting the newly appointed Mayor of Wrexham, Cllr Brian Cameron & Mayoress Mrs Kerry Cameron and Chris & Brenda Phillips with Dave Hewitt & Julie Le Dain.
7. 2021 Armistice Day 11th November 2021 - Service of Remembrance – Queens Square Wrexham with Branch Standard on Parade & Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2021 – Bodhyfryd Wrexham – Excellent turn out from the people of the city of Wrexham with the North Wales Branch Standard on Parade
8. The Airbourne Forces Riders – Annual Ride of Respect met by North Wales Branch Association Members at Falklands War Memorial in Bodhyfryd
9. The Airbourne Forces Riders – Annual Ride of Respect with one of the Welsh Guards Veteran Bikers, Chris Phillips who escorted the AFR around North Wales on their journey taking this wreath with them.
10. Memorial Service for Sergeant Malcolm Wigley
11. 40th Falklands Memorial Service – Wrexham with some of the Veterans who attended this Year's Memorial Service
12. Some of the WGA North Wales Branch Members at our October 2022 Monthly Meeting from Left John Burns (Branch Secretary), Graham Binnie (Branch Chairman), Ian Hopkins, Franke Brooke (Coldstream Guards), Ted Francis, Glyn Rogers, Bill Britton, Chris Hopkins (Branch President & Treasurer), Alan Loose, Chris Phillips and Dave Hewitt.



North of England Branch

(Formed 1946)

Following on from the announcement of our new Branch President, Captain James Daniel, in last year's Regimental Magazine, this year I find myself writing this report as we announce the change of Branch Secretary as Bryan Matthews (24578738), who served from 1980 to 1986, takes over from myself, Stephen Ollerhead. We wish them both all the very best in their endeavours to boost branch membership numbers and I know that existing branch members will support them in any way they can.

If we thought that the Covid years of 2020 and 21 were odd, then 2022 has continued in the same vein and been a little strange also! We started with our branch Christmas dinner being a bit of a disaster, we had all ordered our meals to be served at the table only to find on the night that this had been changed by a new management team who never thought to inform us and so we ended up having to wait in line at the carvery - and what a line it was, the pub was heaving with people! Another disaster was the quality of the food, cold soups and roasties like lumps of coal, but in finest Welsh Guards tradition, we muttered and moaned like hell, but cracked on and had plenty of good banter and an enjoyable time.

We have changed our monthly get togethers once again and are now meeting at The Old Quay, in Parkgate on the Wirral usually during the first week of the month.

Hopefully with the end of the Covid Pandemic now in sight things can return to some sense of normality

without the need to abide by the strange rulings which came into force which stipulated that "you must enter a venue wearing a face mask" and "then wait to be seated before you can remove the mask" as if the dreaded bug knew you were sitting down and it knew not to infect you - what a joke. We attended the Regiments 40th commemoration of the Falklands conflict in Wrexham and what a wonderful Regimental day it was. It was great to see such a large turnout from the WG veteran community (and not just Falkland veterans) and such a wonderful showing by the Regimental Band and the marching detachment from the Battalion. Everything was excellent and so a huge thank you to Captain Chris Hopkins who organises the day every year for a job done extremely well.

We very much hope that the next twelve months will bring better news than the last twelve and wish everyone a wonderful and Happy Christmas and a peaceful, safe and healthy New Year.

President:	Captain J W H Daniel
Chairman:	Post Vacant
Treasurer:	Mr Arnold Brassey
Secretary:	Bryan Matthews (24578738) 3 Sandymount Drive New Brighton Merseyside CH45 0LJ
Telephone:	0750 8844911
Email:	bryanmatthews64@gmail.com



1. *Myself, Steve Ollerhead (23929723) and great friend of 53 years Paul Liddy (23929602) in Munster Germany outside our barrack*
2. *Branch Christmas Lunch 2021*

Ogmore Branch (Formed 1982)

A particularly busy period for the newly revitalised Branch, but we will start by saying a sad farewell to the following branch members who we lost in 2022:

Mrs Mary Layton wife of Branch member LCpl Brian Layton of Vaughan Street Pwllgwaun Pontypridd. A regular at Branch meetings and Battalion events along with Brian and her Daughter Kathryn.

Mon 21 Mar we said goodbye to Christine Palmer, the wife of ex Gdsm Bill Palmer, both stalwart members of the Branch who always supported events and functions. Christine had a large turn out and will be sadly missed.

Sat 26 Mar we lost John Michael Jones (01), known affectionately to us all as "Mike 01". An article in remembrance of Mike is contained in a separate article in this magazine.

Sun 10 Apr members of the Branch met at Maesteg RFC "7777" The Old Parish ground to say goodbye to Spencer "Wally" Walford". Spencer was a larger-than-life character a formidable Rugby player for the Battalion and an Army Cup winning team member. Spencer passed away in January in Alicante Spain with his wife Vanessa by his side and wished for his ashes to be spread at the ground he learnt his rugby on. After the service on the field, members enjoyed a meal and refreshments in his memory.

Tues 31 May at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital after a short illness, Brian Layton

passed away. Brian was a staunch Ogmore Branch member, and we were in Brian's company up until recently sharing breakfast with him at Llangorse Lake and at the AGM. His laughter and humour whilst reminiscing over Welsh Guards and Pontypridd Rugby games will be sadly missed.

All members of the Branch send their heartfelt condolences to all the families. They will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

The Branch has had a transformation during this period with committee retirements and new appointments being made. The changes, aside from simply enabling the branch to exist, have allowed it to grow and flourish and better embrace the working relationships between the Battalion, RHQ, Charities and other Association Branches. This has included the increased use of Information Technology to communicate with our members, increase our recruitment footprint and improve the interoperability of working with outside agencies thus enhancing the welfare and aid we can offer to Branch members.

I would like to take this opportunity on Behalf of all Members past and present to thank and offer our continued support to Paul, and Roy and their families for their services to the Branch since

President:	Captain P Robinson
Chairman:	Mr Mike Smith (24901419)
Treasurer:	Mr Andrew Evans (24645386)
Secretary:	Mr Bob Chambers (24645750) Brynteg Bungalow Brynteg Llantrisant Pontyclun CF72 8LR
Telephone:	07501 191917
Email:	bobchambers50@live.co.uk



its formation. Thank you and I can confirm that the new committee will endeavour to carry on the high standards that were set by yourselves into the Branch's future.

Slowly and surely things will get back to normal following the COVID restrictions and I hope to be writing "happier and back to normal" articles this time next year. Having taken over the role of Branch Secretary in Nov 21 and teamed up once again with Capt Peter Robinson as Branch President, recruitment became the number one priority for our dwindling Branch.

As with all other Branches, times had changed regarding ex members of the Regiment simply joining a branch on completion of their service and numbers had fallen away quite dramatically over the



years. It became immediately apparent that Branches needed to change to survive and that members needed to adapt to these changes. I set about "hard recruiting", calling in favours, visiting ex Welsh Guardsmen and explaining the Branches predicaments and the future goals, expectations, and desires of "going forward and expanding the membership". I gave myself

BRANCH REPORTS



3

the first quarter (Jan – Apr) in which to raise membership numbers.

Recruiting a Treasurer and Chairman was of paramount importance and fortunately that was achieved fairly painlessly in the shape of Andrew Evans 86 as Treasurer and Mike Smith 19 as Chairman. At the time of writing this article we have 74 registered Branch members and Associate Branch members, 122 Facebook Branch followers along with 37 WhatsApp followers. Each day a "Branch Order" is posted to update Branch members on upcoming events, any deaths, birthdays, and any item related to The Regiment and the wider family.

Operation STARGAZER was formulated in conjunction with the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) with the intention of holding a bonding event of Welsh Guard veterans in company with other Veteran Organisations to have a



4

"company smoker". This was achieved on Fri 25 Mar when 37 veterans gathered on the "Hard Target" land of our new Chairman, Mike Smith 19. Valley Veterans attended headed by ex-Welsh Guardsman Paul Bromwell along with Porthcawl Veterans headed by ex RSM Lauraine Mulholland. A BBQ with Bevvies was had whilst veterans reminisced around the campfire before sleeping out under the stars until reveille at 0600 hrs the next morning.

We managed to raise £430 for the RBLI and £163.20 for Branch funds raised through a raffle and tote. More importantly 18 new members/associate members signed up to the Branch.

Operation STAND TO was planned to remember the fallen in the Falkland Islands 40 years ago and so, with the members who had served down South it was fitting to raise monies for the South Atlantic Medal Association 82

(SAMA 82). On Sat 7 May at 0500hrs 17 Branch members assembled and were briefed at the foot of Pen y Fan, setting off at 0600hrs. At the summit members donned their berets unfurled the Falklands and Welsh Guards flags and remembered the members of the Regiment who did not return home including our own Bridgend Guardsman Gareth Nicholson. Upon descent members were debriefed and made their way to The Lakeside Restaurant where we sat outside in the glorious sunshine and ate our breakfasts with coffee. A total of £617 was raised for SAMA 82 and £40 for branch funds.

At our AGM on the 11 May 22 Mr Paul Mockett MBE received a presentation for his services to the Branch since its formation in 1982 along with Mr Roy Poland who has also served as a Branch committee member carrying out sterling work for the Branch. Once again thank you both very much for your services. Mr

Mockett also officially stepped down as Branch Chairman and Mike Smith was officially installed as our new Chairman for the Branch.

Thur 2 Jun was a special day in London with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and Trooping The Colour. Branch members who were lucky enough to get tickets witnessed a faultless Troop carried out by 1st Battalion Irish Guards and witnessed Her Majesty with members of the Royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace and saw the historical fly past by the RAF.

