

The Sharpshooter



**Edited and Published by: The Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association,
10 Stone Buildings, Lincolns Inn, London WC2 3TT.
www.sharpshooters.org.uk email@sharpshooters.org.uk**



Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters), 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters),
3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry.
www.ksymuseum.org.uk



Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)
10 Stone Building, Lincolns Inn, London WC2A 3TG
www.sharps shooters.org.uk contact@sharps shooters.org.uk

Trustee and Committee Members

PRESIDENT: G.J.O. Farage Esq.
Email: president@ksya.org.uk

CHAIRMAN and Trustee: Major M. Hodson TD
17 Whiteledges, London W13 8JB
07976 967673 Email: chairman@ksya.org.uk

VICE CHAIRMAN and Trustee: Colonel Paul Acda TD DL
10 Deanway, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5DW
Email: Vicechairman@ksya.org.uk

HON. SECRETARY and Trustee: T. Rayson Esq.
14b Beckenham Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0QT
07753 747051 Email: secretary@ksya.org.uk

HON. TREASURER and Trustee: J. Gunn Esq.
07766 671803 Email: treasurer@ksya.org.uk

NEWSLETTER EDITOR and Trustee: Lt. Colonel S.C.R. Malik TD
Dean House Farm, Gatehouse Lane, Goddards Green, West Sussex BN6 9LE
01444 257 697 Email: editor@ksya.org.uk

BENEVOLENT SECRETARY: Major J.R.B. Prince TD, ACIS
10 Stone Building, Lincolns Inn, London WC2A 3TG
07946 521920

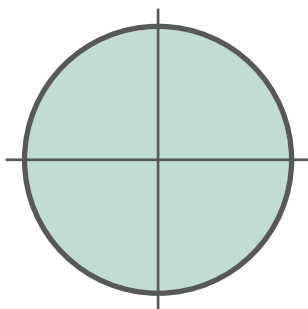
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2015 Sharpshooter journal, the publication of which marks another year rolling by and an opportunity to reflect on the enduring and wonderful Sharpshooter ethos.

The drawdown of the British Forces from Afghanistan has meant that the very visible output of the Association in the form of welfare parcels has stopped and we have instead been focussing more on matters at home and the way ahead. The future we know of will bring an election and a Strategic Defence Review, the implications of which are difficult to predict. Closer to home, and slightly more predictable, or at least manageable, are our discussions with the serving Squadrons and their broader Regimental Associations and how we can best support them.

There is still much to discuss in this regard, however I foresee 2015 being a year where we should be able to really begin to shape this and hopefully there will be more to share about this published on our social media channels during the year, and at the AGM.

The opening of the new Museum at Hever Castle will certainly be one of the main Sharpshooter highlights in the coming year. The monumental effort that Chris Sutton has done fundraising for this cannot be underestimated. Alongside the fundraising, the faith that our President, and others have had, maintaining the vision for the new Museum over many, many years demonstrates that belief and perseverance can conquer what can seem like insurmountable obstacles.

One of Defence's highest priorities remains recruiting for the Reserves, in our case what was previously known as the Territorial Army has now become the Army Reserve. We can all play our part helping our squadrons to recruit and helping people and organisations understand what the Reserves do, why they are important, why reservists make such good employees and why the country should support them. Whenever and wherever we can, let's help to spread the word!

As has become my custom, I'd like to publicly thank my fellow trustees and committee members for all their hard work and dedication supporting the Sharpshooter family. Fascinating battlefield tours, wonderful dinners, the provision of welfare support, keeping (e)mail lists up to date, constant fundraising, liaising with the serving squadrons, supporting squadron events, writing letters to other Associations and organisations, running the Association's accounts and investments, linking up with the Worshipful Company of Insurers, assembling and editing the journal, carrying the

Association's Standard at funerals, and the many other activities that are all part of what the Association delivers year in year out; some of which are quite glamorous, some are not – but all are equally vital.

I look forward to seeing many Sharpshooters and families and friends at the opening of the new Museum in September, as well as at many other various events at which we can gather.

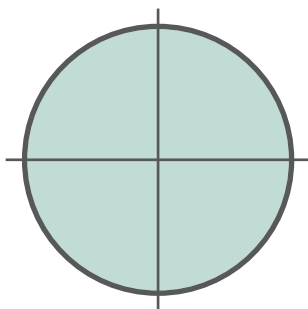
Very best wishes.

Yours aye

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hodson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

(Major) Mark Hodson FInstLM TD
Chairman





THE SECRETARY'S BLOG

10 YEARS ON

It has been amazing 10 years and a great privilege to be the Secretary of this *Association* and Chief Conductor of the Touring Bus Company that has travelled far and wide in search of Kent and Sharpshooter history. There have been fun times such as watching the late Gordon Tidey (my predecessor) tuck into an ice cream after a Cavalry Sunday and organising my first battlefield tour to Villers Bocage where we had 18 veterans on parade that day. There have been sad times as well as many of our veterans have marched off parade to rejoin their friends in the beer canteen in the sky and I have attended many of their last parades ably supported by a dedicated band of members who see such tasks as I do, as a duty and way of honouring our gallant predecessors.

There have also been exhilarating times where Kent and *Sharpshooters* yeomen from both of our squadrons have been mobilised and gone off to do their duty in a variety of difficult and challenging locations. It was also exhilarating in another sense in how they were all supported by this *Association* first by the late Kath Eley who worked tirelessly to produce parcels, family and other events and latterly Penny O'Hare. This modern version of the original Sharpshooter 'Gin and Tears' club formed in 1943, was so successful that it has been adopted as a model by the RY and is a well oiled machine that can get going to support serving yeomen when it is required to do so. The work that the S20 team undertake is funded solely by donations – with a bit of MOD money in there somewhere – and it would not be possible to do the work without these donations and especially those that have come from our Livery company the Worshipful Company of Insurers. These have been most generous and we are very grateful for them and all those members who have either donated money or time to S20.

This year has regrettably seen a large number of our veterans march off parade but we still took four of them with us to Villers Bocage for a most successful pilgrimage replete with fine weather and equally fine dining as we reprised the endex dinner of 2004 in the Chateau Bellefontaine in Bayeux where this time we sat 66 for dinner as against 140 in 2004. It was the same lady owner from 2004 and she did us proud with delicious canapés and an inexhaustible supply of delicious Kir Normande before dinner. Elsewhere the *Association* attended Cavalry Sunday which this year was led by a mounted WW1 Cavalryman to commemorate the start of the First World War. Cadets from Royal Russell School CCF and the ACF helped distribute programmes, push wheelchairs and a variety of other tasks. Those cadets that took part were all personally thanked by the Reviewing Officer afterwards – HRH King Abdullah II of Jordan. The *Association* also took part in the Federation of London OCA Parade at the beginning of June and supported C Sqn (who were representing RY so we were representing the

RY RA I suppose) when they were granted the Freedom of Mid Sussex in early September. The year ended in style with the El Gubi Dinner taking place at the Cavalry and Guards Club (also known as the Sharpshooter Brasserie) where a remarkably convivial evening was had by all at a even more remarkable – low cost – price. In case there is any doubt the dinner is an all ranks affair as it was when it first started in 1948 and it is not an officers only event. It has over my time been held at a variety of clubs in London including the ‘In and Out’, Victory Services and Liberal Clubs to record but a few names. It was then and will remain an All Ranks dinner. The dinner this year will be on Friday 20th November at the same location as last year and the aim is to get under the cost of last year’s event.

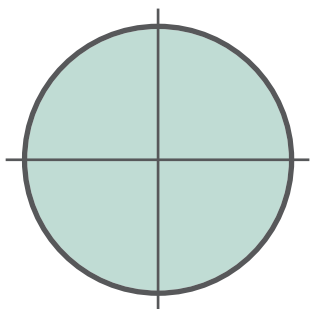
And so what of the future?

2015 sees the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in the same week that the Army/Navy rugby match will take place and Cavalry Sunday. It will also see the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and the 800th Anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt and the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign where both Kent Yeomen and *Sharpshooters* fought – the latter in the landings at Suvla Bay which if exploited properly would have perhaps seen a successful conclusion to that campaign. As an *Association* the plan at present is to run one weekend tour to Agincourt and St Valery where the Kent Yeomanry escaped from in 1940 some 75 years ago. Further details are included in the flyer in the Journal. We also plan to operate more in concert with the Westminster Dragoons as we did most successfully this year for Villers Bocage.

On Sunday 6th September 2015 the new Museum will open in the grounds of Hever Castle and I do hope that every member of this *Association* and reader of this journal together with their families will be there to help celebrate and bring the day to life.

Finally there is one thing in life that can be guaranteed and that is change. The *Association* has changed and adapted over the 72 years of its existence (not least with the relatively recent introduction of a new Trust Deed and Trustee panel) and there is the possibility of more change in the air. With the army still in a state of reform, a new CGS, and a Defence Review on the horizon, along with new personalities in both 265 and C Sqns, we will continue to review how we best support our wide *Sharpshooter* family. Our reference point is always the basis upon which Eric Cornish and others who founded the ‘Gin and Tears’ club of 1942/3, ie to reflect the role and relevance that the *Association* has with both the serving soldiers and those who have already done their bit in uniform from both squadrons.





TENT IN THE PARK – THE FUND RAISING STORY

The journey to £275,000

On behalf of the Museum trustees and the fund raising committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success in fully raising our target of £275,000 for the new museum in the grounds of Hever Castle. Construction is already well underway, and we are planning an official opening of the new museum on Sunday 6 September 2015. Please keep an eye on our website at www.ksymuseum.org.uk for details of the event.

The Fund Raising journey did not run quite as expected. I had imagined that our main donors would be corporates and individuals, but so far we have not had any corporate donations, and just one donation of £2000 from someone totally unconnected with the regimental family. To date we have raised about £40,000 from within the regimental family, and the vast majority of our funding has come from grant-making organisations.

Our four largest donations have been £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £69,000 from the Armed Forces Community Covenant, £36,000 from the Cory Environmental (Landfill) Trust, and £25,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

To win these grants, we really had to have a compelling vision for the new museum, which would be seen by donors as innovative, relevant and beneficial to the community. The fact that we have an interesting and unique collection to display was absolutely necessary, but not sufficient to win. We had to evidence that we were involving schools, other museums, and the local community. When the man from the Heritage Lottery Fund first met our trustees, he was pretty brutal in his feedback to us that he saw us as very insular and that our plans did not align to the objectives of the Fund. But we like a challenge.

This is where the strength and depth of the KSY heritage has been such an asset. Not just in the big campaigns and battles, but in the individual stories, service and sacrifice of real people who the public can relate to. The story of John Cloudsley Thompson, both at war and in peace, became central to our applications, but we soon developed so many more individual stories which added up to a great “product” (please forgive the marketing terminology) that the grant making organisations find both authentic and inspiring. It has been a privilege to turn these stories into winning applications.

The Activity Plan

The Heritage Lottery Fund told me candidly that they are not hugely interested in funding buildings and static displays. What they really want is lots of volunteering, lots of community involvement, and for lots of new “target audiences” to get inspired by what we are doing. They gave me the example of the torch relay across the length and breadth of Britain before the Olympics, as the sort of thing they are after. It is recognised that the museum may be an essential catalyst to the activities, but activities there must be.

This gave us pause for much thought, and we increased our total funding target (from £250,000 to £275,000) to create a twelve-month programme of volunteering and outreach activities.

We are scheduling public talks, for example, by our KSY Honorary Colonel on his grandfather Winston Churchill, by our RY Honorary Colonel on the battle of Waterloo, and by trustees, academics and others on The Reporting of War, the Yeoman Through History, The Crossing of the River Volturno, and the Reserve Army Today. We will have activities such as researching ancestors on our database, storytelling, military model making, a map reading challenge in the castle grounds, and many more. Full details will be published in due course on our website.

We are involving schools in the design of the museum, and in creating contents for our touch screens. To date, two secondary schools (Bennett Memorial in Tunbridge Wells, and Royal Russell in Croydon), and four local primary schools, are working in partnership with us.

It is also really important to the Heritage Lottery Fund that we attract volunteers from the local Hever / Edenbridge community, and from our regimental family, to man the museum part-time and to help run the activities. Full training, and a small daily allowance to cover expenses, will be available. If you are interested, please let me know.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant

We worked in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council, and with SSAFA, to apply for a major grant from the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The purpose of the covenant is to foster military / civilian integration, and to ensure that military personnel both serving and retired get a fair deal in their local communities.

Sevenoaks District Council sees great potential in our museum, as a focal point for raising awareness about the armed forces in our community, and our museum will include a permanent display by SSAFA on their invaluable work.

Please become a Friend

We are delighted to have reached our target of £275,000 for the new museum. However, I would not want to turn away eager donors, and we are keen to build our core of regular annual donations and our long term reserves. £30 per year entitles you to membership of the new Friends scheme we are setting up, and Heritage Lottery Fund will keenly judge me on how many Friends we have.

If you are interested in making a more substantial donation, you may like to know that we will be recognising Yeomen (donations over £500), Patrons (donations over

£1000) and Founders (donations over £10,000) on the Honour Board which will be prominent in the new museum. The KSY Museum Trust bank account is sort code 16-19-26 and the account number is 10326877. You can donate via Virgin Money Giving (there is a link to it from www.ksymuseum.org.uk), and it sorts out the gift aid as well. On request, I can send you a gift aid form in the post. Please call me on 07879 434465 or email ceo@ksymuseum.org.uk.

Thank you for your support

Chris Sutton

THE TENT IN THE PARK

The great news from the regimental museum is that the appeal which was launched at the end of 2013 reached its target by September and work has started on the new museum in the grounds of Hever Castle.

The existing museum room at Hever Castle was opened in 1985 by HRH Princess Alexandra, then Deputy Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry. As museum displays are expected to be renewed at least every 25 years, work on renewal began in 2007. The original concept assumed that we would continue in the same room at the top of the Hever Castle Keep and plans were drawn up accordingly with the help of the Design Department of the National Army Museum.



Fortunately for us, Hever Castle had seen the need to encourage more schools visits and planned a new education centre in a clearing near the main entrance. They were then persuaded of the advantages of building a new museum for us alongside. After some discussions, Broadland Properties, the owners of Hever Castle, agreed that they would finance the new building provided the Museum Trustees bore the cost of setting up the new display.

From this came the concept of the Tent in the Park. The new (solid) building is being finished in a simulated canvas finish so that it will have the external appearance of a military tent with flagpoles, suitable tac signs, and camouflage nets. Outside will stand a 25 Pdr gun and a Saladin armoured car. In due course it is hoped to have trench systems and dugouts in the surrounding area. The building is designed to have a controlled and secure environment.



Attention then turned to drawing up detailed plans and costings of the new display. This was done initially by Garry Hall of H&H Design who produced a new floor plan which was costed at £250,000. A Fund Raising Committee was set up in early 2014 under the chairmanship of Chris Sutton and remarkably reached its target within six months.

The new museum will give us almost three times as much space as the existing room. This will enable us to produce a display arranged in chronological order, divided into nine 'periods' starting with Period 1 the formation of the Kent Yeomanry in 1794 and ending at Period 9, recent service by serving members of the Regiment in Iraq and Afghanistan. Throughout the display there will be a number of touch screens with PowerPoint programmes and picture viewers.

The seven years that it has taken us to reach this stage has worked to our advantage as in the last two or three years we have been given some very important and historic items, mainly from other museums. In **Period 1 (1794-1827)** for example we are showing the 1794 coat of Captain Best of the Provender Troop of the East Kent Yeomanry, the first uniform worn by the Regiment, which was given to us by York Castle Museum. A carbine of the Cobham Yeomanry Cavalry c1800 has been lent to us by Rochester Museum.



With the aid of the Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant, we have been able to buy an important miniature of an East Kent Yeoman of 1810, a period for which we had no previous illustrations.

Although this period mainly tells the story of the Kent Yeomanry, we are also including a print and a medal of the Duke of Cumberland's Sharp Shooters, raised in 1803 and we will show the link between them and the *Sharpshooters* of 1900.

In **Period 2 (1830-1900)**, we are including two West Kent Yeomanry shakos given to us earlier this year by Maidstone Museum, very rare items, the existence of which had not previously been known. This was a period when the Yeomanry formed an important part of the county establishment, officered by the landed gentry and soldiered by the farmers and tradesmen. They did not take their soldiering too seriously and enjoyed periodic parades, usually in Moat Park Maidstone. The display includes their splendid uniforms, pictures, a selection of regimental silver and a unique collection of regimental china.