The local Falkland Islands liberation remembrance parade was held at Bridgend War Memorial on Tuesday 14 Jun and as a branch we paid our respects along with other Services to the fallen who never returned. A wreath was laid on behalf of the branch with special remembrance of Gdsm Gareth Nicholson. Special mention must be given to Mike Smith our Chairman who acted as Parade Marshal and who drilled the Branch members to the high Footguards standards expected.

A special mention to branch Member Chris Nunnerley who has aided Ukrainian families in the quest for freedom on the Polish and Ukrainian border along with his wife Marzena. Chris has been



5



6



7



recognised for his work by the Ukrainian Government and we wholeheartedly congratulate you and Marzena on your recognition award. Stay safe, total respect for your humanitarian efforts.

Wed 22 Jun the branch supported the "Ride of Respect" Bikers (see separate article in this magazine) who, upon arrival at the Bridgend War memorial, stopped everyone in their tracks. It was very fitting that Beryl, the Mother of Gdsm Gareth Nicholson, laid a wreath on behalf of the "Ride of Respect" Team and in memory of her late son. Beryl was accompanied by her Daughter Debbie, Gareth's sister. Gareth missed but never forgotten.

Our next Branch event was the "Company Smoker Op EASE SPRINGS on Fri 22 Jul. The aim was to raise £200 for the Welsh Guards Charity by sleeping out beneath the stars and to give up their comforts in memory of those that gave up their lives whilst serving in the Regiment. The result of Op EASE SPRINGS was £220 raised for Welsh Guards Charity, and £66 raised for the branch, with the added bonus of attracting two new members also. Andrew, our Branch Treasurer, through his role with Lloyds Bank, had arranged for the amount raised by us to be doubled by Lloyds Bank using their charity "Matching Giving"

initiative and the amount was subsequently doubled to £440. Thank you, Andrew.

At the Branch Quarterly meeting on Wed 10 Aug at the Caeffatri Public House Bridgend, our Branch member Paul Mockett MBE was recognised for his services to the Branch. Paul who has been ever present at branch meetings and events and has carried out all committee roles during his time received a certificate of his service to the Welsh Guards Association signed by His Royal Highness, the Colonel.

In September branch members attended the Association Battlefield Tour to Hechtel in Belgium. Whilst there we took part in a liberation and a remembrance church service parades in the Town centre. Bridgend has a "Hand of Friendship" link with Hechtel and each year at this time the town fondly and strongly remembers the role played by Welsh Guards in its liberation from German occupation in 1944. The Branch Secretary Bob Chambers presented the Hechtel Mayor Jan Dalemans with a Welsh Guards Ogmores Branch Plaque after lunch, and one of those in attendance was a great friend of Ogmores branch Bob Vranken-Deckers.

The Branch continues to gather momentum and is still



currently actively recruiting new members. As a branch we welcome all Welsh Guardsmen and women whether serving or retired and each and every one who will be made extremely welcome. We meet quarterly normally on a Wednesdays between 1900-2100 at the Caeffatri Public House Bridgend. Season's Greetings for the end of the year and a Happy Prosperous Covid free 2023 New Year.

- Ogmores Branch members, presented Hechtel Mayor Jan Dalemans with an Ogmores Branch Welsh Guards Plaque
4. Op STARGAZER Group photo
 5. Op STAND TO, Branch Officials leading the way, L-R: President, Peter Robinson, Secretary, Bob Chambers, Chairman, Mike Smith 19
 6. Op STAND TO, our four Falklands Veterans at 886m, L-R: Jeff Bishop (24446491), Kim Burnell (24464758), Ken Chappell (24546230), David Bambrough (24220021)
 7. Op STAND TO Group at the summit
 8. Op STAND TO, Breakfast at Lakeside bar & restaurant Llangorse
 9. Op STAND TO, Presenting a cheque to SAMA 82 representatives Joanne Stevens and Marie Hurcum of SAMA 82, funds raised from Op STAND TO. Left to Right; Branch Secretary Bob Chambers, Branch Treasurer Andrew Evans 86, Joanne Stevens, Marie Hurcum, Branch President Captain Peter Robinson.
 10. Op EASE SPRINGS group photo
 11. Op EASE SPRINGS, Branch Chairman Mike Smith 91 (Gino Campo) preparing scoff accompanied by Branch members Lee Niblett Mirek Markvart Jason Budge and Andrew Woolley
 12. Op EASE SPRINGS Registration Raffle Tote, Branch Secretary Bob Chambers and 49 Thomas

1. Falklands 40th Anniversary Remembrance, Bridgend War Memorial 14 Jun 22.
2. Mr Paul Mockett MBE being presented with his Welsh Guards Association Certificate, signed by HRH The Colonel, by Branch Chairman Mike Smith 19.
3. Branch Secretary Bob Chambers, on behalf of all

Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch (Formed 1927)

I am Steve Radford, already known to many of you, but for the record I would like to introduce myself as the new Secretary for the Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch. I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank David Williams for his commitment to the branch as my predecessor of 3 years.

Firstly, on behalf of the Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch we would like to offer our deepest condolences to HRH King Charles III and the rest of The Royal Family on the loss of our dear Queen Elizabeth II. Such sad news for us all, but we wish His Majesty The King a long and Healthy reign.

As things are finally getting back to normal after COVID, we as a branch, have had a busy year, with our well attended monthly meetings (held at Cwmfelin Social Club, Courtney Street, Swansea, on the 3rd Monday of every month, 19.00 hrs) and thankfully being able to get 'out and about' as a Branch. Our first trip of the year, in April saw the Branch spending a full weekend at The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) where wreaths were laid at the Memorials to the Falkland, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Guards and the Main memorial.

The month of May saw Branch members and their families supporting Swansea Sea Cadets to raise the Falkland Flag at The Civic Centre, Swansea, followed by a few 'light refreshments' in a local watering hole and with June being the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland War, some of our members took part in the Ride of Respect, where

wreaths were laid at the individual memorials of all of the fallen.

June also saw Branch members and partners being invited by Paul Cunliffe MBE, to a Falklands Service of Remembrance at HM Tower of London where we were invited to watch the Challenge of the keys Ceremony. As well as having free time to explore the sights of London, we were then treated to a cruise and meal on The River Thames, organised by our amazing Branch President Major Charlie Carty. After a busy weekend in London, it was a quick dash back home, to take part in the Falkland Liberation day service at St Mary's Church, Swansea, which was well attended.

As we had such nice weather this year, a barbecue night was arranged by the branch for both members and families alike. It was held outdoors at the local Lezzets Authentic Turkish/ Mediterranean Restaurant.

A big Thank you must go to Paul Summers for his continued support and numerous gifts to the Branch as raffle prizes – all are gratefully received and give our branch funds, which are used for the good and benefit of Branch members, a fantastic boost.

President:	Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD
Chairman:	Mr Karl Trenchard (24449915)
Treasurer:	Major (Retd) CGH Carty MBE TD
Secretary:	Steve Radford (24607282) 69 Oakridge Sketty Swansea SA2 8NZ
Telephone:	07966 375310
Email:	wgaswansea@gmail.com





As Branch Secretary I would like to thank my fellow committee members, and all branch members for their continued support in making Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch so successful in 2022 and wish you all the very best of everything for 2023.

1&2. Branch members at the HM Tower of London Falklands Memorial sporting their Falkland Islands waistcoats

3. Branch members participating in the Falklands Ride of Respect
4. Branch visit to the National memorial Arboretum (NMA)
5. BBQ at the Lezzets Authentic Turkish/Mediterranean Restaurant
6. Branch President Major Charlie Carty at the Wrexham Falklands Reunion Jun 22 with L-R: Jimmy Everett (23929677), Charlie Carty (24125073), Alan Simcox (23908718), Billy Lyth (23908736). All having enlisted between Jan 65 and Dec 68, they remained firm friends throughout their service and beyond



Welsh Guards reunited Branch (Formed 2006)

Well, Christmas and New Year flashed by and then all thoughts turned to 2022 and what it would bring for us all? 1st March, St David's Day was first up and the Battalion were hosting us veterans at their home in Combermere Barracks, Windsor. We all look forward to returning to the Battalion where we can chew the fat with today's generation and tell them how good we were, or perhaps being more honest, how good we thought we were!

Two coaches travelled to Windsor, one from Llanelli and the other from North Wales. We met up at our hotel for the two nights and were given the itinerary for our stay. A quick freshen up and it was off to the Barracks for an informal night with the Regimental Sergeant Major and Mess Members kindly

allowing the use of their Mess and hosting us, as they always do, exceptionally well. The next morning, we were all suited and booted for the St David's Day parade. This was a scaled down, new format version owing to many of the Battalion being deployed on various operations. Regardless a very good parade was carried out

President:	Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) AJ Davies OBE
Chairman:	Emrys Morgan (24141882)
Secretary:	Dennis (Knocker) Knowles (24122474) 69 Bryntiron Matthewstown Mountain Ash Rhondda Cynon Taff CF45 4EX
Treasurer & Tech Support:	Mike Cummins (24472964)
Webmaster:	Post Currently Vacant

and the remainder of the day was, in the great tradition of Battalion St David's Day, spent drinking copiously, laughing, joking and being among our own.

So, what next? As we don't do any "big" reunions at present, we hold a scaled down gig most months. It was Bob (Potsy) Roberts that suggested we should have a drink together in Cardiff as a

catch up. This has caught on big time, so once a month, we have a "Pull up a Sandbag" reunion held in the Gatekeeper (Wetherspoons) opposite the Stadium in Cardiff. Numbers have been anything between a dozen to about 30 plus! It is arranged purely through social media and via our website, so those not on social media, please look in and join us. All are welcome and you will not be disappointed.



to make this sad occasion a spectacle for the world to see! Nobody does it better!

We have lost many members this year and I and members of the Branch have tried to attend funerals where and when possible. I or other Branch Standard Bearers offer our services to give them a Welsh Guards march off to the Final RV or great reorg whenever we can. May they all eternally Rest In Peace.



But this website and Branch does not run by me alone! I have to thank Maldwyn and Neil at WGA Headquarters for assisting me and often guiding me on various points. My fellow Officers of the Branch and indeed fellow members who contribute so much. Also my lad, "Youngknock" who acts as my Batman/Chauffeur when out at Funerals. We're always here to help when we can.

Of course, our members from the Class of 82 and many others, have been heavily involved with the Remembrance services for the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, (WAR) to us. I was booked to parade our Standard around thirteen times for various memorials to honour our Brothers who still remain on patrol of that far off land that will always remain part of Britain. Unfortunately, this was curtailed to about

seven when an unfortunate injury to my leg took me off the road. Unfortunately, M&D didn't cut it this time, so I was out of the game! Fortunately, my last parade was with Steve (the Vicar) Liversage as Standard Bearers inside Llandaff Cathedral for a very high-profile service. So many Dignitaries and those who know me know my appreciation of good music. Standing next to a Cathedral Choir, what a sound!

to all. Again, that description, a Family Regiment. In August, Kim Burnell organized a trek up Pen y Fan to raise funds for the Welsh Guards Charity and again, this is also covered by an article in this magazine.

The biggest and saddest occasion of 2022, was the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She has been our "boss" for so many years and it's hard to get your head round the fact, that we now have King Charles III. He is no stranger to many of us, retired and serving and I'm sure our condolences go out to him and the rest of the Royal Family on the loss of a well-loved Mother and Queen. We have seen thus far the way all three services have stepped up to the mark in remembering her reign and give her the Funeral deserving of our late Queen. A lot of hard work put in by everybody

To sum up, we've done quite a lot this year, Windsor, tabs up Pen y Fan, the Arboretum has been visited, Pangbourne Chapel, the Rock in Cardiff, Wrexham, the Battlefield trip. But as I write, members are gearing up for the Ride To The Wall (RTTW) and a reunion in Llandudno organised by Paul Morgan (aka Flicker). We hope all goes well and you raise plenty of cash for our Welsh Guards Charity.

But what does next year bring? For the Battalion, there could be lots. Making history by being the first Regiment to Troop their Colour in front of King Charles III, a possible Coronation and investiture of the (new) Prince of Wales and who knows what else the year might bring? A lot of hard work, but let's be assured, they



But it's not only about me and the Standard, John Geraint Hughes organised a motor bike Ride of Respect which is fully covered by a separate article in this magazine. Fierce looking riders, some looking frightening, (sorry Steve Bartlett!) but all were there to pay their respects and I received all good reports of their reverence and politeness

will step up to the mark and smash it. It makes me chuckle when some old soldiers say "They've never had it so easy! It wasn't like that in my time!"

I hope to see many of you in the not-too-distant future and I will end now by bringing you our traditional poetry offering from my Guv'nor, the Bard, Mr Allan Parry-Booth:

1. WGR organised informal meet up (aka Sandbag), arranged by Bob (Potsy) Roberts (24400031) at the Gatekeeper, Westgate Street, Cardiff on Thu 17 Mar 22

2. Wrexham Falklands reunion, June 2022, first meeting together of these four since Gort Barracks, Hubblerath in 1962. L-R: Dave Fisher (23879391), Gwynfor Pritchard (22831515), Tony Davies (23876522) and Wyndham Jenkins (23879318)
3. John Jarman (24141963) and Emrys Morgan (24141882) visiting Branch President, Lt Col Tony Davies (23879318) at home where they sampled some delicious home-made cakes!
4. One from the Galleries. The WGR Galleries are huge and contain nearly 18,000 images. This photo, taken in Porto San Giorgio, Italy in April 1945 is just one such historical image now preserved forever.



He Didn't Understand

There was panic in the valleys
As the story filtered through
That our pit was due for closure
And there's nothing we could do

-0-

Our way of life in Ystrad
Was known for miles around
As a warm and caring village
Where the men worked underground

-0-

Our choir was plauded nation wide
The soccer team was tops
The DARTSY brew was local beer
Made from malt and hops

-0-

The Ystrad Rugby team front row
Was known throughout the land
And all of you have surely heard
Of our famous colliery band

-0-

Despite all this, the cabinet
Who sit in number ten
Had shattered life for all of us
With a swift stroke of the pen

-0-

Uncle Ted was mortified
He couldn't stem his tears
He'd laboured at the coal face
For forty- eight long years

-0-

Coal mining had been his life
Since he was just a lad
He recalled his first day vividly
When he went down with his dad

-0-

He said "There's coal in Ystrad Main
For twenty years or more
I dearly hope they'll think again
Before they slam the door "

-0-

The Reverend Geronwy Pugh
Held meetings in the church
To study various contracts
And conduct a thorough search

-0-

For documents to stem the tide
But it was all in vain
And then the big wheel ceased to turn
Atop of Ystrad Main

-0-

The ministers refused our pleas
All argument was banned
They'd buy the coal from China now
We'd have to understand

-0-

As weeks went by our village
Became a hollow shell
Shutters went up on the Colliers Arms
The library closed as well

-0-

Our lovely choir disbanded
"Pro Tem", was what they said
But no-one felt like singing
The atmosphere was dead

-0-

The young men left the village
For Cardiff most were bound
To search for new employment
There was none underground

-0-

Gradually they went at first
But soon t'was more and more
Ystrads now a shadow
Of the place we knew before

-0-

Uncle Ted "stepped off" last night
I'm sure he had it planned
The poor old sod just cut his throat
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND

The Welsh Guards Collection (Formed 1995)

On Thur 18 Nov 21 we closed the season with the presentation, by our Chairman and Regimental Adjutant, Colonel Tom Bonas of a silver statue of a Welsh Guardsman to the Park Hall Directors, Martyn Hughes and Richard Powell in recognition of their continued support to the Welsh Guards over the past 21 years.

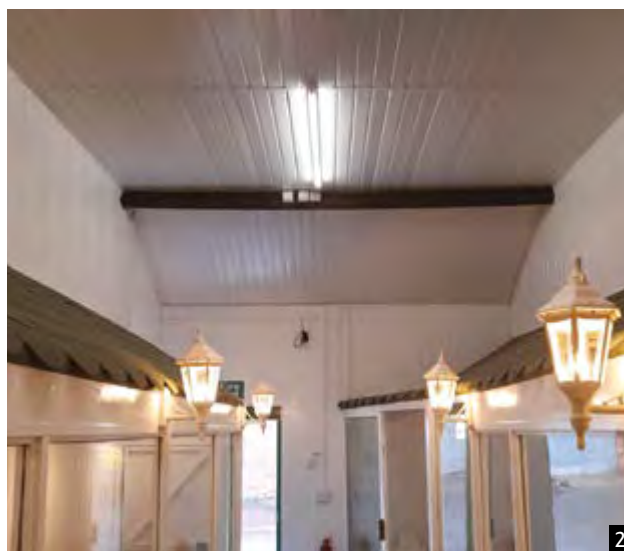
Yes, believe it or not it's 21 years since they opened the doors to us in 2000. 21 years of being there to help us in any way possible and never once charging us rent for the building or utilities. How could we fail with backing like that? Once again Gentlemen we are forever in your debt. The statue now stands in pride of place within the drums cabinet at the main reception (unfortunately photographs of the presentation were not forthcoming as the camera sim card had got damaged at some point).

Annual General Meeting (AGM). Following that presentation and a splendid buffet afterwards, the WG Collection AGM took place with all members in attendance. The usual subjects were discussed including the progress on the proposed new Welsh Guard Experience within Cardiff Castle walls which had proved to be not viable due to other Cardiff Council plans for the site. The further discussions majored on the subject of renovating the old Annex which had thus far housed a private collection of WW1 Arms, uniforms and memorabilia belonging to Mr Mathew Lucas the Historical Information Officer for the Western Front Association. We will always be grateful to Mathew for the loan of so

many magnificent pieces. We discussed the following:

1. It was decided that we make every effort to renovate the building to a modern standard including thermo insulated walls and false ceiling. All cladded top to bottom in UPVC material, completely rewired with heat and humidity control. New inner and outer wooden doors in fitting with its surroundings and all new signage. The Curator, "with tongue in cheek" estimated that a figure of around £5,000 should cover the cost of the whole project including a life-sized horse mannequin! Further to this expense it was hoped that the Household Cavalry could supply us, on loan a complete set of leather and brass regimental livery to dress this "steed". Alan Simcox (23908718) one of our wonderful volunteers and a mainstay of the WG Collection would become project Manager.
2. To take further control of the 150 meters of trench systems along with further signage. The source of this signage to be decided at a later date, David Martin, another superb, long-term volunteer would be in

President:	Brigadier JF Rickett CBE
Chairman:	Colonel TCS Bonas
Treasurer:	Major ME Browne BEM
Secretary:	RQMS L Wilks
Curator:	Mr ST Evans Cartref ni 44 Crossfield Avenue Winsford Cheshire CW7 1EG
Telephone:	01606 593953
Mobile:	07875 638070
Email:	stanevans67@hotmail.com



charge of this project. David had lived in Ypres for 7 years conducting battlefield tours and other educational trips and was perfect for the job.