In **Period 3 (Boer War 1899-1902)** we see, for the first time, both Regiments serving overseas at war. The East and West Kent Yeomanries formed Volunteer Companies of Imperial Yeomanry. The *Sharpshooters* now came on the scene. After early setbacks at the hands of the Boers, there was great enthusiasm among young men in London to

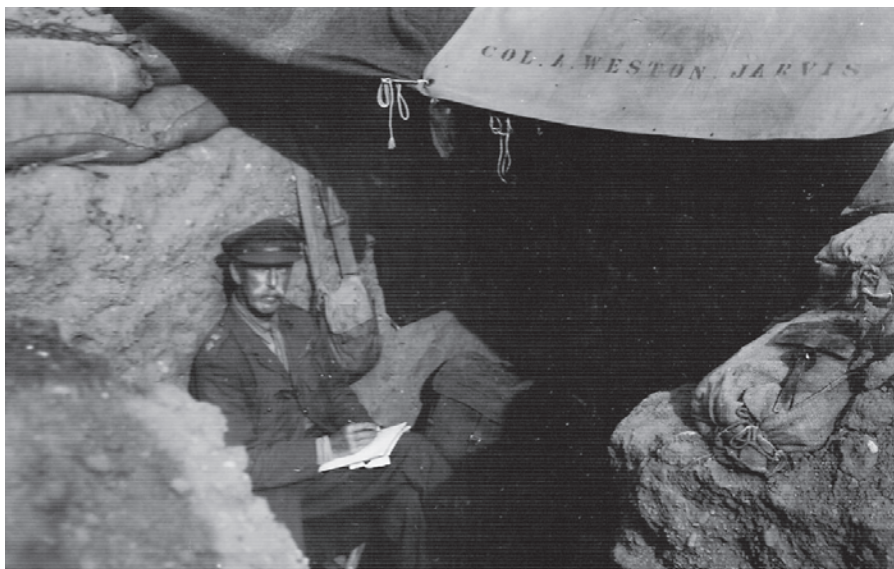
‘do their bit’. This was directed by the Earl of Dunraven to enroll volunteers who could both ride and shoot, to be known as ‘*Sharpshooters*’. Eventually 16 Companies/4 Battalions of *Sharpshooters Imperial Yeomanry* were formed, recognised by their badge, a brass SS on a red and blue rosette an example of which will be in the display.

From 1900 on, we are fortunate in having some very effective regimental photographers, particularly Col Weston Jarvis in the Boer War and World War I and Major Jimmy Sale in World War 2, leaving us spoilt for choice when it comes to illustrating the Regiment’s story

Period 4 (1900-1914) begins with the formation of a permanent Regiment of *Sharpshooters* to be known as the *3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)*. The display includes their smart new dark green hussar full dress. With the formation of the Territorial Force (later Army) in 1908, the Yeomanry had to take their military life more seriously. They were formed into Brigades and Divisions like the regular army; they wore a common service dress and had similar weapons examples of which will be shown.

Period 5 (1914-1918) covers World War I. For a year the Yeomanry were kept in England as a safeguard against unexpected invasion but in 1915, all three regiments were sent to Gallipoli as Infantry. The Museum has a superb collection of photographs taken by Lt-Col Weston Jarvis who commanded the *Sharpshooters* up to 1916. The display includes a trench section with sandbags and a figure of the Colonel in one corner. There are some good examples of equipment of the period such as binoculars and periscopes.

During **Period 6 (1918-1939)** both Regiments lost their horses; the *Sharpshooters* became an Armoured Car Company, the Kent Yeomanry a Royal Artillery Regiment. From here on the display makes much use of 1/35 scale models of the Regiment’s vehicles and weapons. No shortage of photographs but again few uniforms of this period have survived.



Period 7 (1939-1945) (World War 2) is the biggest section of the display as there is so much story to tell. Both Regiments were required to double up as expectations of war grew in early 1939. The display features first 97 (KY) Field Regiment and the 1939-40 campaign in France which ended in evacuations from Dunkirk and St Valery. Their subsequent story is told as they served in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Libya and Italy. We have two wartime regimental flags, a good collection of wartime photographs and documents but sadly not much in the way actual objects.

The two Sharpshooter Regiments first went abroad in 1941 when they joined 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats) in Egypt. They then saw service in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia (4th), Sicily (3rd), Italy, D-Day, Normandy. Here the two amalgamated and became 3rd/4th CLY for the rest of the war through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. The display includes personal possessions and equipment of CLY soldiers and some important trophies captured from the enemy including the swastika flag taken at Primosole Bridge in Sicily, a German officer's map case, a German 88mm gun sight ('collected' in 1944 by Lt-Col Ben Tottenham) and a German *Panzerfaust* (anti-tank rocket) presented to 3/4CLY by the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1945.



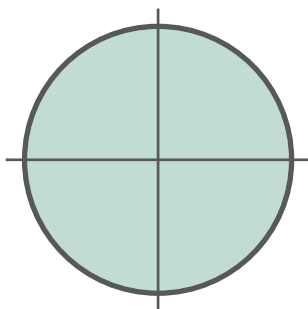
These are backed up by Jimmy Sale's marvellous sequence of photographs, a total of 5,500 images, every one captioned.

We also feature Hever which still has, in the Castle grounds, a number of pill boxes built in 1940 to defend the line of the River Eden.

Period 8 (Registry) includes an important display of medals awarded to members of our regiments. We will also feature records of war memorials and rolls of honour. A touch screen will include a data base aimed to include details of everyone who served in any of our past and present Regiments.

Finally **Period 9 (1945-2015)** will feature the time since World War 2 split into Cold War (1947-90) and post-Cold War (1990-2015).

In the 30 years since the original display was set up inside the Castle, the museum's collection has greatly expanded. It is a very exciting prospect that we will now be able to put so much more of the collection on display. We will now have the space to tell our regimental story.



TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2014

Using current valuations of investments the association had net assets of £66.6k at 31st March 2014 (£62.7k prior year). Income in the 12 months was £5.8k (£4.0k prior year). The current year included £1k from the Worshipful Company of Insurers and £2k of dividend income from investments.

As in previous years the largest item of expenditure was the magazine at £3.8k (£4k prior year). The Trustees still consider this to be essential in maintaining the *Espirit De Corps* of the *Sharpshooters*. £1.8k was spent on welfare and £450 in funding the Sharpshooter website.

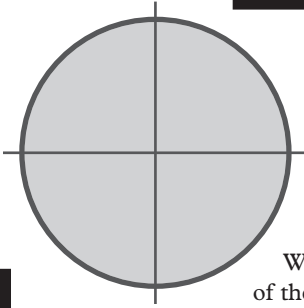
Income less expenditure was a deficit of £70 in the year.

The bulk of the *Association's* assets date back to subscriptions made towards the end and just after WW2. Sadly many of these *Sharpshooters* have now passed away but their generosity lives on.

John Gunn ACMA
Treasurer

31st March 2014

Income		Expenditure	
Other donations	1,750.00	Grants	1,350.00
Payments under Gift Aid	2,109.30	Allowances	
Merchandising		Wrist bands	
	<u>3,859.30</u>	Wreaths & Crosses	180.00
		El Gubi (net)	-215.00
Investments/Bank deposits	1,970.02	Printing (News Letter)	3,799.92
		Website	450.00
	<u>5,829.32</u>	Expenses	
		Welfare	333.67
		Sundries	
			<u>5,898.59</u>
		Excess/Shortfall	<u><u>-69.27</u></u>



EMPTY SADDLES 2014

Where possible and if requested by the family, members of the *Association* try to attend funerals with the banner if appropriate.

Robert Loader	4th CLY and 3rd/4th CLY
Bill Durham	3rd/4th CLY
Mike Geer	4th CLY and 3rd/4th CLY
Tony Perry	Kent Yeomanry and KCLY
Chris Law	3rd and 3rd/4th CLY
Bill Harrisson	3rd and 3rd/4th CLY
Ian Brooking-Thomas	KCLY and RY
Jim Esson MBE	265 (KCLY) Sqn, 71(Sigs) Regt
Walter Heeley	4th CLY
Eric Moffatt	4th CLY
David Voelcker	KY KCLY 1933-2014
Ian Sanderson	3rd/4th CLY

OBITUARY

Major A. W. Perry

1932-2014

Major Tony Perry originally served with the Kent Yeomanry in the late 1950s.

While at University, he won a scholarship awarded by the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry to undertake a course in business management at Philadelphia, USA, and, at the same time, to serve with the First City Troop (as it is usually called). The Troop formed in 1774, is the oldest military unit in the United States that is still in active service as part of the National Guard.

He returned to England in the early 1960s when he served with A Squadron KCLY at Albany Street, first as Squadron 2ic, later as Squadron Commander.

Influenced by his experience as a student in the USA and with his US Degree, he eventually decided to return to the USA and entered into business there. He was a great student of military history and collected military artefacts. His particular interest was cavalry swords and he built up an important collection of British Cavalry swords from the 17th to the 20th Century. He very kindly presented to the Regimental Museum a set of accoutrements (shoulder scales, pouch and sabretache) which had belonged to Lt C.W. Martin, West Kent Yeomanry, *c.*1830.

This strong interest in military history led to his appointment as Curator of the First City Troop Museum. As this was an active appointment in the National Guard, he claimed to be the first British subject to obtain a commission in the US Army!

Recently, due to ill health, he moved to France to live with his brother, but sadly died there in summer 2014.

OBITUARY

Captain James (Jim) Andrew Esson MBE

Jim Esson died on 15 June 2014 after a long illness brought about by diabetes. He was 83.

Jim was born in Belfast on 6 September 1930. His father was a founder member of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Jim joined the Royal Signals as a boy soldier in 1946, after his father found that he



was truanting from school and gave him the choice of the Army or back to school! Jim learned and qualified in the trade of Operator Wireless and Line (OWL), and after adult training was posted in 1949 to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Egypt. During his time on the trooper Jim was promoted to local Lance Corporal and given a pistol, six rounds and 30 veteran Scottish infantry soldiers to keep in line should an emergency evacuation be needed! Needless to say he was terrified! In 1952, Jim was posted to Catterick where he became an instructor in the Officer Training Wing. In 1953 he met and married Joyce. Between 1955 and 1969 Jim enjoyed service in places ranging from Singapore to Paris, to Sheffield, Berlin and Mons, Belgium. In 1963 he was posted to 38 Signal Regiment (TA) in Sheffield as the Regimental Yeoman of Signals – his first meeting with the TA! During this posting the RSM was sacked and Jim was made acting RSM, and those of us who know him well find this most amusing as his drill was never the most perfect! During his time at SHAPE HQ in Paris he was responsible for the accounting and movement of the high level crypto throughout NATO. This he enjoyed as it took him all round the NATO countries flying first class with an empty seat next to him for the crypto – which was handcuffed to his wrist!

In 1969, Jim was commissioned as a Traffic Officer within Royal Signals, and after his commissioning course at Catterick, spent many years as a Traffic Officer within BAOR, mostly with 1 Division Signal Regiment in Verden or at 1 BR Corps HQ at Beilefeldt. In 1977 he retired from the Regular Army with the rank of Captain and joined 36 Signal Regiment (V) as a Traffic Officer. In January 1978 he was selected and appointed as Permanent Staff Officer (PSO) to 265 (KCLY) Signal Squadron at Bexleyheath. It acted as both HQ Squadron and had a number of significant communications tasks with National Defence. The Squadron regularly paraded over 120 soldiers! The Squadron was within 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment and RHQ was then at Bromley.

Jim was an outstanding PSO. He has, rightly, been described as the “beating heart”



to sub unit commanders, but Jim was more than an admin officer. He always came out when the Squadron was training especially in the field. He was always there with advice and a kind word for his Squadron Leaders, and that advice ranged from comms assistance to suggesting how to deal with a difficult CO or RSM! For Jim, life was for enjoyment and he carried that philosophy into his job. He believed that the TA should be fun, and made sure that it was! He organized and oversaw the Squadron football team that won the London District Championship on many occasions and on two, managed to get into the second round of the National TA Football Championship. Jim saw the Squadron through some of its toughest times. It was withdrawn from a Brigade exercise in 1979 for further training, and command was given to a regular officer. Jim played a key role in supporting the TA Officers that followed and steadily the Squadron became more professional. In 1982 the Squadron took over 140 soldiers to camp – a testament to his ability to recruit and retain! Improvement was so marked that in 1984 the Squadron was given a new key role in National Defence. This happened at the same that TAVRA decided on a complete rebuild of the TA Centre and relocation of RHQ from Bromley to Bexleyheath.

Both were a challenge for the Squadron and it came through thanks to Jim and his support to the OC and unfailing good humour. He ensured that a bar was kept in the small building that was in use on the building site, and that Tuesday evening training was enjoyable by hiring the sports hall of the Catholic Girls School on the other side of the road – what the nuns would have done if they had known that he was a Belfast Protestant is anyone's guess! The Princess Royal opened the rebuilt TA Centre in 1985, and in recognition of his outstanding work during this tough period Jim was awarded the MBE in 1987.

Jim's last Camp was a Brigade Exercise in 1994. The Squadron was located within a bunker system at RAF St. Mawgan. One morning, Jim, full of the joys of spring, picked up a microphone and welcomed the new day with a rendition of "Danny Boy" over the PA system! A short time later the RAF Police arrived demanding to talk to "Val Donican" as the song had apparently been heard all over the RAF national alert system! Jim started to look sheepish and worried! The Squadron Leader temporized and the RAF Police left allowing him to discipline the offender. As they left they confided that the song had only been picked up in their Ops Cell! Jim was never told!

Jim retired at the age of 65 in 1995 after close to 50 years adult uniformed service.

Jim was a character and a person whom it was a joy to know. Many of those who served in 265 Squadron have much to thank him for – his unfailing good humour, sense of responsibility, his dedication to all from Squadron Leader to newest recruit, and his commitment to the organization. It is a testament to what he achieved that six past Squadron Leaders attended his funeral at Hereford Crematorium on Friday 27 June.

He was one of a kind, and when he was made the mold was broken!

OBITUARY

Major David Voelcker

1933-2014



Major David Voelcker receiving the Bond Cup for Best Squadron at Annual Camp 1964.

Major David Voelcker joined the *Sharpshooters* in 1955 after two years National Service when he was commissioned into the 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars.

His service was mainly in London, up until 1961 in the traditional *Sharpshooters* headquarters in Allitsen Road, and , following the amalgamation with the Kent Yeomanry, in Albany Street.

In 1963 he took over from Major Clive Aston as OC B Squadron at Croydon where he had a successful tour, winning the Bond Cup for best Squadron in 1964. On the formation of the Royal Yeomanry in 1967, he handed what had become C (KSY) Squadron back to Major Clive Aston.

Although he was originally called to the bar he spent his early years in business in London and Aberdeen. He returned to the bar in the 1980s when he became a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate for SW London and a part-time Recorder in the Crown Court from which he retired in 1988. He earned a reputation for being 'firm but fair'.

He died of a heart attack on 24 Oct 2014. His well attended funeral service was held at Christ Church, Fairwarp in Ashdown Forest.

OBITUARY

Bill Harrison

1920 - 2014

Bill was born in 1920 in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, the son of Mary and William, the Midlands General Manager of Cable & Wireless. He went to school at Bishop Vesey Grammar School between 1929 and 1937. But by the time Bill was 19, war was starting all over again. Before the war, Bill had joined the Territorial Army – the 3rd County of London Yeomanry. The *Sharpshooters* were described as a “socially homogenous, clubbable, rugger playing corps”. But in reality, Bill was preparing for a traumatic period ahead which shaped much of his life and values.



Bill Harrison on commissioning.



Bill Harrison cooking in the field.

He had started what turned out to be a lifelong career following his father's footsteps in Cable & Wireless at their head office in London, where importantly he also met his future wife Sue. Bill was mobilised along with the rest of 3rd CLY and deployed to the desert in 1941 with them. He served throughout the desert campaign with the 3rd up to and including the decisive Battle at Alam El Halfa in August 1942. After that, 3rd CLY were withdrawn – some say the decision was on the toss of a coin between the two CO's – to prepare for the landings in Sicily. Bill took part in the landings and the subsequent tough campaign up the Adriatic coast of Italy.

The 3rd CLY (and the 4th) were withdrawn at the end of 1943 to return to England to prepare for D Day. The 3rd were billeted on the south coast near Shoreham by Sea and Bill had just enough time to marry Sue, but his honeymoon was to be on the beaches of Normandy when 3rd CLY landed on D+1. The European campaign saw the amalgamation of the 3rd and 4th in Normandy and Bill served in the new regiment before being sent as a Sjt on his commissioning course in the UK – the 3rd had a tradition that the officers were always commissioned from the ranks. After commissioning Bill was posted to the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and served with them in Hannover before being demobbed.

After the war Bill restarted his career at Cable and Wireless where he rose to become Group General Manager Commonwealth Finance. Bill was an avid sportsman and fiercely competitive whether it was playing rugby, cricket or golf. Bill died on 15th August 2014.

OBITUARY

Eric Moffait died in 2014 on the Isle of Man aged 102. This resume was originally published in the Sharpshooter Journal as he was approaching 90 and is republished here as a fitting tribute to someone who was the oldest surviving Sharpshooter.

I am very pleased to receive the Newsletter, although my main concern now is the obituary column! I was very sorry to see Major Grant's death – he was o/c "B" Squadron when I joined them in March 1942. It was a revelation after the anonymity of training regiment, overseas draft, not to mention Base Depot at Abassia to feel one had re-acquired a personality.

I had the good fortune to join Sgt Mike Simon's crew in the first of the Grants. We only lasted about half an hour in the Gazala fracas when the firing pin on the 75mm broke. We were then smitten by what I think was HE. I was 75 loader and the hatch over my head was open and I was peppered with splinters to spectacular effect and the loss of quantities of blood. I was evacuated to Tobruk that night, and eventually to hospital in the Delta. I was back with the Regiment in time for Alam Halfa, now in Mr Curtis' troop. We had a very ropery Lee – even more obsolete than the Grants – which lasted the first day, but was k.o'd the next in the same action in which Mr Curtis lost his leg. Our gunner, Harry Connell was fatally wounded.