The call went out on social media and on Welsh Guards

Reunited asking for local Welsh Guardsmen who might have time to help or bring their skills to the project - unfortunately the response was very, very poor. However, one gem was unearthed in the shape of Allan Rogers (24220048) from Shrewsbury who had



been in the building industry before and after serving in the Welsh Guards. With Alan Simcox it formed a perfect working relationship and with local volunteer Simon Cole an ex-RAF Regiment man helping out and myself mediating, the team was set. With the money in the bank, very kindly granted by the Regimental Trustees, we set to work.

The first of many setbacks was the firm who had given us the quote to supply and install the cladding and false ceiling had held us up for nearly two months. So, Alan S and his number two Allan R, decided they could do it themselves and what a job they have done. Working flat out two and three full days a week with just a bacon buttie to keep them going they have made my dream come true. I just hope people who visit will appreciate what you have all accomplished.

Our second setback was during some heavy winds a 100-year-old fir tree was blown down on top of our roof! Causing some considerable damage and allowing rain to seep onto our lovely old oak beams, I was gutted, but not to be phased by the extra work they just got the ladders out and fixed the roof and the leaks.

The new signage was once again sponsored by Wrexham signs. Managing Director Chris Whiting, the son of ex Welsh Guardsman LCpl Derek Whiting (22831624) RIP has continued supporting us as they always have for the past 22 years. Photo 6 shows Chris and his assistant Andy completing the installation of our new main sign and the fabulous Regimental crest on the main door. How lucky are we to have support like that? The building is nearing its completion and is hardly recognisable to the Victorian Stable tack room that it once was and yet it blends in the surrounding Victorian buildings.

With all new lighting installed by the genius that is Alan Simcox, we just have the new floor to be installed then it's up to yours truly to start stocking the displays and completing the signage. It has always been my ambition to display a life-sized horse in full Welsh Guards regimental livery and with the help of our close friends The Queens Dragoon Guards and The Royal Welsh who have a wonderful military Museum inside Cardiff Castle, their Curator Major Mark Evans discovered a full-size fibre glass charger in a lock up garage in Maindy Barracks. With the help of ex WO2

Master Tailor Steve Shields from Prestatyn who supplied the van and fuel to transport it from Cardiff to Oswestry. At the Cardiff end ex Drums L/ Sgt Colin O'Neill (23877239) along with his very strong Grandson Iain loaded up the beast ready for transportation to Oswestry. I would particularly like to mention Major Mark Evans for having the patience of a Saint waiting for me to tie up both ends. Thank you Mark I owe you big time. When this horse arrived, now named "Burmese", it probably wasn't what you may be imagining. Our Burmese was very knocked about with a broken jaw held together by string, no tail, main or forelock and both ears broken but still a magnificent steed. My dream was to mount Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Burmese as she last did on our Trooping of the Colour in 1981. But before that I needed a "Side saddle" so it will probably be plan "B". Since the death of Her Majesty everything has changed, but I still promise our visitors it will be well worth the wait. Anyone out there got a "Buckshee" side saddle to donate?

Over the last months we still receive countless artefacts and ephemera and so thank you to everyone and please keep them coming. I promise the

Welsh Guards family will look after them for you.

The museum is extremely grateful to Mrs Kathryn Durbin for the donation of her Uncles red tunic (photo 8) which was donated in good condition. Still with the paper on the buttons from the last time it was dry cleaned many years ago. This interestingly led to oxidation of the brass buttons and some decay over time but nothing we can't fix. Kathryn lives in Pontypridd in the Rhonda Cynon Taf. Her uncle, Guardsman Ronnie Jones (2734618) joined the Regiment in January 1939 at the age of 19 years. He was from the Valleys and joined when it was obvious that war was coming.

Posted to the 2nd Battalion he would have been trained in the UK, but only posted to France when the Dunkirk evacuation was in progress as 2WG were shipped to Boulogne to cover the retreat of British Forces to the channel ports. Their task was to hold the perimeter around Boulogne as the British forces were evacuated. This meant that some of the Battalion were sacrificed to let other unit's retreat.

We can surmise that Ronnie Jones was among these men. His family would soon have heard that he was taken as



a prisoner of war where he remained until 1945. He was released after repatriation and recovery and with some time served left at the end of 1946, a year after his release from the POW camp and the end of the war. He was released at Caerphilly at the 13th Civil Resettlement Unit. His testimonial reads,

"Military conduct, Very good. A quiet reliable man. Who has spent most of the time at this

unit preparing for a career in the police force. Thoroughly reliable and trustworthy, he should be an asset to the Police force. He is very keen on all sports including swimming. He will very quickly settle down in civilian life with a useful career".

Ronnie was a well-liked Policeman in the Valleys and much missed. He did not marry but had a sweetheart before the war.

We are also grateful to Mrs Durbin for the information provided on her Father Guardsman (22217138) Prince, also a Welsh Guardsman who joined in 1949. Prince was much involved in the Mountain Ash branch of the Welsh Guards Association and the family has a copy of the 1975 WGA newsletter in which Mr Prince features and a great friend of his recruiting Sergeant Jim Mills (2734472) is mentioned. A digital copy of many of the papers has been deposited at the Museum as well as Ronnie's Army release book which we have used to fill in the details of his wartime experience. More research could be undertaken online or at the National Archives to ascertain where he was held as a POW.

On a quite different subject but very important none the less. I was painting in the new Annex building one Tuesday afternoon on my own and the site was closed and abandoned. As I completed the last coat of paint on the main door, I felt quite tired and not very well. So, I decided to call it a day at 16.00hrs, I wasn't really worried because the following morning I was going into hospital for a pre op medical check to have an operation on my eardrum which had perforated. After the medical check the Doctor sent me for an ECG and the results showed my heartbeat rate was 34BPM. I was rushed into A&E where a further reading was 27 BPM. I was admitted to an HD Ward where after 6 hours they got my pulse up to 42 BPM. A Pacemaker was advised on the Friday and fitted first thing Monday morning. I'm back home now

at a steady 55 BPM with a list of "Do's and don'ts"!

But it has made me think that when the Annex is finished, and I bring some life and colour back to Burmese it will be time for me to hand over to someone younger and fitter. Next year 2023 it will be 30 years since I first started collecting artefacts for the Welsh Guards in 1993 and I will be in my 80th year but there are still hundreds of lost treasures out there that must be found and preserved - only by somebody else other than me.

One lasting thought, as strange as it may sound to this day there are still serving and ex Welsh Guardsman who aren't aware we have our own Regimental Museum which we all can be very proud of. So please make the effort and "come along and see us sometime" -you will not be disappointed.



1. *The cold and damp old Annex display area before Alan Simcox and Allan Rogers worked their magic*
2. *The old Annex, with the renovation work, funded by the Welsh Guards Charity and completed, voluntarily, by Alan Simcox and Allan Rogers, with the help of the other volunteers mucking in also.*
3. *Stan and Burmese looking rather sorry for himself (the horse not Stan!)*
4. *Chris Whiting and his assistant Andy completing the installation of our new main sign.*
5. *The fabulous Regimental crest on the glass of the main door.*
6. *Mrs Kathryn Durbin Handing over her Uncles tunic (dated 1936) to David Martin*
7. *WG Collection new publicity flyer*

Saint David's Day 2022

by Neil Rice, Deputy Secretary General Welsh Guards Association

After all the disruption of COVID and last year's cancellation it was wonderful to be getting back to normal and joining the Battalion in Combermere Barracks, Windsor for our annual Saint David's Day celebrations, but this celebration was anything but normal as it was indoors, there was no marching and the battalion were in their Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) uniforms, but more of this later.

As in previous years the celebrations started on the previous night with the Sergeants Mess offering their superb hospitality, it was wonderful to catch up and share "sandbag" stories with so many of the battalion's non-commissioned and warrant officers and we thank Regiment Sergeant Major Dan Cope for his warm welcome and his hospitality. As the stories and cwrw flowed I did wonder if all would make it "on parade" in the morning.

As it turned out I had nothing to fear as old habits die hard

and everyone appeared fit, hale and hearty as we made our way to the REME workshop for our first ever indoor St David's Day Parade (although 1WG have previously held it indoors in Ballykelly, the WGA had not). A drumhead was in place and the battalion in their MTP uniforms were formed up on two sides leaving room for the Association to form the third, which we did to the accompaniment of the band in their Home Service Clothing, Greatcoat order. The Padre, Captain Mark Nightingale gave a short but moving

service before Major General Christopher Ghika CBE, The Major General Commanding the Household Division, stepped forward to present the leeks in the traditional manner. Colonel Tom Bonas the Regimental Adjutant and President of the Association collected the leeks for distribution to the Association members on parade and this was done with great deal of good humour. The distribution of the leeks brought the formal proceedings to an end and the Major General gave leave to dismiss the parade.

Everyone then made their way to the gym, wonderfully decked out as a marquee, for lunch and this was a truly all ranks affair with all the messes eating and drinking together which gave everyone the opportunity to renew old friendships and make many new ones. In another break from our traditional St David's Day celebrations, we made our way to the rugby pitch at the nearby Garrison

Sports Grounds to watch the inaugural Guardsmen V Corporals Mess rugby match. It is unfortunate that it was then that it decided to rain, but that did not dampen the spirits and an excellent and feisty game ensued with both sides being kept in check by the admirable and unbiased refereeing skills of Capt Tommy Macdonald-Milner, one of our Regimental Trustees. After the game we made our way back to the Gym to re-join those for whom the draw of watching a game of rugby was not strong enough to tempt them away from the bar.

All in all it was an excellent couple of days, and we must again thank everyone in the Battalion and at Regimental Headquarters for pulling together such an excellent celebration of our National Saints day and we look forward to joining with the Battalion again in 2023 in Windsor to do it all again.