3rd CLY's long stay in the Delta, punctuated by leaves, courses etc culminated in the arrival of the excellent diesel Shermans. I was made troop leader's driver, and remained so through the Sicily and Italian campaigns. I was one of the two tanks mentioned on page 115 of *Sharpshooters at War*. Major Woods put Mr Crews in his tank, while he led me, on foot, all through the night, coming back from time to time to get us to brass up various targets on the way. I had to wake up my crew to comply. Italy was fairly uneventful. Our efforts in the big Sangro affair terminated early on when we ran over a mine and lost our track, but suffered no casualties.

I would like to mention at this stage the remarkable achievement of Sergeant Walters. Having survived all the Desert campaign he took his crew of Troopers Johnson, Lester and Jaysome through Sicily, Italy and Europe right to the end at Hamburg. Only the gunner changed due to casualties.

In Sicily my tank towed Sgt Walters tank back to comparative safety after he had received a deflected armour piercing shell into his hull (Page 115 – *Sharpshooters at War*).

Back in England, leave, courses and a double dose of malaria – I was fortunate enough to be cured of this by treatment in the American 1st General Medical Laboratory outside Salisbury – resulting in my rejoining the Regiment in Worthing the night before the move to the marshalling area. I could hardly complain at being made Guard Commander for the last night in Worthing. It required a lot of tact to deal with the celebrations apparently shared by troops and civilians alike. A memorable night.

I now found myself in command of 3 Charlie. I was on the LCT mentioned on page 189 of *Sharpshooters at War* and witnessed the Colonel's masterly/hazardous transfer to a more seaworthy vessel, while we put back to Gosport, where Bob Kitchen, the other commander and I were dumped ashore. We eventually got away again the next evening, and duly rejoined the Regiment at Creully, I think it was.

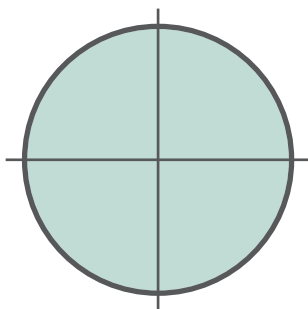
I successfully polited our way to Hamburg, but was fortunate enough to be home on leave at the time of the Verdun affair which caused "B" Squadron such severe casualties (see page 238).

I was back in time for the entry into Hamburg, witnessed the "Mercedes-load of jack-booted Prussian officers" (page 240) – the German delegates to the capitulation business. I was also very close to the site of the liberation of wine etc which sufficed the whole squadron, I believe, until Christmas. Sgt Kirkley, a wine expert, ensured that "B" Squadron Sgts Mess had some choice pickings.

Coming home on "Lilop" was a mistake, as I had to finish my army days at Catterick, and was amongst the last of my group to be demobbed.

I spent most of my career as Corporal – from Sicily to Germany – then Lance Sgt and Sgt.

Sgt Edwards, ex CLY, and Monty's driver visited us in Sgts Mess at Elmshorn. He was with "A" Squadron fitters when he joined the Regiment.



C SQUADRON 2014 ROUND-UP

Ever since the Regiment re-rolled to Light Cavalry, a date has been etched on the minds of all the *Sharpshooters*: the October 2014 annual training period (or annual camp in old money) was to represent the culmination of two plus years of hard work and see the entire Regiment roll out as a fully manned light cavalry regiment. The Squadron's training this year was heavily focused towards achieving this goal.

The training year was dominated by the need to get as many of the Squadron as possible qualified to drive, command and operate the new R-WMIK Land Rovers with mounted GPMG and HMG. With 22 days training required to be a driver, 12 days for gunnery and 14 days for signals, this was no mean feat. It is testament to the resilience and enthusiasm of the Squadron members that the training continued at a charge.

2014 was the year that the Regiment unfortunately lost A (RWY) Squadron in Swindon who were re-orbatted to the Royal Wessex Yeomanry. One positive to come out of this from the Squadron's perspective was the arrival of Windsor Troop who had previously been attached to A Squadron and we were delighted to welcome them into the Sharpshooter family. Many of the Troop are from regular army backgrounds (the majority being from the Household Cavalry) and their experience and, most importantly, good humour, have been a welcome addition to our Squadron.

There was a certain ceremonial feel about the training year with no fewer than three parades including the annual Remembrance Sunday parade through Croydon – which, once again, was a roaring success and a fitting tribute to those who have fallen in past wars in this poignant centenary year.

The Squadron was fortunate enough in June to parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where the guest of honour was none other than Her Majesty the Queen. It was an incredible honour and the Squadron (in conjunction with HQ Squadron) was able to put on a good show (this despite the usual limited drill practice beforehand). In September, the Regiment (represented by the Squadron) was presented with the Freedom of Mid-Sussex after a parade in Haywards Heath which also involved the signing of the army covenant. The Squadron received a very warm welcome from the local community and assorted local dignitaries, including local MP and C Squadron Honorary Colonel, Sir Nicholas Soames.

In mid-June, Captain Benny Harris led 15 members of the Squadron on a 600 mile, four day cycling expedition from Croydon ARC to Villers-Bocage, Normandy, and back again. The expedition coincided with the 70th anniversary of fierce engagements in



Villers-Bocage between the WWII *Sharpshooters* of 4th CLY and 101 (SS) Heavy Tank Battalion in June 1944. The expedition also raised £1500 towards the KSY museum at Hever Castle.

In July the Squadron refocused on the build-up to ATP with a Croydon based CT1 weekend teaching and refreshing basic skills such as GPMG weapon handling, Reports & Returns, BCDT, CBRN and some PT for good measure. This was followed-up in early August with a cheeky dismounted exercise on SPTA, which saw two dismounted troops undertake a night navex insertion onto the area, section battle drills, setting up VCPs, selection and occupation of OPs to gather intelligence on enemy activity in the area and finally an ambush to destroy an enemy convoy transiting through the area.

And before we knew where we were, annual camp was upon us!

With memories of 2010's annual training fresh in the memory of some of the old and bold of C Squadron, a return to the heartlands of Kielder Forest and Otterburn was



met with as much enthusiasm as a regimental reverse replen. Thankfully, the Squadron's journey to England's most northern training areas would be delayed by a week as the Squadron first embarked on build up training at Warcop where the Squadron carried out their MATTs training.

MATT training for the year nipped, the Squadron moved into a round robin exercise phase which included testing on navigation, BCDT, CBRN (everyone's favourite), ranges and OBUA. The level of training was fantastic and included the use of "amputees in action" to add to the realism of the scenarios. The paintball rounds used in OBUA will also not be forgotten: most of the Squadron are still nursing their wounds.

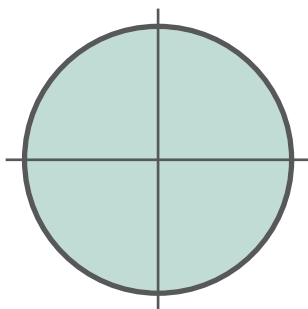
After a brief lull for mess dinners, it was back into the green mind-set, and the daunting 90km road move to Otterburn. It would be fair to say that the cut down RWMIK/scouts were not designed for A-road travel in horizontal rain! The FTX phase of camp tested how well the Squadron had adapted to the light cavalry role. Tactical vehicle movement, dismounted patrols, OPs and CTRs were all the order of the day, with all being carried out at a very fast tempo.



ATP was a very challenging and rewarding two weeks and those who attended will feel that they achieved an awful lot. The Ladies' night dinner at the end to November was a fitting end to an action packed year!

Going forward the recruiting challenge for the Squadron remains significant and will require the efforts of all. The new light cavalry role and equipment is delivering significant upturn in new joiners and transfers from other units. In addition, the restructuring of the regular army has seen a small surge in highly qualified ex-regular's joining up.

As regards to personnel, the year saw the arrival of Captains Nick Scott and Will Mawby as training officers (both coincidentally ex-gunners). Two new Troop Leaders in 2Lts Ric Sherburne and Eliot Jones meant that together with Lt Alex Vakil (who finally decided to bring his tour of duty in the vodka bars of Moscow to an end) the squadron had three Sabre Troops complete with Troop Leaders. WO2 Dave Tomlin stood down as SSM and moved into the training wing and WO2 Ian Fearnley (one of our Windsor Troop augmentees) took the helm.



265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) (SHARPSHOOTERS) SUPPORT SQUADRON

71st (CITY OF LONDON) YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT

TA Centre, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ

Training night: Tuesday 8pm – 10pm

OC: Maj Keith Wrate
Ops Offr: Capt Kush Cooper
PSAO: Capt Steve Slaney
A/SSM: SSgt Griffiths
SPSI: SSgt Shackleton
SQMS: SSgt Paul Thwaite

OC Squadron Overview

The Squadron started the year as it finished the last with a continued momentum for training, development and support to operations. But first, the ever popular and well attended Christmas Exercise weekend where we have the opportunity to reflect on the past year, catch up on MATTS (Bounty Qualifications) make sure all the equipment is fully serviceable for the upcoming exercises and, just as important reward those who have performed particularly well over the training year.

Congratulations therefore to Cpl Myers, awarded Soldier of the Year. Winner of the SSM Trophy Signaller Prior. Best in Trade, Cfn Caiels (REME). Best Recruit, Signaller Wilsher. Best Female Soldier, LCpl Horan. Best Male Soldier, Signaller Harrild. All very well deserved.

January was busy as ever starting with Ex Phoenix Canter, the first of two infantry skills exercises designed to test the Squadron members operating in and out of a FOB location. Equipment care was also high on the agenda and the Squadron worked very hard to ensure the detachments, ranging from REEBOK, CST and BOWMAN and associated generators were presented to a high standard. Capt (now Major – congratulations Sean) Wardle arranged the first of a series of Team Medic courses at the Bexleyheath ARC. Despite being interrupted by the announcement of OP PITCHPOLE, where a number of personnel were deployed, it was well attended.

We were very pleased to host a visit from our Squadron Colonel, The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames PC MP on 22nd January. Col Nicholas has a very busy Parliamentary

schedule and so we were particularly pleased he could make this evening. We had the opportunity to take him through both our Support role and Communications capability as well as demonstrate the new Man SV(R) currently held by the LAD based at Bexleyheath. In addition, he had the opportunity to meet both WO2 “Ade” Keeble and Sgt “Caz” Castro, both recently returned from OP HERRICK 18 with 3DSR, and present the VRSM to Capt Khush Cooper who shortly afterwards deployed on Op HERRICK, supported as ever by Mrs Penny O’Hare in her role as Welfare Officer.

Squadron Recruiting

The Squadron continues to actively recruit in the local areas in support of OP FORTIFY, visiting schools, recruiting seminars and job fairs and additionally supporting the two other Squadrons of the Regiment in their recruiting efforts. The Squadron recruiting and retention team (SRRT) has worked especially hard throughout the year bringing in and mentoring a steady stream of new recruits. The results have been extremely positive with numbers leaving reducing and those joining increasing. At a recent visit by the Armed Forces Minister, Rt Hon Julian Brasier TD MP the Squadron was able to report 100% up to strength with another group of six coming through. This includes Recruits Wrate and Duffy-Penny, names that may be familiar to some readers.

New Arrivals

As seems to be the case in these things, to prove you can’t keep a good man down and despite being particularly busy during the year, some of the Squadron still found time for other activities at the weekend. I am sure you would all like to congratulate Signaller Chris Simpson and his wife Megan on their new arrival, Harvey, and LCpl Crane and his partner Nicola on the birth of their baby son Harry. All are doing very well.

Nijmegen March – 98th International Four Day Event

For reasons now best forgotten, the Squadron organised a team on behalf of the Regiment for this event. One training weekend per month, starting in January with the distances gradually increasing until we took part in the annual RAF Cosford March – two consecutive days of 25 miles. Not an easy task by any means and it did take its toll on a number of members. That said, and despite some notable drop outs, myself included, we put in a strong team under the leadership of Major Sean Wardle our RMO. The weather was not kind – very hot and dry for the most part but it make the pit stop in the car at the end all the more welcome.

Adventurous Training

With everything else that was going on, it was sometimes difficult to understand that people would want more. But they did. We took part in two main activities – Sailing and Parachuting, both well attended. The sailing saw a dozen of us deploy to Seaview on the Isle of Wight, where we crewed two boats in the Devils Own Regatta. Sgt Roy

Carpenter, REME and A/SSM Leigh Griffiths were the able skippers managing both to get everyone round the five races safely and give them a really good experience. Many for the first time on the water.

Promotions

It is always good to see people progress through the ranks and improve themselves, so it is good to say congratulations go to LCpl Bob Brasier, Maj Sean Wardle and Sgt Jim Sutton. Whilst these are all we have confirmation of at time of going to press, I expect a few more shortly as LCpl Crane and SSgt Griffiths have recently successfully passed their CLMs and are qualified for promotion as well as a few others. Lets see what Santa may bring!

Civic Engagement

A major part of our activity since being awarded Freedom of the Borough of Bexley, our Civic Engagement continued with participation in the flag raising ceremony at the newly refurbished Civic Offices in Bexley. The Ceremony was a short but meaningful one attended by The Major of the London Borough of Bexley Cllr Marriner and the Deputy Lieutenant, Major David Hewer OBE, TD, DL, an ex Squadron Commander both of whom gave a short speech.

The training year continued with its usual focus on MATTS and Equipment care, with some all important Communications Exercises building up towards our deployment on ADE (Annual Deployment Exercise, or Camp as we used to call it). There was a small re distribution of kit as the Regiment was re-organised welcoming in 36 Sig Sqn from Colchester and 31 Sig Sqn from Coulsdon. We still retain REEBOK, one of the larger assets at Bexleyheath.

The main MATTS weekend was at Lydd Camp followed by Communications exercises at Crowborough, familiar areas to all. They were busy exercises with worthwhile training throughout. As well as our communications capability, we trained on new generators and took the opportunity to practice re supply and catering in a field environment. All necessary skills for ADE.

Following on from a few weeks well deserved rest in August, we prepared to go abroad. ADE would see us in Germany. A new experience for me but a familiar place for a number of the longer serving Squadron members, especially the ex-Regular soldiers. It was a long drive, broken by a night stop and day's pre-deployment training in Elmpt, we arrived in Sennelager on the Monday and almost immediately started preparation for the longest Communications exercise we had experienced for some while.

The drive had some significance. Those of you familiar with our history will know that 70 years ago, we were in the same part of Europe, holding a line at Oudenaarde just south of Ghent.

Deploying all around the training area, 265 would form a key part of the Regiment's communication capability at RCP as well as re supply the other Squadrons on a daily basis. All this whilst being harassed by the exercise enemy. It was a busy time. We spent the majority of the time in a FOB on the edge of the main OBUA, surrounded by walls

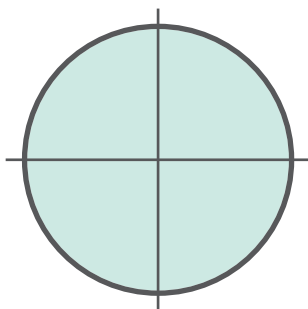
and patrolling on a regular basis. We had regular visits from the Regt hierarchy, mostly I suspect because we had two very able chefs with us – Pte's Hirst and Evans – turning out excellent meals from their No 2 cook set.

We were also joined by some old faces. Our old SSM supplemented the command team in the guise of WO1 SVWO Ade Keeble, a well deserved appointment as well as a welcome visitor. After recovering to barracks, we were awarded some R & R with a day out to explore some of the more cultural aspects of the locality. We visited the Mohne Dam, sight of the Dam Busters raid. A peaceful and tranquil setting, popular now with cyclists and walkers alike. We checked and re-checked our kit and then packed up for the return journey that this time would be done in one hit. We made excellent time only to be held up almost at the last moment by a two hour delay at the Channel Tunnel. That said, we all arrived safely back at the ARC.

The Lord Mayor's Show and Remembrance Sunday was, as always, a key and very important part of our year. For the first time, we put together and crewed a float on behalf of the Regiment on the Saturday. This displayed all of the trades you could expect to find at Bexleyheath – Comms, REME, Medical and Chefs. We also had two soldiers take part in the Festival of Remembrance, Pte Hirst and Sig Wilsher representing the Squadron. The following day, the Squadron was very well represented as we marched to the memorial in Bexleyheath and back.

Looking back and reflecting on another busy year, we must also look at the challenges ahead. There will be further reviews and the Reserves will be under increasing scrutiny as we pair with Regular units. The numbers that we can deploy, our participation in supporting activities in relation to strike and flood action and overall exercise effectiveness will all be taken into account. The *Sharpshooters* remain up to the challenge.





ORBAT – November 2014

265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry Sharpshooters) Support Squadron

71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment

Support Squadron Headquarters

Major Keith Wrate – OC

Capt K Cooper – 2 IC

SSgt Leigh Griffiths SSM – SSM

Sig Jackson

Sig O - Boateng

Sig Prior

Sig Sutton

Sig Wilsher

Logistic Troop

SSgt Haskell

SSgt Lane

Sgt Bontoft

Sgt Morris

Sgt Castro

Sgt Woo

Sgt Wise

Cpl Harries

Cpl Sutton

Cpl Porter

Cpl Broadbent

LCpl Crane

LCpl Liscoe

LCpl Brasier

Sig Cook

Sig Carrigan

Sig Prior

Sig Simpson

Sig Beck

Sig Fry

Sig Lovett

Sig Stewart

Sig Jones

Medic Sect

Maj Wardle

SSgt Eastley

Cpl Myers

LCpl Turner

LCpl Markham

Chefs

Pte Hirst

Pte Evans

LAD

OC – Gapped

Sgt Gunter

Sgt Carpenter

Sgt Hursey

Sgt Pearce

Cpl Brand

Cpl Green

Cpl Larney

LCpl Burgess

LCpl Horan

LCpl McRoberts

LCpl Ness
Cfn Humphreys
Cfn Caiels
Cfn Golding

Permanent Staff

Capt S Slaney PSAO
SSgt P Thwaite SQMS
SSgt C Shackleton SPSI
Sgt G Fraser PSI (T)
Sgt J Morse (Stores LAD)
Miss B Simmons (AO)

RHQ Troop

Lt Col J Picton QC (CO) (R)
Maj Rowson (2IC) (V)
Maj Scott (Ops Maj) (R)
Capt Ward (TOT) (V)
Capt Macaulay (Adj) (R)
Capt Trundle (Padre)
Capt Pryke (Regt Ops Sp Off) (NRPS)
Capt Robinson (RCMO)

WO1 Whitfield MBE (RSM)
WO1 Keeble (SVWO) (V)
WO1 Lewis (FoS) (V)
WO1 Gittins (YofS) (V)
WO2 Ohanlon (YofS) (R)
WO2 Ford (Regt Admin WO) (NRPS)
WO2 Vincent (ROSWO) (V)
WO2 Savarese (Chief Clerk) (V)
WO2 Jackson (FofS) (R)
WO2 Robinson (RQMS) (NRPS)
WO2 Escritt (MTWO) (NRPS)
WO2 Springer (Ops WO) (V)
SSgt Lapidge (RQMS) (V)
SSgt Marshall (MTWO) (V)
Sgt Davenport (Clerk) (V)
Sgt Loneragan (AGC) (V)
Cpl Way (AGC) (V)
Cpl Butler
LCpl Backhouse (CO Dvr) (R)
(V) Volunteer
(R) Regular

C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron The Royal Yeomanry

Squadron Headquarters

Maj Field
Capt Ruck-Keene
Capt McMullen
WO2 (SSM) Tomlin
WO2 Furmiger
Cpl Ennis
LCpl Higgs
Tpr Payne
Tpr Ullah

1st Troop

Lt Capt Critien
Sgt Stallard
Cpl O'Hare
Cpl Thomson
LCpl Dunning
Tpr Denton
Tpr Marsh
Tpr Mill

Tpr Windless
Tpr Wright

2nd Troop

2Lt Sherbourne
Cpl Moden
Cpl Smith
LCpl Grais
LCpl Brady
Tpr Guring
Tpr Hall
Tpr Knight
Tpr Pollock
Tpr Salazar

3rd Troop (Windsor)

Capt Trinic
Capt Elliott
2Lt Jones
WO2 Ferneley

Sgt Game
Cpl Evans
LCpl Stacey
LCpl Takacs
LCpl Hawkshaw
LCpl Hickey
Tpr Clements
Tpr Findlay
Tpr Green
Tpr Holloway
Tpr Williams

Recruit Training Troop

Sgt Faytaren
Cpl Paine, R.
Cpl Honeysett
LCpl Brewer
LCpl Garner
Tpr Bowles
Tpr Clark
Tpr Eley
Tpr Francis
Tpr Greenwood
Tpr Howlett

Admin Troop

Sgt Mason
Cpl Paine, D.
Cpl McNeill
Tpr Duncombe

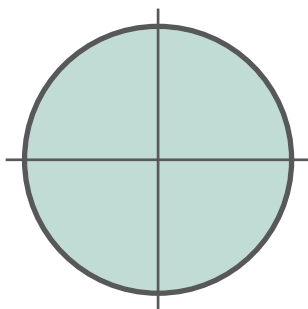
RHQ The Royal Yeomanry

Lt-Col McMenemy CO
Capt Webb, MTO
WO2 Chadwick
WO2 Shardlow

Permanent Staff

Capt Harris PSAO
CoH Goodwin HCR Sigs PSI
SSgt Skidmore QPSI Gun PSI
SCpl Bonham QPSI
Mrs Skidmore AO Clerk
Miss Skidmore AO STMN





Royal Russell School CCF Report EX YARRA YOMP 14

By Sgt Julia Rooke

Having hosted the Australian cadets in the UK in 2013 we set off for Australia on 27th June to begin the reciprocal visit and it was a whirlwind tour of the country. The trip (during which we travelled 8000km internally in 12 days) offered us a unique insight into the workings of the Australian Army Cadets from both schools battalions and community based units such as 203 Lancer ACU at Parramatta in Sydney. In all we met over 400 from six different states: Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, Northern Territory and South Australia and we made lots of new friends along the way quickly discovering an openness and eagerness by the Australian cadets to learn about us.

Before leaving for Australia the ACF and the CCF (this was a joint trip) worked together on one joint presentation that would explain to the Australian cadets how things are run here in the UK. The presentation reinforced the idea of 'one army, two systems,' and was a joint effort by both ourselves and ACF cadets from Middlesex & NW London ACF. We delivered the presentation on a number of occasions, including in Sydney the day after we arrived and most notably in Puckapunyal where the audience





comprised over 250 cadets and their adult leaders who were on a week-long promotions course. We also delivered individual presentations about our time in the CCF and what we had learnt. Whilst the delivery of these presentations was challenging, we all felt that our confidence grew over the course of the trip and we became less nervous with each presentation.

Our trip was full of amazing experiences, but possibly one of the most special of these experiences was being honoured with the task of laying a wreath at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The memorial is in fact an extensive museum and each day at 17:00 a short service takes place to honour those Australian lives lost in conflict. We were lucky enough to lay a wreath at one of these services and to pay our respects to all those that had died in service of their country and met the Air Attache from the High Commission who came to meet us. We were also given a guided tour of the museum where we learnt more about the role of Australia in the First World War and the development of their military.

Whilst in Canberra we also visited the Australian Defence Force Academy where we had a go on their indoor over-water obstacle course. This was an amazing – and exhausting – experience as the course is suspended entirely in the air above the swimming pool and you have to climb rope ladders, cross boards and swing like Tarzan between the obstacles at an average height of 10m. Despite all our efforts only one cadet, from the CCF, was able to complete the course! Although we only spent a couple of days in Canberra, we also managed to fit in a private guided tour of the Australian Parliament. An office we were allowed to see was that of Social Services Minister, The Hon. Kevin Andrews MP. The office was surprisingly small for a minister that runs 35% of the country's expenditure but was well appointed. We also toured the two chambers, The House of Representatives and The Senate.



We came to Australia expecting the weather to be incredibly hot and, whilst this was true in Darwin, we could not have been more wrong about Puckapunyal and Canberra, where temperature varied between -3°C and 5°C, it was so cold we could see our breath in the morning and there was snow on the hills. We were therefore very grateful when Captain Rayson managed to buy thermal tops to wear under our uniforms. This made learning Australian ceremonial sword drill, outside without smocks on, much more enjoyable despite the weather.

This was in stark contrast to the 30°C weather in Darwin and in the Kangaroo Flats Training Area. This was the location of the Annual Camp for the Northern Territory Battalion of Australian Army Cadets. However the cadets we met at the camp came from virtually all over Australia including Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Victoria. One of the cadets we spoke to from the Northern Territory came from a unit that consisted only of her and her two brothers! But no matter where a cadet was from, they were all warm and welcoming and very keen to find out about us.

It was at this point that our camelbacks, day sacks, tropical shirts and bush hats became a necessity. After listening to a 45 minute safety presentation upon arrival at the camp we can now all say we've learnt a huge amount about the dangers of heat exhaustion, how important it is to keep hydrated and the importance of seeking shade at every opportunity.

Our experience at Kangaroo Flats was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We slept out in the bush, protected by individual mosquito nets that you put up like small tents. The two nights we slept there were beautifully clear with not a cloud in the sky. To an extent it was hard to get to sleep as the moon was so bright!

Our first day out of the base, following the long but informative safety brief, we learnt skill at arms for the F88 Austeyr rifle. We immediately noticed similarities between the UK and Australian skill at arms, with the major difference being, for their NSPs they have to take the barrel out of the rifle. On our second day we split off into different sections and took part in some of the exercises that the rest of the cadets were undertaking on the training area. Whilst what they do in the field is fairly similar to us there were some exercises that were very different. For example, on their field craft exercise whilst they use the same formations as the UK section battle drills or ambushes are not were taught whilst Vehicle Check Point drills are. They also had an engineering exercise where we learnt to make stretchers and shelters out of bamboo and rope.

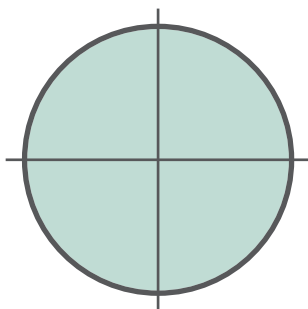
On our final morning at Kangaroo Flats, US Marines came to show off their equipment to us and the Australian Cadets. This consisted of two Humvees, an M249 SAW, an M16A4 with an M203 grenade launcher and two mortars to name a few! Riding in the turret of a Humvee was a unique experience that we will never forget and could not have experienced back in the UK.

Not only did we get to experience Australian Army Cadet military training, we also took part in a number of tourist activities. A highlight for all of us was climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, we had amazing weather and could see for miles, the view was well worth the strong winds. Another highlight was going to the night markets at Mindil Beach in Darwin.



In the last week of our visit we took a memorable trip out to the Tiwi Islands, a two hour ferry ride north of Darwin. Here we met and spoke with the local aboriginal community and got the opportunity to watch their unique way of living. We learnt about their history and how they survived for so long in such a harsh environment. Our time in Darwin, whilst mostly consumed with the military exercise with the Northern Territory cadets, was filled with many exciting things, one of which was a jumping crocodile tour on the Adelaide River! Whilst it was terrifying to see a 6 foot crocodile's jump out of the water next to us we got some great action shots. The support that the CCFA and the RFCA has provided us with, to take part in this truly unforgettable trip, was much appreciated.





KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM REPORT 2013-2014

Trustees : Guy Farage (Chairman), Anthony Jewell, Chris Sutton,
Dan Taylor, Boris Mollo, John Gunn

The Honorary Colonel, serving Squadron Leaders and
Chairman of the Association are invited to Trust Meetings but do not vote

Curator : Boris Mollo
Project Manager : Dan Taylor
Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary : Huw Jones
Curator (Croydon) : Andy O'Hare
Curator (Bexleyheath) : David Whitehouse
Treasurer : John Gunn

Recent Acquisitions 2013-2014

Kent Yeomanry

The museum has, in the past year, been fortunate to have acquired three highly important items relating to the Kent Yeomanry in the early 1800s.

Miniature, East Kent Yeomanry c1810

2013-19

This miniature is of considerable significance as it is the first contemporary record of the uniform of the Regiment of this period that we have come across. We have pictures from the 1790s and the 1820s but none of this particular period. The miniature is competently painted, shortly after the abandonment of powdered hair for officers of the army.

Sadly the inscription on the back is partially obliterated. The remaining inscription states:

‘MY GRANDFATHER ——— UNIFORM OF ——— KENTYEOMANRY’. We have chosen to identify it as East Kent Yeomanry as the basic colours of dark blue jacket, red collar and cuffs and silver embroidery are those used in the 1794 jacket of Capt George Best (2011-15) and in the 1820 jacket of Lt-Col Thomas Garret.

Purchase : £900 with the aid of a grant of £450 from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund



Other ranks' shako, West Kent Yeomanry c1830-45

2014-13 (left)

This is of particular interest because it is a very rare example of a trooper's headdress as opposed to that of an officer who would have silver rather than black braid decoration.

Officer's shako, West Kent Yeomanry c1845-55

2014-12 (right)

Again this is a unique item for which there appears to be no other example. In this case we have reference to a similar shaped shako in the lithograph, published in Tunbridge Wells c1850, of a mounted trooper wearing a similar shako.

These two items of headdress came to light when Maidstone Museum were going through their stores. They are the home of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum which had been given these items in the days when there was no Kent Yeomanry Museum. Very generously they have passed them over to us.



Sharpshooters Overseas Service Helmet, 3CLY, c1941(?)

It is difficult to distinguish between the Overseas Service helmet (usually referred to as *topee* or *sun helmet*) of 1918 and that of 1941. We have one rather damaged example which we know was worn in 1914-18 which is why we have attributed this example to 1941. It does not appear that they had much of a history in World War II. 3CLY embarked for the Middle East at Avonmouth in August 1941, landing at Suez in early October. Jimmy Sale's photographs show them in topees on the voyage out but once in Egypt they are in berets. This may be why this example is in such good condition

Purchase : ebay

2014-14



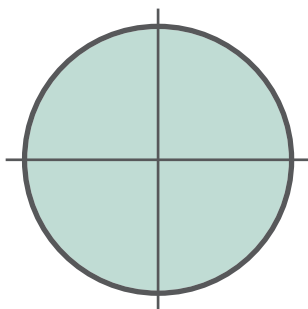
German 88mm gun sight acquired by donor in NW Europe 1944-45

Lt-Col 'Ben' Tottenham first joined the *Sharpshooters* in 1952 and commanded the Regiment from 1962-1965. In NW Europe 1944-45 he served as a Troop Leader with the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. This not therefore is strictly a regimental souvenir, but the German 88mm gun was such a formidable foe for much of World War II that forms an important addition to our World War II display.

Gift : Lt-Col H.S.L. Tottenham

2013-17





2014 EL GUBI DINNER “WHY WE REMEMBER”

by **TIMBER**

As time moves on it becomes increasingly important to recall and share why we in the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry* family do the things that we do.

The recent tragic death of an Australian Cricketer created a moving outpouring of emotions across not only the cricketing family but across other communities as well. The “put your bat out” tributes crossing over to the Australian Golf Open where a cricket bat and a golf ball on the tee of the 63rd hole of the Championship remembered that Phil Hughes will be for ever 63 not out – his score at the time he was struck down.



For the current generation this is something that we can relate to and will I am sure be remembered in years to come as a seminal moment in Cricket.

For older generations we have continued to remember our own moments in time and the people that lived and died during them. The *Association* Calendar is littered with events small and large that for those attending are moments in time to reflect and also build upon with our current Squadrons and Cadets.

Back in April 1939 this group of young and not so young *Sharpshooters* gathered at their Annual Dinner to remember and share the stories of the current and former generations. Among them were people who had touched the hands of our Boer War veterans and who had fought in WW1.



As I look down on this group, you can see a host of faces who are probably nameless now, but I can see in the front of the picture young men about to go into the unknown, who within two years would be fighting and dying at battles such as Knightsbridge, Alam Halfa and the battle that blooded them on 19 November 1941 in the Libyan Desert at a place called – El Gubi. This is the reason that each year for our *Annual Association Dinner* – we remember “El Gubi”.



Men who fought and who I was lucky enough to meet down the years at the Annual Association Dinner – men like Alan Grant and Hugh Matthews.

Alan (on the right facing the camera in the picture above) wrote in the 1994 Journal about the dinner:

RESURGENCE OF THE SHARPSHOOTERS 1938/9

Major A.W. Grant writes:

Early in 1938 when war clouds were gathering and the powers that were, realised how useful the T.A. was going to be. The 23rd London Armoured Car Company was enlarged to a armoured regiment and took its historic title:- 3rd County of London Yeomanry.

A celebratory dinner was organised to be held on Thursday 13th April 1939 at the Criterion Restaurant in Piccadilly Circus. The cost was, it is thought, six old shillings and six pence per head (32¹/₂p)!

Look what they got for it – herewith a copy of the menu together with a list of distinguished people who joined in the celebrations.

MENU

Hors d'Œuvre Variés
ou
Saumon Fumé

Crispinoise Brunolee
Crème Parisienne

Sole Bonne Femme

Filet de Bœuf au Maître
Haricots Verts Provençaux

Poulet à la Broche au Jambon d'York
Pommes Brûlées

Bombe Victoria
Biscuits Meringués

Café

TOASTS

"THE KING"

Proposed by Lieut. Col. R. K. Jago, M.M.

"THE SHARPSHOOTERS"

Proposed by Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, K.C.,
G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.L.

Response by Lieut.-Col. R. K. Jago, M.M.

"THE TERRITORIAL ARMY"

Proposed by Major R. W. Mc. C. Gordon.

Response by General Sir Walter Earle,
K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Director-General of the Territorial Army.

"OUR GUESTS"

Proposed by Major A. P. Giffney Smith.

Response by Major-General C. F. Lister,
C.B., D.S.O., T.D.

and

Brigadier H. Wilson, D.S.O., M.C., T.D.





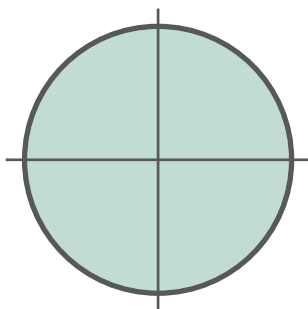
In this Journal we share a few images from the wonderful 2014 El Gubi Dinner – The Annual All Ranks Dinner for the Kent and *Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* – held at The Cavalry and Guards Club on the nearest Friday to the 19th November each year. We welcomed a number of relatives of former *Sharpshooters* – notably the Gillman family – to the family table, where Phil Moore (4CLY) represented the 1939 generation. The full list of those attending:

Guy Farage, Mark Hodson, Paul Acda, Lt Colonel Simon McMenemy, David and Marian Hannam, Phil and Pat Moore, Ron Snowball, Paul Coxon, Dan Taylor, Angus Taylor, Chris Sutton, John Gunn, John Gillman, Jenny Gillman, Sally Gillman, Rosie Gillman, Mike and Jenny Shaw, Kevin Wright, Sergey Pyuman, Steve Shelley, Andy Church, Colonel Jo Gunnell, Boris Mollo, Gordon Jones RGHA, Malcolm Tanner, Tony Jewell, Anjelica Blenkinsop, Trevor Tew, Peter Arnold, Tim Rayson.