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| <p>1. Regimental Sergeant Major Dan Cope awaiting the arrival of the Commanding Officer.</p> <p>2. The Padre, Captain Mark Nightingale in full flow.</p> <p>3. Colonel Tom Bonas, Regimental Adjutant and President of the Association presenting a leek to (24326329) Richard Jones (aka Joskin) with Steve Jones (24388798) to his right and Al Cunningham (24125105) to his left.</p> | <p>4. Members of the Welsh Guards Association on parade.</p> <p>5. Sergeant's Mess hospitality the night prior.</p> <p>6. A Happy Association table after the parade in the gymnasium/marquee.</p> <p>7. Guardsman v Corporal's Mess rugby.</p> <p>8. Impartial refereeing courtesy of a Regimental Trustee, Captain Tommy MacDonald-Milner.</p> |
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Welsh Guards Association Biennial Lunch

by Neil Rice, Deputy Secretary General Welsh Guards Association

With the COVID restrictions lifting, on Friday 22nd April 2022, we were, at last, able to meet in Cardiff for our delayed Welsh Guards Association Biennial Lunch.

Colonel TCS Bonas, the Association President welcomed The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Rod McKerlich, The Lady Mayoress Mrs Sue McKerlich and Colonel and Mrs Alan Peterson, along with 140 Association members and their guests to The Dragon Suite in The Angel Hotel Cardiff to enjoy a beautifully prepared lunch in wonderful surroundings and great company. The only disappointment being that the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major were unable to join us as they were visiting Number 3 company who were deployed in Zambia on anti-poaching operations.

After drinks on arrival Colonel Bonas gave a short "state of the Nation" overview of what both the Battalion and the Association had been up to and what the future held, before we were served with an excellent meal with the "Rostie Dauphinoise" causing a little concern as many of us had never seen a square potato before!

It was lovely to see representation from most branches with many attending an event for the first time since early 2020 (the pre-COVID days) and really making up for lost time chatting to old friends, making new friends and generally having a great time in relaxed and pleasant surroundings.

It was truly wonderful to be able to get together after such a long period of restrictions, personally I really enjoyed catching up with many friends I had not seen for a couple of years as well as quite a few I have not seen in over 40, but as always on these occasions it was as if time had stood still and conversations and relationships picked up as if we had been together only yesterday.

Someone once described the Welsh Guards as "A small Welsh village that travels around the world together" and it is occasions like this that really reinforces what a wonderful extended family we all belong to.

It seemed that in a blink of an eye four hours had passed so quickly, a sure sign of a successful event, but for those not ready to call it a day both the "Gatekeeper" (Wetherspoons) next door and the United Services Mess were calling, with plenty of our number continuing the motion well into the evening and small hours.



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1. Arrival of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Rod McKerlich
2. Nice to see a full house after all the COVID restrictions of the previous two years
3. Llanelli Branch, L-R: outgoing Branch President Major John Harding, incoming Branch President The Rev Patrick Mansel Lewis and Branch Secretary, Al Cunningham
4. Group photo on the stairs
5. London Branch, Back Row L-R: Adam Frater, Sue Tritton, WO2 Dean Hughes, Front, L-R: Tom Thorne, Allan Miller, Kev Jones 94, Anita Frater, Emrys Morgan 82
6. Ogmore Branch. At the Back, Bob Chambers (Secretary), James Broe. In the middle; Capt Peter Robinson (President), Charlotte Sherlock, Lucy Smith, Mike Smith 19 (Chairman). In front: Kim Burnell
7. L-R; Chris Duggan, Steve Liversage, John Jarman, Emrys Morgan 82, Kev Jones 94, standing front; Charlie Aitken, Peter Williams
8. Steve Liversage with Katie Gibby and her son Connor
9. L-R; Larry John, John Jarman, Chris Duggan, Steve Liversage, Terry Gauden, Emrys Morgan 82, Kim Burnell

Welsh Guards Association Ludlow Race Day Sunday 8th May 2022

by Major (Retired) M E Browner BEM, Assistant Regimental Adjutant
(with the grateful assistance of Captain Paul DeZulueta)

Our first Association Race Day for two years after the Covid restrictions knocked out the 2020 and 2021 events, was held on Sunday 8th May 2022 at the Ludlow Racecourse. The weather was perfect, the setting as wonderful as it always is and the day a complete success.

This was to be Captain Dai Davies' last event having organised it for over 26 years, initially, whilst 1WG was in Tern Hill, at the racecourse at Bangor-on-Dee (Wrexham) and then at Hereford before settling, in the wonderful surrounds of Ludlow racecourse. We thank Dai for all his remarkable efforts over the years to provide this wonderful event for the Association and hope it can continue for many years to come. It really is a superb day and anyone who has not been really should put their name down for 2023 at the earliest opportunity – they will not be disappointed and are guaranteed to have a really enjoyable time (although not guaranteed a win).

A private dining room in the Jubilee Stand, with its own private terrace, overlooking the finishing line the setting could not be more ideal. A served three course meal with cheese/biscuits, tea/coffee and mints and drinks served to the table, the atmosphere is always friendly and enjoyable and excellent value for money.

With seven races being run, lunch was served around 12.30pm, to be finished in time for the first race which started at 2.05pm, with the Welsh Guards Association sponsored race being the fourth of the day at 3.40pm. It is normal,

before the race, for a couple of the ladies to judge the best turned out horse and award the winning groom a small cash prize for their efforts and this was done this year with "Just the Man" selected as the winning horse, which was particularly apt as the race was dedicated to Colonel DRP Lewis who really was "Just the Man" and more.

In a break with tradition, this year the race was being run in the memory of Colonel DRP Lewis, Regimental Lieutenant Colonel from Nov 82 to Mar 87 and a stalwart supporter of the Montgomeryshire, Shropshire, and Midlands Branch of the Association, who sadly died in October 2019. Due to Covid restrictions throughout 2020 and 2021, this was the first opportunity for Mrs Sue Lewis to hold a memorial in his name. Our race was re-titled the Welsh Guards Association David Scrumpy Lewis Handicap Hurdle and was won by Sofia's Rock, ridden by Harry Skelton and owned by the Mezzzone family who received the Welsh Guards trophy from Mrs Sue Lewis.

It was a measure of the affection and respect in which David Lewis was held that the marquee, in which friends and family had gathered before the race, was overflowing and filled with laughter from



Racing TV Total Connections			
FOURTH RACE 3.40			
THE WELSH GUARDS ASSOCIATION DAVID SCRUMPY LEWIS HANDICAP HURDLE RACE (CLASS 3)			
about TWO MILES (1m 7f 169yds)			
For local bred and sired horses			
Total prize fund £10,000. Divided into 10 equal parts of £1,000 each. The winner of the race will receive £1,000. The second place horse will receive £500. The third place horse will receive £250. The fourth place horse will receive £125. The fifth place horse will receive £62.50. The sixth place horse will receive £31.25. The seventh place horse will receive £15.62. The eighth place horse will receive £7.81. The ninth place horse will receive £3.90. The tenth place horse will receive £1.95.			
No.	Horse	Age	Wt
1	JUST THE MAN (FR) (18)	6	12 0
Trainer: H. K. W. Bell Owner: John O'Shea, Newmarket-on-Severn Breeder: Cambridgeshire Stud			
Jockey: Kevin Brogan (13) Form: 332102- CD Sponsor: R. W. Bell Group Ltd			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Likeable type who was back to winning ways in smooth style over C&D in March. Creditable second in a novice race 18 days ago. Mark not obviously generous now but he should give another good account. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 122			
2	PEAKED TOO SOON (GB) (25)	5	11 9
Trainer: Julie and David R Martin and Dan Hill Owner: Kim Bailey, Cheltenham Breeder: B. J. Stud Ltd			
Jockey: David Bax Form: 123500- D Sponsor: Kim Bailey Racing Ltd			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Won first 2 hurdles last summer. Last 2 efforts have been disappointing, although he might have needed it back from a break at Cheltenham last month. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 117			
3	CHASAMAX (IRE) (265)	7	11 9
Trainer: International Plywood (Importers) Ltd Owner: Nicky Henderson, Lambourn Breeder: William Flood			
Jockey: Paul O'Brien Form: 025714- D Sponsor: Unibet			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Bagged a maiden and novice event at this sort of trip last June. Not in the same form when only fourth of 5 in a Bangor handicap last August and not seen since. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 117			
4	SOFIA'S ROCK (FR) (25)	8	11 7
Trainer: Mezzzone Family Ltd Owner: Dan Scahill, Alcester Breeder: Jean-François Gaboriau			
Jockey: Harry Skelton Form: F4442- CD Sponsor: Cere Kidderminster			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Took advantage of a drop to selling company at Stratford in March and running up in 2m Kempton handicap off the mark since. Player if showing up in similar form. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 116			
5	COOLNAUGH HAZE (IRE) (20)	4	11 4
Trainer: Highclere Thoroughbred Racing - C&D Owner: Philip Hubbs, Minstead Breeder: B. & J. McDonald			
Jockey: Tom O'Brien Form: 3123- D Sponsor: Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Promise when second on sale flat start and has gone in right way over hurdles for the past week, winning a Purton novice in January and Huntingdon handicap in April (both 2m). His true demands more but has the potential for better. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 116			
6	INN THE BULL (GER) (25)	9	10 11
Trainer: Lucas Canyon Racing Owner: Alan Blair, Birmouth Breeder: Gestut Ammerland			
Jockey: Richard Patrick Form: 230400- CD Sponsor: Planned Office Ministry Ltd			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Well behind the reappearing Saffery Rock back hunting at Kempton 25 days ago. Stood another 4m since but he's hard to fancy after that run. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 105			
7	ALIOMAANA (GB) (24)	4	10 10
Trainer: Aliomaana Partnership Owner: Milton Harris, Warrington Breeder: Shadwell Estate Company Limited			
Jockey: Harry Reed Form: 256756- D Sponsor: breeders' list			
TIMEFORM VIEW: Reverted winning ways after 3 months off when making aim to run novice hurdle at Wincanton in March. Below that level in a couple of handicaps since, although she did move well for a long way at Cheltenham (7f) last time and this return to a sharper track will suit. Discovered. Star Rating: *** Official BHA Rating: 103			

almost the start. Many of us remarked that the day, so beautifully organised by Sue Lewis, was a much more fitting way of remembering David than the solemnity of a memorial service at the Guards

Chapel. People had travelled far and wide to be at Ludlow in deepest Shropshire; quite unlike the Guards Chapel which often attracts 'friends' with time on their hands and glasses to fill.