The final toast was to Absent Friends – observed by tradition in silence – and it gave us the chance as a family to remember and give thanks for those that served in our name. I hope that you will try to join the dinner in 2015 – Alan and his comrades from 1939 will be watching and raising a glass with you.

TIMBER





“WENT THE DAY WELL” THE LORD MAYOR’S SHOW 2014

by Terry Bodman, KSYA

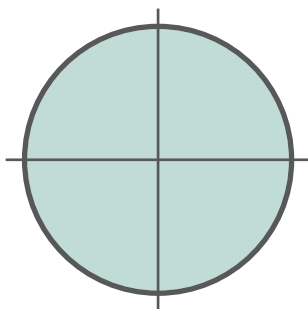
After a good year on the organization front, contacts made, arrangements sorted and paperwork received, Vehicle Pass, Feeding Vouchers with their recipients, all was looking good for the show.

But then the gremlins got to work, the Scania tractor unit that hauls the low-loader was under repair awaiting spare parts that had not arrived in time for it to be ready for the Show, so we had to cancel our attendance at the Lord Mayors Show, but the good news was that the Tank was available if we could collect it, a bit of an impossible task at such short notice.

So a cancelation email went out to all those attending, Let’s hope that next year’s LMS goes as well as previous years and we move forward into broad, sunlit uplands of 2015.

The *Association* would like to thank Helen at the Pageantmasters Office, Capt Alan Catto The Royal Yeomanry and Rex Cadman at the War and Peace Show, for all their help and assistance in the run up to the show.





THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE: 6 NOVEMBER 2014

by Marian Hannam

The Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey is organised annually by the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory as part of the Poppy Appeal commemorations.

The significance of the poppy as a symbol to the fallen was recognised by the Canadian surgeon, John McCrae, in his poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Representing the sacrifice made by his comrades, it quickly became a lasting memorial to those who died in the First World War and later conflicts. Adopted by The Royal British Legion for their Poppy Appeal following its formation in 1921, more than 40 million are distributed by the Legion every year from the end of October up to 11th November.

This year the lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster was laid out with 390 plots representing regimental and armed services associations. The plots were planted with wooden tokens of remembrance (primarily remembrance crosses but also a variety of shapes representing different religions) decorated with a remembrance poppy. After the Field of Remembrance closes the crosses are collected and burned, the ashes being scattered at First World War battlefields in Northern France and Belgium.

The *Association* plot contained three large crosses representing the KSY, the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *CLY (Sharpshooters)*, together with 35 individual crosses and the photograph of the War Memorial at Croydon, which commemorates the 381 *Sharpshooters* who fell during the Second World War.

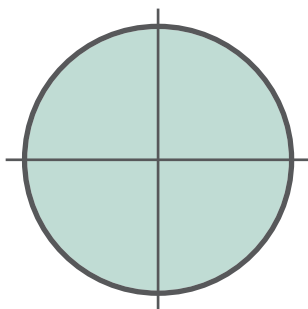
The ceremony opened with the arrival at the Field of HRH Prince Harry of Wales. Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster Abbey and The Venerable Andrew Tremlett, Sub-Dean and Rector of St Margaret's Church. His Royal Highness laid a personal Cross of Remembrance in front of two wooden crosses from the graves of unknown British soldiers from the First and Second World Wars. The Last Post was then sounded by a Trumpeter from the Band of the Welsh Guards.

The 'Exhortation to Remembrance' was delivered by Mrs Sara Jones, President of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, after which a two minute silence was observed followed by 'Reveille'. His Royal Highness then undertook a review of the plots where he spoke with our plot representative, Guy Farage, President of the *Association*.

The following members of the *Association* also attended: Pam Bodman, Barrie and Carol Corfield, the Geer Family, Marian Hannam, Tony Jewell, Pat May, Craig McColville, David & Mrs Meader, Tim Rayson, Stephen Shelley, Hilary and Philip Wilson, Keith Wrate and Kevin Wright.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"





VILLERS BOCAGE 70 – THE KSYA TOUR TO NORMANDY

The KSYA *raison d'être* is to provide support to serving and retired *Sharpshooters* and to maintain the ethos and *esprit du corps* of the regiment. We do both of the first two tasks through sending regular parcels to those on deployment and engaging SSAFA and others at home. The latter two tasks we achieve through undertaking battlefield tours on a regular basis. This being the 70th Anniversary of D Day the *Association* decided that its main effort for a battlefield tour would be Normandy with the focus on Villers Bocage where 4th CLY suffered greatly on D plus 7. Interestingly the 60th Anniversary was the first tour that I had organised for the *Association* and now here we were ten years on but with fewer WW2 veterans around – of the 18 that went in 2004 we can only muster four who are fit and able to travel.

There was much planning and of course the French were the interesting partners in all of it. Having been told that they were not commemorating the liberation of the Town their view changed as they found out that some 80 plus *Sharpshooters* and friends – Westminster Dragoons – were going to arrive on Friday the 13th exactly 70 years to the day. All of a sudden there was going to be a celebration but it all depended on the results of the municipality elections in late April. Having an ex Sharpshooter PSAO Adjutant in the shape of the formidable Craig McColville who is resident in France helped. It was thanks to his sterling efforts that a programme of events that met everyone's expectations and requirements was pulled together in the morning.

We therefore set off on the Thursday morning from Sharpshooter House some 40 strong and with three of our four veterans – Phil Moore, Wilf Oxley and Chaz Rae. The fourth Hal Currie was travelling independently from Scotland and would join us at the hotel in Caen. We all met up in Caen at the hotel which had the smallest rooms I've seen in a hotel for a long time and worse, an even smaller bar! Following a splendid dinner we set off for Pegasus Bridge where Dan Taylor, our historian, gave an electric dusk talk on the operation to seize the bridge. We then all retired looking forward to the following day's events – the bar being unmanned!

An early start saw us at the SP for the advance of 4th CLY – then lead regiment for 22nd Arm'd Bde – in the village of Livry with Dan Taylor giving the story of how we had got there. The coach followed the advance to and through Villers Bocage and up to Point 213 where A Sqn had halted with RHQ in the village and B Sqn just entering it. It was there we dismounted and Dan took us through the debacle which ended up with the whole of A Sqn eventually being captured and the German advance – one Tiger –

into the village where it caused chaos destroying A Coy the Queens in their half tracks and RHQ. We then got into the coach and motored quickly down to the Memorial where the service was to take place.

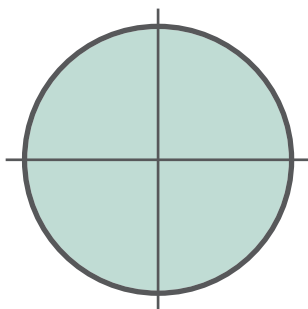
At the memorial we met up with the C Sqn cycling party and, with the Westminster Dragoons and numerous representatives from French veterans formed up for the service. Having produced an agreed service sheet the plan rapidly disintegrated as the French hosts reverted to the original not agreed format! Nothing we could do to change it, so we all smiled and carried on, improvising along the way. The Town had very kindly produced a sound system on which to play the National Anthems, and led off with ours – all three verses which if you do not know them are difficult to sing! Unfortunately one of the French veterans collapsed but he was caught by Pete Thompson and his standard remained on the Parade which was much appreciated by all.

Following the service we set off for the Chateaux which had just been restored for what can only be described as an excellent 'Vin d'Honneur' including small eats as well. This was the first time that any of us had been there, it was a lovely place and fitting end to the morning. A quick lunch and then we were off to the Calvados factory for a tour and tasting. What a place and there were even samples to try straight from the still – rocket fuel definitely! We purchased various quantities of the proper stuff and then with some difficulty got on the coach back to the hotel and dinner somewhere in town.

Saturday saw us touring the beaches with the Westminster Dragoons and then an early return to get changed for dinner at the Chateau de Bellefontaine just outside of Bayeux. There in a magnificent sunset we had Kir Normande and hors d'oeuvres followed by a splendid dinner inside for 60 people including the Deputy Mayor and partner. It was with some regret that we were prised out of the Chateau and returned to the hotel where some besieged the small bar for a night cap or three of Calvados. An early start on Sunday took us to Bayeux cemetery for a service in the CWG Commission cemetery, where we were joined again by the Westminster Dragoons. Following the service we all went and found the *Sharpshooters* who are there, and planted a cross on each one before mounting the coach and the long journey back to Croydon.

As ever with Sharpshooter tours there was a mix of everything: good food and wines; good company; a historical perspective of what happened and commemoration. Our friends in the Westminster Dragoons had a really enjoyable time as well, and we look forward to more collaborative efforts together over the next few years. There are so many things to commemorate from Agincourt 600 to Waterloo 200 via Gallipoli 100 and 70 years of the end of WW2.





PILGRIMAGE TO VILLERS BOCAGE – JUNE 2014

Combined Kent & Sharpshooters Company Conducted by Tim Rayson

On 10th June we set off from Croydon on what turned out to be an excellent trip to Normandy as part of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage with the *Combined Kent & Sharpshooters Company* – base for the trip was Caen.

Our guide Daniel was as informative as ever, the coach crew were excellent. The care and attention received by the Pilgrims throughout the trip was commendable. On the 11th we were received, very warmly, by the people of Villers, and took part in a Parade and the Memorial service, meeting up with the serving members who had cycled from Croydon, a sterling effort, not one I would undertake!! Caen was as ever a pleasure to visit. A group of us had a superb meal at the Marina, exchanging many memories, a good time was had by all.



The Mayor leads French dignitaries in laying wreaths at the Memorial.

On the 12th, we met up with the B & W Dragoons at Gold Beach, where incidentally my father had ridden his motorcycle ashore on D+1, a good memory for me. The farewell Commemorative dinner was most enjoyable and a fitting conclusion to the trip.

Our time in France went by far too quickly and on Sunday 13th we made our way home.

The whole trip was well organised and I personally am glad I took part, and I commend these short trips to everybody.

Ron Snowball



Phil and Pat Moore enjoy lunch in Villers Bocage with the Fearns – and some drinks on the house from the restaurant.



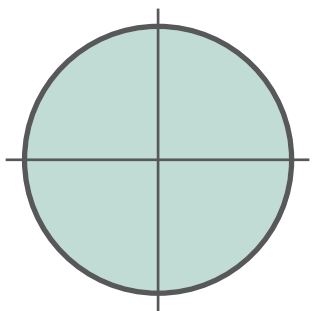
The Fearns at lunch.



Penny and Simon Malik with Barrie Corfield and ???



Kevin Wright – the Standard Bearer.



REFLECTIONS ON VILLERS BOCAGE 70

By those that went

“The visit to Villers Bocage in 2014 was indeed a momentous occasion as it marked the anniversary of the 70th year of our landing in Normandy in June 1944.

My age was 19 at the time and it was quite moving to see the long lines of white crosses marking the graves of my fellow *Sharpshooters*, many of whom would have been the same age as myself. There is no doubt that the *4th County of London Yeomanry* (*Sharpshooters*) acquitted themselves during the

Battle of Villers Bocage with commendable

bravery, particularly as we faced an

entire Panzer Division which had

vastly superior armour than we

had – Tiger tanks with 88mm

guns compared with our

Cromwells and Shermans

with 75mm guns. It was a

great honour to join the

Sharpshooters on their

return with the 7th

Armoured Division

from the Desert

Campaign and Italy

in January 1944 and

my older comrades

from those earlier

campaigns were a

great inspiration to

myself and other

young recruits at

that critical time.”

Hal Currie





Chaz Rae at the Reception.



Dan Taylor and Phillip Moore.



Reception at the Chateau in Villers Bocage.



The National Anthem – 3rd verse.

In June we made our third visit to Normandy and on reflection, it is surprising how different this tour turned out to be, mainly of course, because of its date in the calendar. The 12th to the 14th June . . . commemorating D-Day. On this occasion, we stayed at Caen in a pleasant hostelry, whereas previously we had stayed in Villers Bocage. During our first evening, we were transported to Pegasus Bridge, the most atmospheric location, where we learnt of the glider-de main operation. The precision of the gliders' ascent over the water was amazing and their taking of the bridge, successful. Sadly some gave up their lives in this venture.

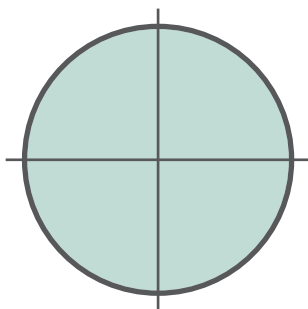
Another visit to Villers Bocage was made where a short service took place adjacent to the memorial, bringing back memories of the vital battle which had taken place there so many years before, which scuppered the plans of the Germans' progress into Caen. Lunch in one of the many restaurants in the town was most enjoyable and evidence of our visit came, some weeks later, by the receipt of some pictures taken by Madame.

Our visit to Arramanches, on the following and final day of our trip, featured the conveyance of much information; derived from our visit to the impressive Museum, visiting the Longueds-sur-Mer battery and Radar Station and Bourgebous Ridge, where our previous memories of having been there, were revived. Our alacrity in getting about was, however, not quite as it had been! The final event of the day was a second visit to the Chateau Bellefontaine, where we were wine and dined, most enjoyably.

En route home, we were given the opportunity to visit the Bayeux British Military Cemetery. As always, when visiting these cemeteries we paid homage to our fallen comrades – a very sobering thought.

Phillip and Pat Moore





STANDARD BEARER 2011 TO DATE

The Hon Secretary Tim Rayson has asked me to write a short contribution. I volunteered and was duly welcomed to the appointment of Standard Bearer at the *Association* AGM on 27th July 2011. To prepare me for my role I contacted the Adjutant, London Central Garrison at Wellington Barracks and he arranged with RQMS Grierson of the Scots Guards for Standard Bearer drill to be given to me on the parade ground there in early November 2011 by Sergeant Reid (newly arrived back from a five-week drill course at Catterick) – gold standard instruction so to speak. And so it was with some confidence I embarked on my new “duties”.

After carrying the Standard at Eric Turner’s funeral on 7th November 2011, my first official engagement was the El Gubi Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at St James’s Palace where I carried the *Association* CLY Standard in the Chapel Royal alongside the C Squadron Guidon which was carried by SSM Dave Tomlin, before a fine lunch in the presence of the Harbinger in the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-



Villers Bocage 70

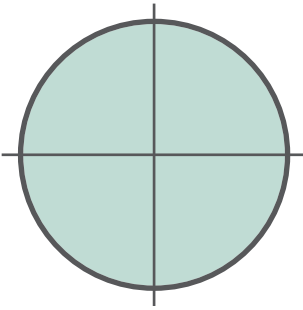
Arms Mess. At the subsequent El Gubi lunch in November 2012 I again marched in and out alongside SSM Dave Tomlin who was carrying the Guidon, but this time at the Queens Chapel, St. James's Palace, in a service to dedicate the new guidon-shaped Standard, which I now carry.

Since then I have felt very privileged to carry the Standard at *Sharpshooters'* funerals and parades, including the regular ones such as, the London Federation OCA which is held in early June each year – with a march “at the carry” from Threadneedle Street up Moorgate to Armoury House for inspection and a Service of Homage, the Lord Mayor's Show, and at the Remembrance Sunday Service at Mitcham Road Barracks. Additionally I have attended Freedom parades such as when 265 (*Kent and County of London Yeomanry*) *Support Squadron (Sharpshooters)* was granted the Freedom of London Borough of Bexley in 2011 and when C Squadron, representing the Royal Yeomanry, received the *Freedom of Entry* to Mid Sussex District at Haywards Heath in September this year.

During June 2014 I went on Villers Bocage 70, carrying the Standard at the town's war memorial for the wreath laying service on 13th June, and on the 15th June during a Memorial Service at Bayeux British Military cemetery.

I served with C Squadron, Royal Yeomanry at Croydon in the mid-1970s before going to University, and at that formative stage in my life received a deep and lasting impression of a fine regiment (drilled by none less than a Corporal Major from the Household Cavalry) with high esprit de corps. It is with much pride that I therefore shall continue to conduct my tasks for the *Association*, to honour *Sharpshooters* and Kent Yeoman past and present.





GALLIPOLI – A CENTENARY

In this the Centenary year of the Gallipoli campaign it seems appropriate to publish some of the history of both our predecessor Regiments. Whilst a more detailed account will appear in the 2015 journal the following articles – extracted from the commemorative brochure of the 2008 Suvla Stakes trip – are reprinted. They were compiled originally by Boris Mollo and provide a good summary of the operations that both the *Sharpshooters* and Kent Yeomen undertook in theatre. In addition there is also the article on Trumpeter Brian Osborne who joined under age and stowed away to be deployed under age. He is not the youngest allied soldier there: that record was held by the Australian forces with Private Jim Martin who was 14 when he was killed in action in Gallipoli.



3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)

Summary of Operations 1914-15

At the outbreak of war in 1914, the *Sharpshooters* became part of a new Yeomanry Division, the 2nd Mounted Division comprising :

- 1st (South Midland) Mounted Brigade (Warwickshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire Yeomanry)
- 2nd (South Midland) Mounted Brigade (Buckinghamshire, Dorset and Berkshire Yeomanry)
- 3rd (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire) Mounted Brigade (Sherwood Rangers, S Notts Hussars, Derbyshire Yeomanry)
- 4th (London) Mounted Brigade (Middlesex Yeomanry, Roughriders, *Sharpshooters*).