Sue, surrounded by her kith and kin - the close-knit and welcoming Worrall family - met everyone at the marquee entrance. Despite her recent health setbacks, Sue looked radiant and full of joy. There were David's contemporaries from the Welsh Guards, but also a huge number who had been young officers when David had been Commandant of the Guards Depot and, later, as a much-loved Regimental Lieutenant Colonel who held us all together after the trauma of the Falklands campaign and the loss of 33 Welsh Guardsmen.

We were amused to see Lord Heseltine there. He did the

briefest of times with the Welsh Guards but, perhaps, he knew David from a different walk of life. There's that lovely story of the then 2Lt Heseltine asking the commanding officer, the redoubtable John Miller, if he could resign his commission to become an MP. John Miller, barely looking up, merely remarked, 'how soon can you leave?'

We stumbled out after 3pm, well lunched, to watch the David Lewis Handicap Race. One of the runners was appropriately named 'Just the Man'. It did not win but it was cheered to the echo as it crossed the finishing line.'



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1. Race Lapel badges – access all areas!
2. The Welsh Guards Race line up
3. Mrs Sue Lewis presenting the Welsh Guards Association David Scrumpy Lewis Handicap Hurdle trophy to the owners of the winning horse Sofia's Rock (Photo courtesy of Alan Wright, Official Photographers)
4. Welsh Guards trophy

A Hard Act to follow John Michael Jones 01

by Bob Chambers (24645750), Secretary Ogmore Branch

To write this article about a Man who epitomised Professionalism, Proudness and Positivity is done with a heavy heart and with the greatest of respect.

Mike Jones (23523201) was the co-founder of Ogmore Branch of the Welsh Guards Association in 1982, and along with the Committee he was the driving force in organising and supporting the Regiment, Battalion, Association and Branch events which attracted much support and praise for Mike and his team throughout the Borough.

In taking over Mike's role as Branch Secretary in November 2021, I soon found out that the legacy Mike left was a "huge gap to fill". Knowing Mike over the years I can say that he was well liked and respected and highly regarded not only throughout the Welsh Guards family but within his Airborne Brotherhood also - Mike would always proudly reminisce about his days spent with The Guards Independent Parachute Company.

It was through ill-health that the Branch President, Captain Peter Robinson and I attended Mike's house one afternoon in October last year where we completed the official handing over of the branch secretary's role. For me it was an honour to carry on Mikes work and I pledged that the high standards set by Mike would be maintained into the future.

Unfortunately, after a short illness, on 26th March 22 at The Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend surrounded by his family, Mike passed onto his Final RV and on Thursday

14th April we paid our final respects to Mike at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend. Mike's funeral service, as one might expect for a man of such stature, was attended by a large gathering of both Welsh Guardsmen and veterans of the Guards Parachute community, who provided his final Guard of Honour with Standards and a Bugler present to play his final Last Post, it was a fitting tribute to a legend of a man who had always supported others at their final parade. Mike is survived by his Wife Elizabeth, and children, Christopher, Brian, Angela, Samantha and not forgetting his late son David. He was a much-loved Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.

His Early Life.

Mick or Mike to family and friends, was born in Aberdare on 18 February 1941, to Thomas Henry and Elsie May Jones. He was the first of their seven children: and a diligent big brother to Maureen and Emlyn and the late Ann, Alan, Gareth and Nigel.

After attending grammar school, he spent a very short time 'down the pits like his father' before deciding to join the Army aged 17 and attending "in secret" the Pontypridd Army recruiting office.

Family.

He met Liz, just 2 years later, having met in Kingston Upon

Thames, a fellow Welsh soul living in England and they married in Morden, in May 1961.

They went on to have five children who he loved dearly - Christopher, Brian, Angela, David and Samantha and he was heartbroken when he was predeceased ten years ago by his youngest son, David.

They provided him with eight grandchildren - Gemma, Ceri, Bethan, Steven, Lisa, Tom, Liam and Dan, followed then by two great grandchildren- Ethan and Ellie of whom he was always incredibly proud.

A Life of Service.

Known throughout his career, following the great Welsh Guards tradition, by the last 2 digits of his regimental number, '01' he started his service in the Welsh Guards at 18 years old. During a distinguished career, he served overseas in Aden (now Yemen), Northern Ireland, Singapore, Hong Kong and Germany. He also had many other adventures on training exercises, such as climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

Such was his thirst for adventure he volunteered to undergo the rigorous training required to join the elite Guards Independent Parachute Company; making lifelong friends and memories which he carried with him his entire life.

He achieved the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 and the appointment of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (RQMS) and was awarded the General Service Medal with Claps for service in South Arabia (Aden) and

Northern Ireland, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for unblemished service and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. Having completed over 22 years' service, he retired from the military in February 1981.

Following discharge from the Regular Army and with a lifetime of experience and so much more to offer, he joined the Territorial Army where he completed a further decade of uniformed service, using his huge knowledge to train and support soldiers of the Army Reserve which resulted in the award of the Elizabeth II Territorial Efficiency Medal.

He could not have been prouder when both his son (Brian) and grandson (Steven) decided to undertake military service as their careers - following, in his view, in his own footsteps.

As a Veteran he was very active with both the Welsh Guards' and Parachute Associations until his health no longer allowed him to do so and one of his proudest of achievements was the building of relations and cultural exchanges with the people of Hechtel in Belgium which is now twinned with Bridgend largely due to his efforts.

His military service defined who he was and he was incredibly proud to have served his country. On behalf of his Branch, Ogmere Branch, Rest in Peace Mike your duty is done, you will remain in our thoughts forever and will never be forgotten.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Guards association

Held at the United Services mess, Cardiff at 1100hrs Friday 22nd April 2022

Those present:

Colonel TCS Bonas (President), Captain (Retired) Chris Hopkins (Vice President), Major (Retired) Martin Browne (Assistant Regimental Adjutant and Treasurer), Maldwyn Jones (Secretary General), Neil Rice (Deputy Secretary General), WO2 Leighton Wilks (RQMS RHQ), Robert Chambers (Ogmore), Geraint Hughes 31 (Ride of Respect, Montgomeryshire, Shropshire & Midlands), Rev Patrick Mansel-Lewis (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire), Terry O'Shea (Cardiff), Peter Williams (Swansea & West Glamorgan), Alan Cunningham (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire), Steve Liversage BEM (Monmouthshire), Errol Jones (Merthyr Tydfil & Aberdare), John Hooper (East Glamorgan), Tom Thorne (London), Alan Miller (London)

Apologies for absence:

Major (Retired) Charles Carty MBE TD (Swansea) Steve Radford (Swansea) John Burns (North Wales)

Chairman's Welcome:

Before the meeting started Colonel Bonas thanked all the Branch Secretaries for their efforts, hard work and commitment, as without these the Association would not be in the good position that it is now.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Update on New Branch Standards

There has been little traction both from India and the Deputy Secretary General. We have identified a new supplier who's manufacturing base is in India but also have a UK presence with whom the Deputy Secretary General has already made contact. We have also identified a UK based manufacturer should the India supplier not meet our requirements; however, this will be a far more expensive route.

Darts & Shoot 2022

The Darts and Shoot will take place this year on Saturday 17th September at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. The mess is confirmed for the darts and hospitality and we are awaiting confirmation for the Range.

Alan Cunningham (Secretary Llanelli) suggested that in future we could look at holding the Darts & Shoot in Llanelli, where they have full hospitality, range and accommodation facilities and an ex Welsh Guardsman, Jim Hayes, looks after the centre.

Battlefield Tour 2022

The Battlefield Tour will take place this year and we have a full complement of people traveling. Hechtel-Eksel is

President:	Colonel TCS Bonas
Vice President:	Brigadier JF Rickett CBE
Vice President:	Captain ACD Hopkins
Treasurer:	Major ME Browne BEM
Secretary General:	Mr Maldwyn Jones (24263892)
Deputy Secretary General:	Mr Neil Rice (24446066)

ready for us and we will hopefully also be attending the International Sanicole Airshow. The remainder of the itinerary is still being worked through by Major Lyndon Davies. Alan Wood will again be joining us as our battlefield guide.

WGA Secretaries Meeting

The secretaries meeting will be held on at 12:00 hrs on Tuesday 1st November 2022 in the United Services Mess, Cardiff.

St David's Day 2022

The feedback has been very good. The format was very different than previous days, but from an Association point of view it was a great success. The welcome we received from all members of the Battalion was exceptionally warm and the whole event was very inclusive.

Looking forward to future celebrations we will join the Battalion in Windsor for 2023 with the 2024 celebration possibly taking place in Wales.

Queen's Birthday Parade – Thursday 2nd June 2022

The Queen's Birthday Parade returns to Horse Guards this year and will take place on Thursday 2nd June with the Irish Guards Trooping their Colour. The Welsh Guards are not on the parade other

than the band although the parade will be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Aldridge Irish Guards previously Welsh Guards and Major Ben Figgures-Wilson WG, a Coy Comd with 1IG will be on parade also.