The Division spent the winter of 1914-15 guarding the East Coast against threatened German invasion. In the spring of 1915 came rumours of service overseas and in early April these rumours were confirmed. The *Sharpshooters* embarked on April 12 at Avonmouth for Egypt and despite the discomforts of the journey and threat of attack by U-boats, landed safely in Alexandria on the 27th.

This period at sea coincided with the first landings in Gallipoli at Cape Helles and Anzac Cove. The ship carrying the Roughriders was diverted to Mudros, the jumping off point for Gallipoli, uncertain whether they were to be involved or not, but after three days they resumed their journey to Alexandria.

The Division then spent the next four months as part of the force guarding the Suez Canal against possible attack by the Turks. They saw little action and spent their time in training interspersed with patrol activity in the desert to the east of the canal.

This routine was interrupted at the beginning of August by orders for 2nd Mounted Division to go to Gallipoli as infantry without horses, as the war diary and the colonel's diary relates, orders that were promptly countermanded and then reinstated. Each regiment was to take a headquarters and two squadrons, leaving one squadron behind to look after the horses.

Fresh landings had been made in early August at Suvla Bay, north of Anzac Cove, with five divisions but these too were contained by the Turks. Two weeks later, on 16 August the *Sharpshooters* landed with the Division at Suvla Bay as part of a follow-up to these landings. Five days later on 21 August they took part in the unsuccessful attack on Scimitar Hill, the last major attack mounted by the British in Gallipoli. Despite being in the third line of the assault, the regiment still suffered over 40 killed, wounded and missing. Colonel Weston Jarvis, leading from the front as always, records in his diary 'luckily only got one through the toe of my boot without touching my foot and got a smack on the ankle from a spent bullet'.

Following this one serious engagement, the regiment then spent another two months in the trenches with little to do but suffer intermittent shelling and sniper fire. The diary relates occasional moves to different sections of the line and each time the new trenches are 'very rough' and the subsequent week is spent in 'improving' them.

In November the Regiment was pulled out of the line and sent to Mudros for two weeks R&R. While there the decision was made to evacuate Gallipoli and so instead of

going back into the line the Regiment returned to Alexandria, to its horses and back to its former mounted role.

Neither the war diary nor the colonel's diary record the total number of casualties suffered by the Regiment in Gallipoli. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 15 names of those killed in the campaign.

3rd CLY SOURCES

Sadly 3CLY never produced a World War I history. We have therefore had to rely on the regimental war diary and the diary of the Col Arthur Weston Jarvis, the commanding officer. The indication is that the Colonel wrote both, particularly as the regimental war diary ceases in mid-1916 when the Colonel fell out with his Brigadier and returned home. Nor do we have any other diaries or letters written by *Sharpshooters*.

The extracts from the published regimental histories of the Middlesex Yeomanry and the Roughriders, both of whom were brigaded with the *Sharpshooters* and shared many of the same battles and experiences have been included to give more detail on the action at Scimitar Hill.

With regard to photographs, the *Sharpshooters* are much better provided. As with the diary, the main source is the Colonel who, rather as Jimmy Sale in World War II, made it his business to keep his camera working and we have six albums of superb quality photographs, again sadly coming to a halt in mid-1916. However in addition to those, we have a number of other photograph albums including those of RSM R.F. Boulton, Tpr F C Edwards and Tpr R.E. Snare.

Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) Summary of Operations 1914-15

The Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and the West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) were mobilised on 5th August 1914 and together formed the South East Mounted Brigade, based initially at Canterbury. They spent the first year of the war guarding the South East against threat of invasion, much as their predecessors in the Napoleonic Wars and their successors in World War II.

In the summer of 1915, the South Eastern Mounted Brigade were given, and accepted, the option of serving overseas without horses. On 23rd September they set sail from Liverpool on the *SS Olympic*. They landed first at Mudros and then were sent on to Gallipoli where they landed at Cape Helles at the eastern end of the Peninsula on 7th October. The Brigade became part of 42nd Division who held the line from the sea to just beyond Border Barricade and here they were initiated into trench life. Their first priority was to get more sandbags and other necessities for making the trenches more secure and more habitable.

This became their routine for the next eleven weeks. The regimental history admits that they did not have to bear the brunt of the campaign in Gallipoli but they were thankful to have been spared the ordeals of their predecessors who suffered a series of futile attacks, lack of supplies and heavy casualties. Two days after Christmas 1915, they

were relieved in the trenches by 29th Division. After a short halt at Gully Beach, they arrived at the beach to find their trawler close to the beached wreck of the *River Clyde*. They embarked in the glare of burning stores. Among the last to leave Gallipoli, they were evacuated first to Mudros and then a month later they sailed for Alexandria.

The Regiment was almost halved in strength over the three months it spent in Gallipoli but this was almost entirely due to sickness. The West Kent Yeomanry casualties in action were 10 killed and 25 wounded. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists names of 16 members of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles killed in the campaign.

The regimental historian proudly notes that the average age of the senior ranks (commanding officer, second-in-command, squadron leaders and quartermaster) was nearly 50 and that, despite their advanced years, they all survived the Gallipoli campaign without injury or sickness.

The two regiments had hoped to become cavalry once again, but through 1916, they served in Egypt as dismounted cavalry. Eventually, in early 1917, the two regiments were amalgamated as the 10th (East and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs.

REKMR/WKY SOURCES

In contrast to the *Sharpshooters*, for the Kent Yeomanry regiments we have the regimental history of the West Kent Yeomanry written by their commanding officer, Colonel C.E. Ponsonby and a number of diaries and letters.

There are several accounts of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles taken from their regimental journal and it appears that most, if not all are by Tpr Gus Ovenden who, in civilian life, was a reporter for his local paper. They were found after his death among his papers at the Kentish Gazette.

We have two photograph albums, both West Kent Yeomanry, one compiled by Tpr Butcher and the other where we have not been able to identify the compiler.

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY 1797-1927

By Charles Stonham and Benson Freeman, Published by the Regiment 1930

The Battle of Scimitar Hill, 21st August 1915

The attack on 21st August was the last attempt made at Suvla, the objective being Ismail Oglu Hill. The Yeomanry Division had been especially brought from Egypt and the 29th Division from Helles, to reinforce the 10th, 11th, 53rd, and 54th Divisions in this attack. The 11th Division had landed at Suvla on 6th August, the 10th following next day. Their attack was unsuccessful, and on the 9th, the 53rd and 11th Divisions arrived and launched another attack, which was also a failure.

At 14.30 all the guns on ship and shore began to bombard the Anafarta Hills. The bombardment, described by Sir Ian Hamilton as ‘very inadequate in duration, but the most our ammunition would run to’, ceased at 15.00, and the Division began its march. Sir Ian Hamilton in his report says: ‘The Yeomanry were also corps reserve at Lala Baba, where they were safe; but when they advanced, supposing they had to, they would have

to cross a perfectly open plain under shell-fire. This was the special blot on the scheme, but there was no getting away from it.'

The Middlesex Yeomanry led the Division, which marched with regiments in line of troop column. Brigadier-General Arthur Taylor, D.S.G., and his staff set out a little ahead of the rest, and the regiment was led by Colonel Sir Mathew Wilson, and Captain Watson led C Squadron, which was in front. The officers carried walking-sticks, and a mouth-organ was heard in one troop, suggestive of a Saturday afternoon ramble. It was after about half an hour that the regiment received the furious attentions of the Turkish artillery. Each troop extended with about three yards from man to man, but one troop lost eight men from one shell. The setting sun was shining into the eyes of the Turk, which was probably one reason for the regiment escaping comparatively lightly from the shell-fire; as it was hoped, the enemy could not at first make out the nature of the advance, and when he did he apparently ranged on the Middlesex Yeomanry, they being the leading regiment, and those following on got the full effect of his fire.

There was no cover. Nobody doubled until the order was given a few hundred yards away from Chocolate Hill. The shrapnel set fire to the dry scrub, and very many wounded in this wide area were burnt to death. Sir Ian Hamilton's dispatch described the march of the Yeomanry as follows:

'Whilst this fighting was in progress the 2nd Mounted Division moved out from Lala Baba in open formation to take up a position of readiness behind Yilghin Burnu. During this march they came under a remarkably steady and accurate artillery fire. The advance of these English Yeomen was a sight calculated to send a thrill of pride through anyone with a drop of English blood running through their veins. Such superb martial spectacles are rare in modern war'.

'Ordinarily it should always be possible to bring up reserves under some sort of cover from shrapnel fire. Here, for a mile and a half, there was nothing to conceal a mouse, much less some of the most stalwart soldiers England had ever sent from her shores. Despite the critical events in other parts of the field, I could hardly take my glasses from the Yeomen: they moved like men marching on parade. Here and there a shell would take toll of a cluster; there they lay; there was no straggling: the others moved steadily on, not a man was there who hung back or hurried. But such an ordeal must consume some of the battle-winning, fighting energy of those subjected to it, and it is lucky indeed for the Turks that the terrain, as well as the lack of trenches, forbade from letting the 2nd Mounted Division loose at close quarters to the enemy without undergoing this previous too heavy baptism of fire.' A Turkish artillery officer met in Constantinople after the war said the Division presented a target such as artillerymen thought impossible outside the world of dreams.

The regiment halted on Chocolate Hill and watched their fellow yeomen being shelled on their march across the plain. Orders for the attack were issued, which were rather vague, and the maps were very difficult to read owing to the heavy contour lines. After a short breathing space, the regiment was ready to move on by about 17.30. It was here that Captain Bullivant fell out: he had been wounded in the march across the plain.

The attack on Ismail Oglu Hill (Hill 'W') had been repulsed by terrific frontal and enfilading fire, and the Division was sent forward to make another attempt. The

regiment was ordered to attack round the right slope past Green Hill and, if possible, to get a footing on Hill W. Captain Watson led the firing line, consisting of two troops each of Band C Squadrons, the other four troops closely supporting him. A trench was found running from the slopes of Chocolate Hill to Green Hill, and this was utilized as far as possible, but it was so full of wounded of the Munsters and the Lancashires, who were crawling back, that the regiment was moved across the open to the slopes of Green Hill, the bush of which was then in flames. Pushing on, a trench was occupied on the west slopes of Hill W. One troop went out in front and dug themselves in. The Colonel was ordered to wait here.

Lieut. Roller with two men was sent forward to select a line of advance to Hill W. At 02.15 on the 22nd the regiment was ordered to retire to Lala Baba. The following description of the previous afternoon is taken from an account given by a trooper

‘We skirted the right flank of Chocolate Hill until we came to a gap in a hedge. This proved to be marked by a sniper. *Mter* Moncar and Dickson had been shot through the head, and Halifax, a taller man, in the shoulder, we crawled through, doubled a few yards across the open and jumped into a trench, so shallow that it was necessary to stoop to gain any cover. Like sheep we followed one after the other. Few can have had any idea as to where we were or what we had to do. From time to time processions of terribly mutilated men, groaning and cursing, squeezed past us. The clacking of machine guns was incessant. While we sheltered in the trenches our officers and stretcher-bearers walked about as if on manoeuvres. We ran from trench to trench. Once we dashed across to a bush from which we were scared away by the news that it was a sniper’s mark; again we shared cover behind a hillock with some men who proved to be dead.

‘As night came the hill was lit up by the bushfires which had frustrated our attack. Finding ourselves in an overcrowded trench with men of another unit, some climbed on to the parapets and went to sleep, utterly weary. There was some trench-improvement work; and once all were rallied to repel a threatened attack. The order came to retire, and with difficulty the regiment was collected and formed up in mass on a road some way to the rear.’ (It was hard to distinguish in the dark between the dead and the sleeping, and when the word was passed to retire, some men never received it. One man, in Lieut. Brodrick’s troop, woke up in the night to find himself alone. He started crawling, as he thought, to the rear, but popped his head over a Turkish trench. He crawled away again very quickly indeed.) The account continues: ‘We started back at 02.30 across country, jumping over trenches which were full of wounded men, who groaned and cursed as we knocked clods of earth on to them. While marching back across the Salt Lake plain; we suffered some casualties in the darkness from snipers, and on at last arriving at Lala Baba we lay down and slept. Thus ended our first experience of war, and the last battle of Gallipoli.’

Lieut. Roller and his two men had not returned when the regiment retired, but they subsequently cast up. The regiment lost 56 men out of 250. The following are the men killed and those who died of wounds received that day:

Killed in action: Lce.-Cpls. R. J. Hammerton, H. E. Joy. Troopers S. D. Dickson, L. G. Dulieu, R. M. Rowan, J. V. Parry. Trmpt. F. J. Moncar. On the 22nd, Tpr. J. P. Parker, the 23rd, Tpr. J. Murry, and the 29th, Tpr. W. E. Grant died of their wounds. 46 men

were wounded.

The division had lost 1,200 out of 5,000, and the total casualties that day were more than 12,000. Nothing was accomplished. The Gallipoli venture had failed – but not through the fault of the troops. After this the army in the Dardanelles was left to languish.

THE CITY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (ROUGHRIDERS)

By A.S.Hamilton MM

The Battle of Scimitar Hill, 21st August 1915

When appointed to command at Suvla, Major-Gen de Lisle had been directed to free the beaches from direct observation and to strengthen the point of junction with Anzac. As a first step towards these ends he aimed at advancing his right flank on the 21st August to the line W Hills – 112 Metre Hill – Scimitar Hill, assigning the first of these to the 11th Division and the other two to the veteran 29th Division, which was brought round from Helles for the purpose. The capture of the enemy outworks at Hetman Chair and a brief bombardment were to precede the main attack, and simultaneously with it “one strong brigade” of the 10th Division in Corps reserve was to move forward to Chocolate Hill in readiness to leapfrog over the 29th Division towards Anafarta Sagir. The stipulation, “strong brigade,” definitely cast the 2nd Mounted Division for the part; for, although it was not widely known at the time, when General Peyton had taken over the temporary command of the 10th (Irish) Division some days before, he had been given his own dismounted Yeomen in place of a brigade at Anzac, and they considerably outnumbered either of his Irish brigades.

At noon 4th Brigade Headquarters was instructed to prepare for an advance to Chocolate Hill, and an hour later orders were received that the Brigade should lead the Division at 15.00. Of their allotted role, however, the men knew nothing – only by accident does the trooper learn more than immediately concerns his troop or squadron – and the officers were little better informed. But their ignorance mattered not at all: the day was illstarred from the outset and nothing went according to plan. The first link in the chain of defeat was forged by the weather; for most unusually the sky clouded over, a haze veiled the enemy’s positions, and the Turks were not dazzled by looking into the eye of a westering sun, as had been expected of an afternoon attack. Largely from these causes the bombardment was ineffective and the 11th Division was repulsed at Hetman Chair. The assault on the W Hills consequently could not be attempted. The 86th Brigade’s attack on 112 Metre Hill was broken up by enfilade fire from the Hetman Chair redoubt. And the 87th Brigade in turn was driven off Scimitar Hill by shrapnel and machine-gun fire from the vicinity of 112 Metre Hill.

Lala Baba, however, was unaffected by these setbacks. The Yeomen paraded as ordered in column of troops with the Middlesex leading and the Roughriders at their heels. “Soon after half past three”, to quote the Official History, “all five brigades moved off from their bivouacs in succession. Each brigade was nearly a thousand strong, and as soon as this large body of men reached the open plain to the south of the Salt Lake, it offered an inviting target to the enemy’s guns. But the successive lines swept forward as steadily as if on parade, only moving at the double when ordered to do so, and by

five o'clock the whole division had arrived at Chocolate Hill. Fortunately the Turkish shrapnel had burst so high that, except in the case of one or two regiments, casualties had not been heavy."

The Commander-in-Chief, both in his despatches and "Gallipoli Diary," has vividly described that march, which he witnessed from Chocolate Hill, and he too has paid a high tribute to the discipline of the Yeomen.

At the time it was suggested that the Division *was* sacrificed to take pressure off the 29th. Presumably too it was to this 21st August that Sir John Maxwell alluded when he wrote in a letter to Lord Kitchener, "the poor gallant 2nd Mounted Division was badly left by someone." The facts, however, do not admit of any suggestion of its having been sacrificed or "left". Sir Ian Hamilton, from the outset, had disliked the idea of a large formed body moving across the open in full view of the enemy, but his local commanders had liked his alternative of a night advance even less, and there was no other course possible. The only cover close behind the front line was at Chocolate Hill, and this was required for the 88th Brigade. And although this brigade had gone forward in dribbles during the morning without loss, such a movement could I not be repeated once the battle had begun.

Yet the 4th Mounted Brigade Diary makes it clear that the Division's advance was not according to plan, but through pure mischance. After traversing the narrow neck of solid ground between the Salt Lake and the sea in column of troops, brigades in succession were to have formed line of troop columns to the left for the march across the plain. But while on its way along the neck, the Division was compelled to halt by a battalion crossing its front: the enemy at once opened a searching fire: and so, to escape this and also to make up lost time, the change of direction was expedited by being carried out by regiments instead of brigades, each turning "sections left" as soon as its rear most troop drew clear of the south edge of the lake. The effect of this alteration was that, where the Division was to have made its two-mile advance in five brigade lines at deploying distance, that is, on a frontage of about 400 yards and with 400 yards separating brigades, it actually went over in fourteen regimental lines, having a third of the intended frontage and about 100 yards between successive lines – a much more attractive target.

Promptly deluging the Division with shrapnel and high explosive, the Turks fired "into the brown", so that the 1st Brigade in the middle had every fifth man a casualty and the 4th at the head escaped comparatively lightly. But even in the latter it seemed incredible that anyone could remain unscathed, and the memory of that two miles still haunts many, but none more so than the trooper who burst his braces ducking at the first shell and for the rest of the way was continually stopping to retrieve his trousers!

In the shelter of Chocolate Hill, regiments reformed and the roll was called. Back on the plain, where gorse fires had broken out, MOs and stretcher-bearers were working desperately to get the wounded away, and many themselves became casualties in the process. "All deserved medals as big as frying-pans and Father Day one a size larger." Father H.C. Day, S.J., was the R.C. Chaplain to the Division; he had been attached to the Roughriders since about the beginning of the year.

Shortly after five o'clock the Division set out to essay the capture of the 29th Division's objectives. The 2nd Brigade went round the north side of the hill to attack

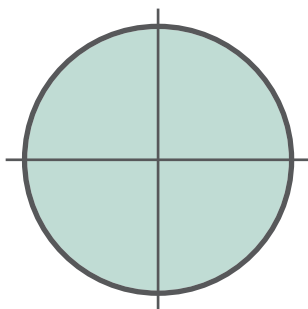
Scimitar Hill, while the 4th, followed by the 1st, moved round the south side en route for Point II2. In the words of the official Historian, "A co-ordinated attack was practically out of the question."

Proceeding in Indian file with the regiments in the same order as before, the 4th Brigade was held up almost at once and largely forced out of what passed as a communication trench by walking wounded of the 86th Brigade, typical of whose greeting was the comment of a burly Irishman with a shattered shoulder, "Faith, I do know what's coming to me, which is more than can be said of the likes of you!" Moving on through mist and smoke, sprinting singly from hillock to hillock, the Brigade came at length to Green Hill, where the Roughriders took up position partly in and partly behind a trench chock-full of dead and dying. Here snipers inflicted several casualties, who included Sergt Mapp, one of the Regimental jumping team which had competed at Olympia. Farther forward the M.I.Y. joined up with the remnants of the Munsters and the Dublins, but farther forward still the 2nd Royal Fusiliers waited in vain to participate in an advance. At 19.30, after night had fallen, having no word of reinforcements, the scattered detachments of the 86th Brigade withdrew behind Green Hill. About the same time D Squadron of the Roughriders moved up to prolong the M.I.Y.'s left and was fired on by one of the many parties wandering about lost.

To the north heavy firing betokened the attack on Scimitar Hill, which for the second time that day was won and lost, but this time with crippling losses to the 2nd Mounted Brigade. To the south confused fighting denoted the 3rd Brigade's abortive attempt on Hetman Chair. At Green Hill preparations were being made for an advance on 112 Metre Hill, but conflicting orders delayed its start. Shortly after midnight, since at no point was success reported, General de Lisle ordered the action to be broken off and the 2nd Mounted Division to return to Lala Baba. Accordingly about 02.00 the 4th Brigade stumbled back over the plain, stray bullets causing several casualties on the way, and by 04.30 it was at its previous night's bivouac, where the shallow pits looked more like graves than ever.

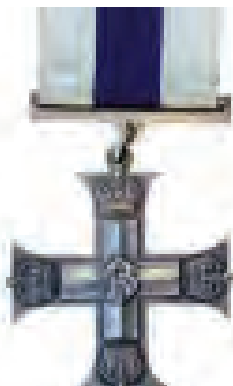
Thus ended the Battle of Scimitar Hill, at once the largest, the most costly and the least successful of all Gallipoli battles; the day's gain a single trench on the extreme right, the day's losses a third of the troops engaged. Yet, since the Turks threw in their last reserve, it must be accounted yet another battle where victory trembled in the balance. It left neither side capable of staging another large scale attack and its aftermath was stalemate.





THE SCHOOLBOY STOWAWAY

Lt Brian Osborne MC



JOINED UP AT 15 AND DIED.
LEADING HIS PLATOON.

The story has just become known of a courageous Eton boy, who, at the age of 15, joined the army in the first week of the war, and was killed within a week of the signing of the armistice.

This article has been adapted from one of the stories that have been prepared for the Audio Visual system that is presently installed at Hever Castle and will transfer to the new Museum when it opens on Sunday 6th September. There are numerous other inspirational stories but this one strikes a chord with the anniversary of both World War I and Gallipoli 100. We should never forget them.

Brian Osborne's family lived in Windsor, and he went to school at nearby Eton College. His school reports describe him as a "straight, cheery, unassuming and courageous lad". In summer 1914, when Brian was on school holiday aged 15, the tensions across Europe impacted his father's anthracite business, which lost its export business, and he could no longer afford Brian's school fees.

At White's Club in London, his father met up with the Commanding Officer of the West Kent Yeomanry, Sir Samuel Scott, who offered Brian a position as trumpeter in the regiment. Brian was already a good horseman, but had to learn to play the trumpet before joining.

War soon broke out, and in 1915 the regiment was sent to Liverpool to board a troopship, the *SS Olympia*, bound for Gallipoli in Turkey. Aged 16, Brian was too young to be allowed to join them. But he was determined not to miss out. Through his letters home to his mother, we have a vivid account of what happened next.

My darling mother

I received your three letters from home with great joy, and as you asked me to let you know how I got on board the boat I will tell you.

On a Thursday morning the Regiment set out at about 4 am to go on Active Service. I came too, so that I could bid them goodbye. When they all got into the train and I tried to get in with them but I was pulled out by one of the officers who I suppose, saw me get in. Then I asked one of the men to open the door of the carriage as the train was going out and I would jump in, so I went up to the other end of the platform and as the train sailed out of Canterbury, I was pulled in by many hands. So then I was in the train, much to my delight and fear of being caught.

When we passed through London I kept on saying, "Do you think we shall stop here?" as I was in a dead funk. Anyway I was all right till I got to a place called Northampton Castle, where the train stopped for 30 minutes. Meanwhile the men got out and bought ginger beer and various other articles of food, while I was unhappily underneath the seat with my head on a rifle, and getting the most awful cramp. When the train started again, I came out with much difficulty, and as black as ink. Then we had a feed of sandwiches, and after that I felt better for the fray. Then the train rolled into a station at Liverpool and my heart went down into my boots. I saw visions of myself being sent home and being cursed like blazes by the Little Captain. Then all our men got out on the left side of the train and so I got out on the right, and I called to a chap who was near me to take me down to the dock, so we struck off as quick as we could, and just as I was going out of the station a man with a peppery face came up to me and charged me as being a deserter, when all the other men had infantry packs on except me. Of course I had not got one, so I told him that I was in the Cavalry and that they were all in the Infantry, so I got past him all right. I came down to the dock on a tram, then my guide had to leave me so I walked into the dock but was stopped by a policeman who asked me what I wanted. So I told him I had a message from one of the officers in the West Kents, so he let me pass on

Then when I was in there I saw the huge form of the 'Olympic' in front of me.



The SS Olympic was a transatlantic cruise-liner, before she was used as a troop ship.



West Kent Yeomanry on board SS Olympic.

Then I tried to get on the boat, but they would not let me on till the West Kents arrived. So I hid myself for three hours waiting for our lot to come up. Then when they came I had to wait for about half an hour before they got on the boat, and when they went on the boat I saw to my horror that two officers were standing at the gangway, so I could not get on with the crowd. When they had all got on the boat, about six minutes

later I saw the Machine Gun Section going on so I risked it and succeeded in getting on with them without being seen by anyone.

Then I asked a steward with a squint where the engine room was. I thought I would go down with the stokers, but as he did not know where it was I thought it useless wandering about in case I would run into an officer, so I moved on, thinking in about five minutes I would be put off the boat. But I ran into a sergeant who took me into his cabin where I stayed from 6pm that night till 7am next morning when to my horror I saw that we were still in dock so I had to hide myself away till we were out to sea. The next day found us only just outside the Mersey. Then I hid away for another day when we were sailing, so I gave myself up.

I went up before the Colonel who gave me a jaw and told me if I had been put off at Liverpool, that I had dropped by the pilot, I would have found myself in jail. They were all very nice about it.

We are all out in Gallipoli now, I cannot tell you where. Our camp is 1½ miles from the firing line. And we are going up for 14 days next week. I forgot to tell you that when I was on the boat I was not seasick but what did make me sick was that they ripped my kitbag open and stole everything. Now I have got no clothes at all so I want you to send me out if you can some thick woollen socks and some gloves, a scarf and cigarettes, if you could send me 200 you would save my life. If you see a signature at the bottom of the letter, it is only from my troop officer who censors the troop's letters.

We get a lot of shells over the camp but they are quite harmless as half their shells don't explode.

Well, I have no more to say except the other day I went over the French lines – they are jolly clean. As you come out of their lines you see a notice 'Limite de la Zone Francaise. I am feeling very well and like a tiger which I think is a good sign.

With a Gallipoli hug from Your loving son, Brian



Brian Osborne in the trenches Gallipoli.

Letters from Brian Osborne at the Front – Gallipoli 1915

My Darling Mum

You would laugh if you could see me now. We are all in dugouts on the side of a cliff. In some there are seven together but I thought it would be nicer to be by one's self. There is hardly any space to move in mine – I can just sit up and that's about all. We have moved from the place where I last wrote to you and we are now fighting the Turks.

The guns make an awful row and sometimes they fire just behind you and make you jump a yard. When I was on the boat that took us out here the day before I landed my kitbag was ripped open and all my things taken out so I was left

with nothing, but I am getting various things from the officers. So could you send me out a pair of boots and a woollen helmet, some Vaseline and a thick woollen jersey as soon as possible as it gets cold here in the winter. You won't forget to send me some papers as it is so dull when you can get no news.

I got that cablegram from Father and tell him that is the first I have heard from the family. I am feeling very well except for my tooth which aches like blazes in the evening. I get very good food here except for the water which has to go through various chemicals before you can drink it and when it is finished you get a very peculiar taste to it. But as I don't drink much I don't mind much...

I expect to go to the trenches next week – they say you are safer there than anywhere else.

Best love to all from Brian

You will excuse an uninteresting letter but it is the censor, not me.

Sat 20th Nov

My darling mother

I have received four of your letters but I am sorry to say that mine would not have got you until the 22nd of last month. You need not have fears as to my health at present. I can't think what it will be like in the winter, only the other day we had a most awful storm which washed



“A” Squadron of West Kent Yeomanry in Gullely Ravine, which was the main route from the sea to the trenches.

nearly the whole regiment out of their dugouts. And when the winter comes, most of the cemeteries will be washed away, as it was a good many dead were seen floating about. I happened to have a fairly good dugout which only let in a little water.

I have been up in the trenches for five days and I was so dirty when I came back you would never have recognised me. Already I am getting the colour of the country here, my face has got a sandy hue to it. Next week we are going up to the trenches for 14 days. I expect we will be pretty tired of it when we come out.

You won't forget to send me some warm clothes will you as I am short already. All potted meats and cigarette will be useful. One of the mails from England which was coming yesterday has been sunk, so I will miss one of your letters.



Soldiers of the West Kent Yeomanry resting behind the trenches.



Leaving the trenches at the start of the journey home.

When I get home, which I hope won't be long, I won't be able to walk into our front door like a human person, I me getting more like a rabbit every day.

The dugout that I am in now is so small that I can't sit up and I have to crawl in. At this moment I am writing half lying down and half sitting up.

I will write you a list of what I will want you to send me if you can.

A tin of Petit-Buerre biscuits, a tin of candles, some books, potted meat, a warm woolly waistcoat, a pair of gloves, some shirts and underclothes and lots of letters. The last are the most important.

Damn I am getting the neck-ache. You can't think how uncomfortable it is in here – the flies keep on sitting on my nose or eating up my chocolate.

At night you hear the bullets going ping-ping against the bank on the other side of my house.

We have moved further up now and we are about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the firing line.

A shell is a most horrid thing I know except Livie (you know who I mean of course)

Well I must end now, so goodbye till me next letter.

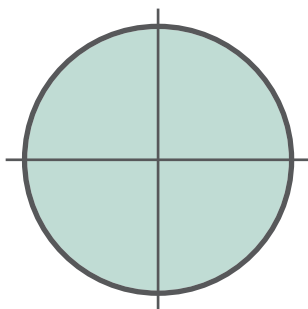
From your loving son. Brian

After returning back to the UK from Gallipoli, Brian became an officer in the Grenadier Guards, and went to the Western Front in France in September 1918

In October 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross, "for showing the greatest initiative and coolness" when his platoon came under heavy machine gun fire.

Brian was killed in action, leading his platoon, on November 4 1918. The First World War ended 7 days later.

Brian was probably the youngest commissioned officer in the Brigade of Guards to be killed in action in World War 1. He is buried in a small military cemetery in Wargnies-la-Petite, together with five other guardsmen.



SERGEANT HARRY PAYNE

1858-1927

West Kent Yeomanry

Harry Payne was one of the foremost Victorian and Edwardian military artists. As well as undertaking major commissions for many regiments his work was widely used in newspapers, books and covering British military history from Hastings to the Great War, and the Gale and Polden postcard series which recorded the full dress of British regiments during the closing years of the 19th century. Payne also served for many years in the West Kent Yeomanry and the Regiment is fortunate enough to have several of his paintings. His wider career is covered in depth in Michael Cane's 1977 work "For Queen and Country"; this article looks only at his career as a yeoman and the way that this affected his work.

Henry Joseph (Harry) Payne was born on 8 March 1858 at 47 Finchley Road, Walworth. He was the second of five children and his older brother, Arthur Charles, was also an artist. The two went into partnership for much of their careers, although later Arthur tended to specialise in architectural drawings.

After school Harry initially worked in a merchant's office in Mincing Lane but he described his aversion to arithmetic as a stumbling block and he left after two and a half years. During this period he also sold sketches and briefly attended an art school. His sketches proved good enough to get him work as a designer to an army and navy contractor. This work also introduced him to the minutiae of uniform and insignia and the meticulous attention to detail required for such contracts was a hallmark of his later work.

As he established himself as a commercial military artist Harry compiled reference files of dress regulations and frequently attended reviews, field days and parades. There were frequent opportunities for this as the Victorian volunteer movement, with its plethora of units and colourful uniforms, was in its heyday. He recounted in later years how once during the review at Portsmouth Easter 1882, he came across a troop of the Hampshire Yeomanry at lunch and how this *"happy episode left such an impression on my mind the following year that I joined a Yeomanry regiment myself and put in 23½ years with it and my only regret is that those old days could not be lived over again"*.

He joined the WKY 1883, serving in A Troop (later Squadron) at Bromley until his retirement as a sergeant in 1906. His family photograph album, which was the spur for a 1977 biography, has many photos of him in various orders of WKY uniform. He sometimes used these as the basis for commercial work, reworking the WKY uniform, with its distinctive crow's feet braiding, into that of another regiment. Photographs



From the Trust's collection: KSY: 1983-05 The Vedette
Trooper of the Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry 1895

shown by Cane show Payne during the 1880s and 1980s in the blue serge service dress or the hussar pattern full dress. However khaki service dress was adopted in 1902 with service dress and full dress being relegated to mess functions and ceremonial. Payne also portrayed himself in his works. His distinctive bearing, hooked nose, and the luxuriant moustache that he cultivated are, for example, clearly visible in the front rank of the WKY in the painting of the Mote Park Review of 1890 which hangs in the



From the Trust's collection: KSY:1979-01 Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry, 1907 Mounted officer in blue patrols.

On 16 June 1887 he married Susanna Teresa Cossins of Camberwell and set up home in Loughborough Park, Brixton. He remained in partnership with Arthur, brother and they worked together on Jubilee year commissions which were to establish his reputation as one of the most popular military artists of his day. In May 1893 Harry and Teresa moved to 91 Perry Hill, Catford, which was to be home for the peak of his career. He often painted in the garden, while his studio contained a collection of military relics that led to visitors likening it to an annexe of Woolwich Arsenal. He was also now wealthy enough to afford horse of his own. The mare, Kitty, was probably kept in livery at the nearby "Two Brewers" inn.

During the 1880s Payne consolidated his reputation, not only with major works, but also as illustrator for military books, Christmas cards with a military theme, and the new fashion for postcards. Until 1894 the Post Office had a monopoly of such cards, all of which were plain with address on one side and message on the other. All other such cards, known as court cards, had to be in an envelope and sent at letter rate. Public clamour led to change and manufacture and distribute picture postcards, which could be sent through the post at a lower cost. Harry Payne began to produce work for such cards from 1895 onwards. Whereas other artists often produced rather wooden images, concentrating on showing off a particular uniform, Payne's are well designed and varied, slickly drawn and often in the form of vignettes, showing often witty and affectionate views of off-duty life. As well as the quality of draftsmanship, the pictures show extensive



From the Trust's collection: KSY: 1977-04 Review of the East and West Kent Yeomanry Regiments by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Moat Park, Maidstone, 1888. Payne's distinctive moustache at the end of the first rank of WYK to the right of the painting.

Prints of this painting are available for purchase.

research into the detail of the uniforms, including frequent correspondence with the regiments concerned. He was also undoubtedly assisted with details by his Troop Quartermaster (forerunner of the Squadron Sergeant Major) Charles P. Hobson of Hobson & Co the military clothiers.