Tickets have been very limited, we had no allocation for the Major Generals, very few for the Colonels Review and we have almost filled our full allocation for the Parade itself.

There will be a very high demand for the 2023 QBP as 1WG will be Trooping their Colour

Falklands 40th Anniversary Wrexham

Plans are well in hand with Chris Hopkins. It is taking place on Saturday 25th June. The day starts at 11:00hrs with a church service St Giles Parish Church, Wrexham. Following the service there will be a march to the Welsh Guards Memorial at Bodhyfryd, led by the Regimental Band and a detachment from Battalion, to lay wreaths then a reception in the War Memorial Club for Association members and their families.

Falklands 40th Memorial Walk Anglesey

The Falklands 40th Anniversary Anglesey

Commemorative Walk has been organised by Jan Koops and Keith Lewis 80 and will take place from Saturday 11th June until Tuesday 21st June 2022. Full details of the walk can be found on the Welsh Guards Charity website.

www.welshguardscharity.co.uk/event/falklands-40th-anniversary-anglesey-commemoration-walk

Falklands 40th Anniversary Ride of Respect

Geraint Hughes gave a comprehensive update from his recce of the route and is content that everything is in place for a successful event. The ride will take place between the 21st and 24th of June finishing in Wrexham to join the 40th Anniversary events being organised by Chris Hopkins. Geraint closed by thanking the WGA for their continued support.

Falklands 40th Anniversary Royal British Legion

This event will take place on the 14th June at the National Memorial Arboretum. This is only one of the many National events taking place, The Secretary General is coordinating the Welsh Guards Association involvement. To date there are 5 WG Falklands Veterans and 8 families attending. The event will be opened up to non-Falklands veterans next week.

Social Media

Social Media is really picking up, there has been a migration from the main Welsh Guards Reunited

website to Facebook, this is to be expected but the website is still a well visited repository for information that would not be appropriate for Facebook.

The Welsh Guards have a very strong presence on social media with around 42 groups on Facebook with Welsh Guards in the title as well as a number of Household Division pages.

Many branches now have their own Facebook Pages; however, these really should be limited to their own branch members for specific branch activities with central activities shared from the main Welsh Guards Reunited page which we use as our primary focus for Association news and activities. There is a danger of messages being diluted and also for duplication where things like Regimental Magazine allocation or event bookings are generating multiple requests from single individuals coming via multiple branches.

Summer Newsletter

This will be published on-line on the Welsh Guards Charity Website mid-August. If branches have any input for the newsletter, please get it to the Assistant Regimental Adjutant. The link for the newsletter will be sent out to all Branch Secretaries who are asked to print off a copy for any of their members who do not have internet access.

Regimental Magazine

We have an exceptionally good regimental magazine, but if we are to maintain this high standard we need quality input, both copy

and photographs from all the branches. It is really helpful if branches write up their articles throughout the year and submit them incrementally to the Assistant Regimental Adjutant, that way he has reassurance that work is being done and the branches do not find themselves in October having to pull something together from memory.

WOII Leighton Wilks RHQ RQMS pointed out that as each member of the Battalion has access to the Regimental Magazine it is our biggest opportunity to highlight the Association and show what is all about thereby encouraging them to become active once they step off.

There was some debate over the allocation of free magazines to the branches. This has come up before on numerous occasions and the agreed process is for each branch to receive an allocation of 20 free magazines and if any further copies are required they can be purchased at a subsidised price.

Membership of a branch or multiple branches has never guaranteed a free copy of the Magazine however The Association Trustees have again agreed to fund the free issue of a Regimental Magazine for up to 20 branch members per association branch (12 branches x 20 magazines = 240 magazines). Bearing in mind that this gesture costs the WGA around £2,500 per year to implement, WGA branch members may receive just one free magazine funded by the WGA. If they

belong to more than one branch, they may still only receive one free WGA funded copy of the magazine and if they require more than one copy this would need to be purchased separately by them or their branch (if they pay a branch subscription which covers the purchase of a Regimental Magazine) at the normal cover price.

Links between the Branches and The Battalion

We have had a big drive to make the Battalion aware of the Association and we have dedicated contacts in both the Sergeants and Officers messes for each branch. The Regimental Sergeant Major and the Commanding Officer are both very supportive of the Association and it is now down to each branch to really engage with the Sergeant Major and the officers to establish a good rapport and develop stronger links.

Association Wreaths

Last year's process of Branches applying directly to the RBL and being reimbursed for two worked well so we are repeating it this year. Each branch is entitled to 2 wreaths paid for by the Association. We must ensure that the wreaths are ordered from RBL direct and not through an RBL branch thereby getting them for £18.50 not £35.00.

Ordering a wreath is easy, simply call the RBL team on 0345 845 1945 between 9 am and 5 pm Monday - Friday with the following information:

- **Type of wreath** – You want Type C, 17" - £18.50

- **Desired badge** - Welsh Guards, Badge Code; PACWWW0009
- **Ribbon choice** – Nil

Payment is by credit/debit card, with the invoice included in with the wreath

Imber Court

The Imber Court Commemoration will take place at a date TBA. London Branch will liaise with the RQMS RHQ to try and arrange for 2 Guardsmen in HSC and a bugler to attend.

The memorial has been fully refurbished by Steve Gelly.

Race Day Ludlow

There are 24 Association members attending this year, this is just about enough to make the event viable. Martin Browne is taking over the organisation of the

annual event from Dai Davies from May 23. We have the potential to take 48 to the event. It is a great value and a really enjoyable day, for £50 you get a three-course meal, full hospitality in a private box in the Jubilee Stand with a terrace overlooking the finishing line, parking and the £18.50 racecourse admission charge is also covered.

WGA Accounts Overview

The Assistant Regimental Adjutant/Treasurer produced the full details of expenditure and income for the previous Financial year (FY) 2021-22 – copy attached. The FY ended with a healthy bank balance of £42,319 being carried forward into FY 2022-23, although £7,917 of this is ringfenced and belongs to the Battlefield Tour and £1,050 to the Ludlow Race Day and so the real “available” balance is £33,352.

With forecast income for FY 2022-23 of £16,115 and forecast expenditure for FY 2022-23 of £28,875 the trustees were content to authorise all forecast expenditure based on having sufficient cash in the bank to cover the delta figure. The Regimental Trustees will be approached to consider making a grant of £5k towards the Battlefield tour which will free up £5k to be available elsewhere for the Association.

Any Other Business

Alan Cunningham (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire) raise the issue that the buglers supplied for Welsh Guards funerals are not from the Welsh Guards. This is an unfortunate situation that no one likes however it is the policy of the Royal Corps of Army Music (RCAM) that where someone is entitled to a bugler at their funeral

from the public purse the bugler is supplied from the nearest unit. It may be worth reminding people that all musicians in the army are now members of the RCAM and whilst they may wear the uniform of the regiment they are playing for when on parade, they have their own cap badge and are administered and managed centrally.

Alan Cunningham (Llanelli, Cardiganshire & Pembrokeshire) raised an individual welfare issue that will be addressed off line with the Regimental Veterans Officer.

Date of Next Meeting

Date TBA at the United Services Mess, Cardiff

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2023

JANUARY	Wed 11th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
FEBRUARY	Date tbc	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch, St David's Day Lunch
	Thu 2nd	The Major Generals Inspection of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards
	Sat 4th	Wales v Ireland rugby – Principality Stadium, Cardiff
	Thu 9th	Llanelli Branch AGM
	Sat 25th	Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club Dinner, Windsor
	Sat 25th	Wales v England rugby – Principality Stadium, Cardiff
MARCH	Wed 1st	St David's Day with 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, Windsor
	Wed 8th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
	Wed 15th	WGA Trustee Meeting, London
APRIL	Thu 13th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
	Wed 26th	Preliminary rounds of the Colonel in Chief's Golf Cup, Worplesdon Golf Club
MAY	Sat 6th	Coronation of King Charles III
	Wed 10th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
	Sun 14th	Welsh Guards Association Handicap (a Day at the races) Ludlow
	Wed 17th	Association Annual General Meeting – United Services Mess, Cardiff
	Thu 25th	Welsh Guards Club Dinner, Cavalry & Guards Club, London
	Sat 27th - Date tbc	King's Birthday Parade - Major General's Review
	Wed 31st	First WGA Golf Competition – Location tbc
JUNE	Sat 3rd - Date tbc	King's Birthday Parade – Colonel's Review
	Thu 8th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
	Sat 10th - Date tbc	King's Birthday Parade – Trooping The Colour
	Sat 17th	41st Falklands Memorial Service and Reunion - Wrexham
	Sun 25th	Imber Court memorial Service
	Wed 28th	Second WGA Golf Competition – Location tbc
JULY	Dates tbc	Household Division Musical Spectacular, Horse Guards Parade
	Wed 5th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
	Sun 9th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Annual Lunch, Wroxeter Hotel
	Wed 26th	Third WGA Golf Competition – Location tbc
	Date tbc	Pembroke Dock Freedom Parade
	Date tbc	Ceredigion Freedom Parade
	Date tbc	Pembroke Civic Parade
AUGUST	Thu 10th	Llanelli Branch meeting
	Wed 30th	Fourth WGA Golf Competition – Location tbc
SEPTEMBER	Wed 6th	Household Division Golf Summer Meeting, Army Golf Club Aldershot
	Wed 6th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
	Sat 9th – Wed 13th	Welsh Guards Association Battlefield Tour
	Date tbc	Association Darts & Shoot Competition, Cardiff (tbc)
	Wed 20th	Semi Finals & Finals of the Colonel in Chief's Golf Cup, Worplesdon Golf Club
	Sat 23rd	Welsh Guards Rugby Reunion Club (WGRRC) Biennial Dinner (note; original dated changed from Fri 22nd to Sat 23rd)
	Date tbc	Household Division Golf Autumn Meeting at Royal St Georges
OCTOBER	Thu 12th	Llanelli Branch Meeting
NOVEMBER	Wed 8th	Montgomery, Shropshire & Midlands Branch Meeting
	Date tbc	Association Secretaries Meeting Cardiff (tbc)
	Sun 12th	Regimental Remembrance Parade London
DECEMBER	Thu 14th	Llanelli Branch meeting

Please monitor the Welsh Guards Charity website and Welsh Guards Social Media for updates and additions to this forecast

IN MEMORIAM - ÊR CÔF

We regret to announce that notification has been received of the deaths
of the following members of the Welsh Guards Association:

2741341 Rodney Angell-Baker

Died: 26th April 2022, Aged: 92
Served: WG October 1945 to January 1947
GREN GDS January 1947 to 1960

Sir Richard Baker-Wilbraham Bt DL

Died: 24th May 2022, Aged: 88
Served: 1952 to 1957

***22217504 Emyr Wyn Beddall**

Died: 5th March 2022, Aged: 88
Served: February 1952 to February 1956

***24141864 Ian Paul Brown**

Died: 13th December 2021, Aged: 68
Served: 1970 to 1980

Charles Anthony Gerrard Clauson Esq

Died: 26th March 2022, Aged: 75
Served: July 1966 to January 1972

24257466 Paul Cross

Died: 10th September 2022, Aged: 68
Served: September 1971 to June 1994

***22831110 Patrick Dennis Davies**

Died: 11th March 2022, Aged: 85
Served: 1954 to 1957

***23043120 Royston Davies**

Died: 30th December 2021, Aged: 85
Served: 1954 to 1956

23523062 WO2 Lennard Davies RVM

Died: 31st March 2022, Aged: 81
Served: 1958 to 1984

24906691 Aaron Wynne Davies

Died: 31st December 2021, Aged: 48
Served: 1990 to 1996

Captain William Edward Elcock

Died: 6th July 2022, Aged: 93
Served: 1950 to 1984

22831889 Lawrence Grey Ellis

Died: 14th May 2022, Aged: 84
Served: 1958 to 1961

24687914 Stephen Charles Fryd

Died: 8th January 2022, Aged: 55
Served: 1984 to 1991

24141824 Keith Eugene Garland

Died: 11th September 2022, Aged: 68
Served: August 1969 to August 1975

22879052 Gdsm Edward (Ted) Garwood

Died: 14th February 2022, Aged: 87
Served: May 1953 to June 1955

23523287 Kenneth Haines

Died: 24th January 2022, Aged: 83
Served: 1959 to 1965

22445352 Ronald Hambley

Died: 4th March 2020, Aged: 88
Served: 1951 to 1965

23523264 CSgt Bruce Gordon Forbes Hogarth

Died: 21st January 2022, Aged: 78
Served: 1959 to 1983

24008055 WO2 Graham Hough

Died: 20th July 2022, Aged: 74
Served: April 1964 to April 1988

2738537 David Howard

Died: 9th October 2022, Aged: 97
Served: February 1943 to May 1947

22217154 LSgt William Arthur (Spike) Hughes

Died: 21st February 2022, Aged: 92
Served: 1948 to 1954

24343604 LCpl Kevin Wyn Hughes

Died: 24th May 2022, Aged: 66
Served: 1974 to 1986

***23876978 Edmund (Eddie) Samuel Humphreys**

Died: 18th February 2015, Aged: 66
Served: August 1961 to N/K

24173401 Graham Hurley

Died: 24th October 2022, Aged: 69
Served: 1969 to 1985

23877296 David Martin Evan James

Died: 22nd July 2022, Aged: 77
Served: 1962 to 1971

2740269 Arthur James

*Died: January 2022, Aged: 95
Served: November 1944 to December 1945

23030656 Geoffrey Daniel Jenkins

Died: 25th August 2022, Aged: 86
Served: 1954 to 1956

Dr Alistair Jevon Johnston

Died: 27th April 2021, Aged: 88
Served: November 1952 to January 1957

22628356 LSgt Raymond Jones

Died: 4th April 2022, Aged: 88
Served: February 1952 to February 1954

22831312 Kenneth William Jones

Died: 11th May 2022, Aged: 85
Served: 1955 to 1959

23523201 RQMS John Michael Jones

Died: 26th March 2022, Aged: 81
Served: 1959 to 1981

24076011 John Griffiths (Jack) Jones

Died: 16th March 2022, Aged: 72
Served: 1967 to 1980

24125161 Stephen Jones
Died: 18th May 2022, Aged: 70
Served: 1969 to 1978

24443748 Gareth William Jones
Died: 12th June 2022, Aged: 65
Served: November 1976 to November 1979

22831232 Gdsm John Charles Kirby
Died: 3rd January 2022, Aged: 86
Served: 1955 to 1958

23036081 Gdsm David Brian Layton
Died: 31st May 2022, Aged: 86
Served: 1954 to 1956

David Gareth Bancroft Lloyd Esq
Died: 8th August 2022, Aged: 80
Served: 1961 to 1967

22217525 Vernon James Locke
Died: 2nd October 2022, Aged: 88
Served: March 1952 to March 1956

23908602 Douglas Raymond Long
Died: 27th April 2022, Aged: 75
Served: April 1964 to March 1984

24141839 Alan Loose
Died: 6th November 2022, Aged: 72
Served: 1969 to 1986

John Roderick Percy Love Esq
Died: 12th December 2021, Aged: 93
Served: 1946 to 1949

23577106 Howard Arthur Main
Died: 5th September 2022, Aged: 84
Served: 1958 to 1960

2739273 Wilfred John Martin
Died: 24th July 2022, Aged: 96
Served: 1944 to 1947

24483970 Gdsm Steven Richard Mathews
Died: 8th March 2022, Aged: 62
Served: 1978 to 1981 and 1985 to 1990

23523502 Bernard David Monteith
Died: 17th March 2022, Aged: 80
Served: 1960 to 1966

24513423 Sgt Nigel Owen
Died: 6th July 2022, Aged: 59
Served: 1979 to 2003

25003265 LCpl Richard Llewelyn Owen
Died: 12th March 2022, Aged: 50
Served: 1991 to 2003

22217883 Ian Bruce McPherson
Died: 3rd January 2022, Aged: 85
Served: September 1953 to 1975

24429978 David Arthur Price
Died: 23rd September 2022, Aged: 62
Served: 1977 to 1988

23523106 Barrie Purves
Died: 9th December 2021, Aged: N/K
Served: September 1958 to March 1961

Major Ivor Basil Ramsden MBE
Died: 3rd January 2022, Aged: 92
Served: 1949 to 1962

24076132 Raymond John Salt
Died: 5th September 2022, Aged: 73
Served: 1967 to 1989

Colonel Guy Nicholas Ranulph Sayle OBE
Died: 1st June 2022, Aged: 76
Served: July 1967 to February 2001

22831747 Gordon Smart
Died: 3rd July 2022, Aged: 81
Served: 1957 - 1964

24163443 Terence Roger Tanner
Died: 24th November 2021, Aged: 67
Served: 1967 to 1973

23877287 John (Jack) Michael Traynor
Died: 15th January 2022, Aged: 77
Served: 1962 to 1968

23273331 Roger Preston Trevor
Died: 20th June 2022, Aged: 84
Served: 1956 to 1958

22217829 Richard Arthur Trow
Died: 7th September 2022, Aged: 87
Served: 1953 to 1959

24076119 David Royston Tucker
Died: 22nd May 2022, Aged: 74
Served: 1967 to 1970

24125083 Spencer Trevor Walford
Died: 26th January 2022, Aged: 70
Served: January 1969 to 1984

24757974 Phillip Ward
Died: 4th May 2022, Aged: 54
Served: 1986 to 1989

25148110 Lee Watts
Died: 21st September 2022, Aged: 39
Served: 2022 to 2007

22831306 Derek John Williams
Died: 1st January 2022, Aged: 85
Served: June 1955 to June 1959

*Denotes missing some detail which we have been unable to ascertain





1. Sgt Jones 89 being present with his Accumulated Campaign Service Medal (ACSM)
2. Sgt Viavalevu promotion to Sgt
3. After completing his time as RQMS (M) and more recently the Battalion Recruiting Warrant Officer WO2 Peters is promoted to WO1 and will be the new Regimental Sergeant Major at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley
- 4,5,6. During a recent visit to the Battalion by the Brigade Commander, LSgt Okeke was promoted to Sgt (photo 4), Sgt Brown was promoted to CSgt (photo 5) and LSgt Williams 91 was promoted to Sgt (photo 6)
7. Welsh Guards representation at the Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day, 9 Jun 22. Founders Day commemorates King Charles II, who founded the hospital in the seventeenth century as a residential retirement home for old soldiers
8. Battalion Cambrian Patrol team achieving silver medal in the 2022 competition
9. A unique occasion with four Welsh Guards Colonel's attending the General Staff Officers Course at Sandhurst. L-R; Colonel Guy Stone, Colonel Henry Llewelyn-Usher, Colonel Ed Launder (although now COLDM GDS) and Colonel Jules Salusbury
10. Sgt Ben Davies competing in the Barcelona Iron Man event

Back Cover - Lt Cadogan and members of No 2 Company on the flight deck of HMS Prince of Wales during their visit on the Affiliates Open Day