1897 was Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. This was another busy year for commissions and Payne was also chosen as part of the regimental contingent for the procession in London. Soon after he wrote:

"Never shall I forget that day being one of the oldest members of my regiment. I was one of eight men chosen to represent the regiment at the Jubilee. We paraded at 7.30 in the morning some miles from London on the south side, marched up to the Mall by all the quietest and back ways we could to avoid the traffic. Took our stand with the other Yeomanry regiments and waited until the procession passed – a grand sight. When we could get through we eventually got on our way towards home, reaching the parade spot at 6.30pm. As neither men nor horses had any refreshment at the time we were a bit done up. I had several miles to go from there to get home and as soon as it was reached and the nag put away I started a sketch of the Jubilee for one of the leading weekly illustrated papers which was promised to be at the office finished the following morning at 12. Well it meant working all night to get it done and I was not sorry when that happened and it was finished and just in time for press. I'd rather ride 40 miles on

the march than work all night but it has to be done sometimes although 11 hours in the saddle followed by all night work is rather tiring."

There is little specific detail on Payne's service in the WKY. However, as Edmeades's regimental history recounts, each year regimental activities would have begun with manoeuvres at Easter, working up to a regimental inspection, usually in late May. Payne was also a member of his troop's shooting club, including for the period from 1903 when it won the inter-Squadron Rifle Competition three years running. Payne used his service to produce several sets of sketches for magazines showing the regiment in camp or on exercise. He was also a natural choice for farewell presentations and in 1905 was commissioned by the officers to produce a painting showing "A Patrol of the West Kent Imperial Yeomanry Scouting" for presentation to Sir Marcus Samuel as a mark of appreciation for his having hosted the Regiment at Mote Park in Maidstone for several years. This shows two members of the WKY in the new regimental khaki service dress on exercise, apparently in the grounds of Mote Park and is reproduced in black and white in Lieutenant Colonel J Edmeades's 1911 "West Kent Yeomanry – Some Historical Records" which included a further six colour painting by Payne, showing the development of uniform through the regiment's history. Payne received the Imperial Yeomanry Long Service Medal for his service and retired from the WKY in 1906 after 23 years' service. In the following year, the Territorial Forces Act was passed, merging the yeomanry and the volunteers into the Territorial Force. The old yeomanry, with its love of the colour and pageantry of war, which so appealed to Payne when he joined in 1882, had passed and the new force would be more closely trained to support the Regular Army.

Payne continued work as an artist until after the Great War, finally dying of influenza on 23 March 1927. He had no children but his widow, Susanna, lived until 1953. She was bombed out during the Second World War when most family possessions were destroyed, although much of Payne's correspondence and early sketches survived and are now held by the Army Museums Ogilby Trust.

Sources:

This article draws very heavily on Michael Cane's biography "For Queen and Country" (London, 1977). Cane made extensive use of the Payne's private family photograph album and material held by the Ogilvy Trust. It contains an excellent catalogue of Payne's work as then known, although most of the works in the Regiment's possession are not included.

Some Historical Records of the West Kent (QO) Yeomanry 1794-1909, Lt Col J.F. Edmeades, MVO, Andrew Melrose, London, 1909. This is illustrated with six colour paintings of regimental dress and patrol uniforms and a black and white copy of the painting "Patrol Scouting" presented to Sir Marcus Samuel which shows the 1905 khaki uniform.

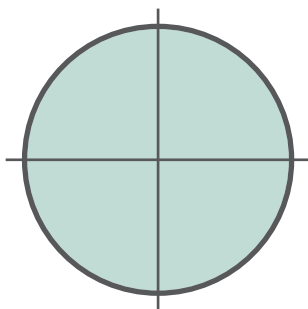
Payne's work most familiar from his work for Gale & Polden, especially their series of postcards showing British uniforms just before the Great War. Although several well-known artists contributed to this work, Payne was the only one mentioned by name in early postcard listings, his fellows being identified simply as "well-known artists". The

1921 catalogue describes the series ‘Post Cards of the Uniforms of the British Army’ as “Illustrating the Uniforms of the present day, beautifully reproduced in Colours from the Original Oil Paintings by the well-known military artist Harry Payne.”

A section of the sketch in *The Graphic* 28 Jun 97 shows HP, a sergeant, dismounted besides his horse, conversing with two members of the REKMR.



KSY: 1977-04 Regimental crest, Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry c1890



SHARPSHOOTER BADGES AND BROOCHES FOR 'CIVVIES'

by Peter Arnold

I had been an occasional user of the eBay on-line auction site for the search of historical aviation photographs and artefacts for some years. On retirement in 2002 I idly entered '*Sharpshooters*' in the search box and was surprised when up came a number of '3 CLY' cap badges... and I bought one.

Bad move, it was seductive, and some twelve years on I have amassed a collection probably in excess of 250 Sharpshooter insignia related items from the Imperial Yeomanry period of the Boer War to current date. Military badge collecting is big business, but it is buyer beware. Noted specialist auctioneers Bosleys have listed individual Sharpshooter items in the low hundred pounds and these high values have attracted the fakers and forgers to produce extremely well executed reproductions in both cast and pressed forms, all wonderfully aged and distressed to fool the unwary.



Badges basically fall in to the following three categories – ‘Original’ Issue, ‘Restrikes’ produced by the original manufacturer on the original tooling to satisfy the collector market and the outright ‘Fakes’ set out to deceive for profit. A sub-set however, and one I find particularly interesting, are badges produced locally ‘in theatre’ due to lack of supplies from home base and badges personalised or commissioned in more exotic materials, I presume by officers.



In parallel to the military issue badges, official or otherwise, are miniature badges produced for civilian wear and our Hon. Secretary Tim Rayson has asked me to pen a few words on these. Avidly collected they come under the general title 'Sweetheart' brooches. Primarily designed to be given and worn by the womenfolk of one's unit to show support for their men serving away from home, I suspect there was also an element of indicating 'I am spoken for' here. Typically they are made with a hinged pin and clasp, as a traditional female brooch, but not in all cases. The origins of the 'Sweetheart' brooch are generally accepted as starting and proliferating during the Great War of

IMAGE - 4



IMAGE - 5



1914-1918 but there is Sharpshooter evidence that they existed before this. There is also a school of thought that says these brooches/badges were worn by young males in civilian clothes during the Great War to indicate their attachment to a military unit as a safeguard to being thought a coward and receiving the 'white feather'.

I have assembled my 'Sweethearts' in basic timeline as best I can judge. Starting with 'Image 1' top left is standard 'SS' button front pressing from the 1901-c.1910 period that has been mated to a special rear pressing by J.R Gaunt Ltd with laurel wreath and brooch mount. Other regiment's buttons have also been noted on this same universal mounting. Following on to the '3 CLY' period, spanning the Great War c.1910-1920, we have two variants of the '3' brooch on the right hand side that are basically a miniature of the 'other ranks' cap badge. The two dark badges are a bit of a mystery to me as they have no evidence on the reverse of any fixing, brooch or otherwise and I suspect they have become detached from some form of regimental souvenir or ephemera. The remaining item, centre bottom line, is a silver medallion awarded to 2nd place in the Regimental championships and is dated 1912. The loop fixing at the top would suggest it was ideal for a fob watch chain adornment.

In 'Image 2' we have the enamelled versions of the '3' brooch. The three pins probably for sweethearts, but equally at home as a tie pin today, here in both gold and silver with blue infill for the scrolls, red infill for the crown and variations on the infill for the 'South Africa 1900-02'. The same manufacturer has also used the same component affixed to the round mother of pearl brooch by a means that is not visible. This may account for the original application of the dark badges in 'Image 1'. Lastly here is a slightly larger enamelled '3' with brooch mount, green infill on the scroll and 'South Africa 1900-02', red infill in the crown and yellow infill for the '3'.

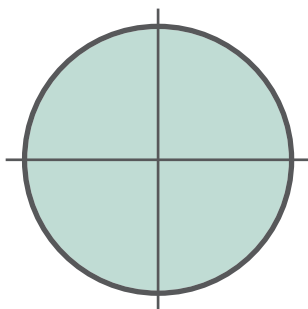
Moving on to the 23rd London Armoured Car era, 1930 – 1939, in 'Image 3', firstly the rather nice 'XXIII' pin brooch in 9ct gold, then two pin brooches in gold and silver with the 'CLY' reflecting the name change in 1939, this pair together with the 'forage cap' brooch are enamelled blue in the scroll and red in the '*Sharpshooters*'... and they see the regiment off to war again.

With the regiment dividing in to 3 and 4 CLY in 1939, in 'Image 4', on the left, we have a high quality hall marked brooch with green enamel on the scroll and '*Sharpshooters*' with the crown infill in red. In the centre, with the small '4', is a dedicated brooch that has used the tooling for one of the variations of the regimental collar badge and on the right, with the stylised white metal '4', an actual conversion of a collar badge to brooch mount with evidence of the original lugs having been removed.

In 'Image 5' on the left we have a 'County of London CLY' with male button hole mount that would technically be appropriate from 1939 right up to 1961 but I suspect is closer to WWII. The remaining two come from my own time with the *Sharpshooters* 1959-1965 and are just the classic TA buttonhole badge at a time when no regimental badge was available, followed by the 'KCLY' brooch mount of post 1961.

So, just an insight from a collector with a modicum of knowledge but certainly not an expert, I have described the colour detail of the brooches as this article may well be printed in black and white.

I am sure there are more out there to be found.



NO PAIN – NO GAIN

by Tony Ryder

When I had my stroke in mid-April 2014 it rapidly came home to me how true the saying that anything that can go wrong will go wrong. And it did!

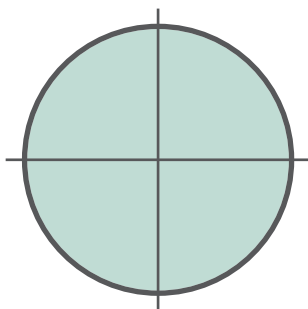
What I thought would be a four-month sojourn from start to finish in hospital and nursing home proved to be a severe underestimate – by 50%. When I arrived in the Mayday I had certain amount of dread because it never seemed to have a good reputation. I am happy to say that I was in the main wrong. From the very start they worked on me with three different female physiotherapists who were experts in the small parts of the body they treated which in my case was face/speech therapy, arm and leg. All of this provided sufficient pain that resulted in gain and therefore proving how true that statement is.

However what should have been straight forward recovery was complicated by the rapid appearance of pressure sores on both heels and as a consequence my stay in hospital became a thoroughly lengthy affair whilst these were treated. When later I was able to submit to physiotherapy on my feet I came up against a physiotherapist who was extremely demanding in both the exercises that he set and the standard he required when I undertook them.

Almost immediately it became a battle of him against me: whatever he threw against me I was not going to be defeated notwithstanding the pain. Having been in two hospitals over a period of nine months I was determined to escape – and they needed the bed! And I got away!

The important lesson that I learned in all this time was to never give up, no matter the pain or how dispirited you might be and how important it is to have family and friends to give one encouragement when you are feeling really down. I include in both the friends and family community, the *Association*. I have had friends from that family visit me who I have not seen or spoken to over the last 20 years and I am really most grateful for their friendship , encouragement and support in what were for me difficult times.

The future looks fairly rosy and I move into a specially adapted flat in Shirley in the next month or so. I am a lot better apart from mobility which is being addressed with more physiotherapy but my speech and cognitive ability have essentially fully recovered. My next challenge will be sequential hip replacement over the next 12 months or so – its not all over yet!



BEXLEYHEATH REUNION

Sharpshooters who served with 265 (KCLY) Signal Squadron at Bexleyheath in the 1980s and 1990s held an informal reunion on Saturday 15th November 2014 at the Two Chairman near Trafalgar Square.

The reunion, taking full advantage of the power of Facebook, attracted attendees from as far afield as Bristol, Oxford and Seaford. Amongst those attending were Micky Mustoe, Debbie Castle, Amanda Susini, Melvin Absalom, Delyth Wolfram, Sian Reynolds, Karen Merry, Brian Colyer, Steve and Nicky Sefer, Terry and Lyn Miles, Anne Duffy-Penny, Mhairi Keir, Dave Whitehouse, Michelle Hilless, Vicky Cobbett, Gary Franks, Steve Wise, Vanessa Bolton, Warren Day, Colin Alderton and Pete Weedon (apologies if I have missed anyone out). Tony Jewell and Angela put in a brief appearance but had to depart early on in the proceedings after their car conked out and they had to organise a tow home!



Thanks go to Anne for organising the venue and getting the function room upstairs. It was fantastic afternoon/evening and it was great to see everyone, some of whom had dropped off the radar for a number of years. Look forward to seeing you all next year!

Incidentally, the Two Chairman is a stone's throw away from Cockspur Street, the site of the original office that the *Sharpshooters Committee* used for recruiting in 1900.

DW (Photo courtesy of Brian Colyer)

AGIUS DIGITAL CATALOGUE 2015

DIGITAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PRICES – Valid to 30 November 2015







With the help of the AGIUS Collection Sound and Vision team, we are delighted to offer a selection of digital items for viewing at your leisure on your choice of personal computer (DVD) or digital reader (pdf). All sales will be contributing to the *Association Welfare Funds*.

The pdfs are available for download from DROPBOX only - details on how to do that will be provided following your purchase.

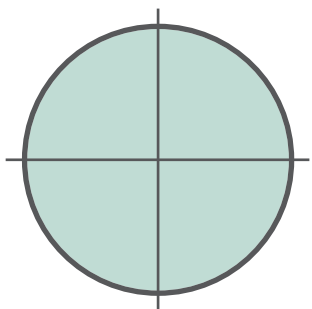
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<i>Memory Diary</i> by Harry Ramsbottom		PDF	£10
<i>Undergunned with the Sharpshooters</i> by Walter Allen		PDF	£10
<i>The Sharpshooter Chronicles</i> by David Hannam		PDF	£10

If you want further information on any of the items for sale please email David.



KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2015

100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign, the 75th Anniversary of the evacuation of the Kent Yeomanry from St Valery and 70th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day

April

25th ANZAC Day services in London and at the National Arboretum commencing with the traditional Dawn service at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park, service at the Cenotaph and a further Service at Westminster Abbey. NB That the only London event that we might get near will be Dawn Service with a recommended report time of 0430hrs! There is an alternate at the National Arboretum commencing at 1145 – report time of 1130. Seating in the Chapel is very limited. Details available from the Hon Sec.

May

7th 70th Anniversary of VE Day
10th Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park. Further details including lunch arrangements from the Secretary in April.

June

7th (TBC) Federation of London OCA Parade and Service Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.
13th 71st Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage

July

23rd ***Founders Day. 114th Anniversary of the 3rd CLY being gazetted in 1901.***
31st The 70th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the 3rd and 4th CLY at Carpiquet Airfield in Normandy in 1944 to become the 3rd/4th CLY.

August

15th 70th Anniversary of VJ Day.

September

6th Opening of the new Museum at Hever Castle.
25-27th KSYA Visit to St Valery and Agincourt. See flyer for details.

October

- 7th KSYA Annual General Meeting. Venue: Sharpshooter House.
25th Royal Armoured Corps Church Service and lunch RH Chelsea. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.

November

- 5th Opening of the RBL Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey and lunch. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in September.
7th Lord Mayor's Show. KSYA and cadets man the KSYA float.
8th Remembrance Sunday. All are welcome at the ARCs in Croydon and Bexleyheath.
14th Gallipoli Centennial Ball, Victory Services Club. See Note below
20th All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner at the Cavalry And Guards Club. See flyer for details and booking form.

December

- 1st Inputs for the 2015 Journal are required by this date.
16th (TBC) RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.

31st *116th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.*

Note: The Gallipoli Ball is being organised by Gallipoli & Dardanelles International who have booked the Carisbrooke Room at the Victory Services Club. Dress: Black tie. There will be a drink on arrival and half a bottle of wine with the meal. Cost £80pp. The Gallipoli and Dardanelles organisation are always looking for new members and further details can be found at their web site: www.gdinternational.org.uk

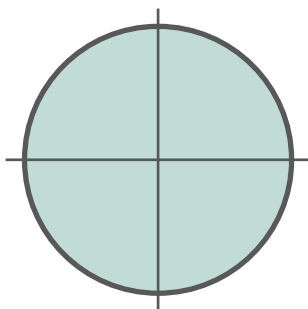
Or contact the Hon Secretary if you require further information

2016

100th Anniversary of the Somme campaign,

100th Anniversary of the Battle of Jutland

***“Ask not what the Association can do for you
but rather what you can do for it!”***



KSYA LIST OF DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2014/15

The Association is very grateful indeed to receive donations from the following in the present Financial Year. Whilst quite a few were large 'one off' donations received in memoriam they were nonetheless extremely welcome.

The Worshipful Company of Insurers, Lt Colonel Maurice Tomlin, Tony Card, Chas Rae, Vic Dickens, David Sinker, Mrs D Bloomfield, E Perry, R Houghton, R Warren, R Brodie (In Memoriam Lt Pat Brodie MC), Mary Spain (In Memoriam William Spain), Mrs Sally Geer (In Memoriam Mike Geer), Mrs Amitrano, Mr Williams, Phillip Harrisson (In Memoriam Bill Harrisson), Lt Colonel Simon McMenemy, Tim Rayson (In Memoriam Mike Geer)

If your name does not appear on this list and you want it to all you need to do is to complete the donation form and send it with a cheque to the Hon Secretary for whatever you can afford – every little bit helps!

