

# The Sharpshooter



~ 2015 ~



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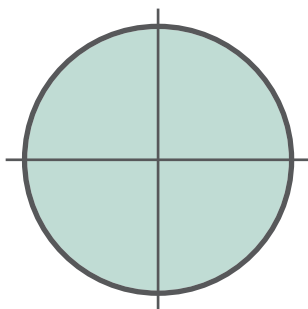
Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,  
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters), 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters),  
3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry.  
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*Boris Mollo*  
*January 1936 – December 2015*

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2015 edition of the Sharpshooter journal, the publication of which marks another year passing and provides an opportunity to reflect on the enduring and wonderful Sharpshooter ethos, and to continue to think and plan ahead for 2016 and beyond.

The year has undoubtedly been marked by the opening of the new Museum at Hever Castle. This new museum has been the long-term vision, foresight and tireless work of our President, Guy Farage, and the late Boris Mollo; ultimately delivered by Chris Sutton's epic fund-raising efforts and the Museum Trust team. The museum was formally opened by our Royal Honorary Colonel, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, and involved a superb parade and gathering in the grounds of the Castle. The day was an immense Sharpshooter reunion, bringing Sharpshooters together from across the country (and from overseas) and I congratulate and thank all those involved for providing us with a Museum to be extremely proud of and one fit for the 21st Century.

The year has also seen the relationship with the Sharpshooters' affiliated livery company, the Worshipful Company of Insurers, develop further. (I must declare a mutual interest at this point, as I am both a serving Sharpshooter and liveryman of the Insurers.) The Company's generosity towards the Sharpshooters (the serving squadrons, Museum and Association) has been no less than exceptional and we are extremely grateful for this financial support as well as the personal support that they give to us. The presence of the Insurers at key events such as the opening of the Museum, the El Gubi dinner, and visiting annual camps and the like is very much appreciated. The Company equally appreciate the relationship and the support that they receive from the Sharpshooters at formal functions, and this year especially on the occasion of the Company receiving its Royal Charter. It is a real pleasure to see the relationship that was started many years ago by the likes of Alan Grant and others, deepen and develop.

Sadly, several saddles have become empty during the course of the year and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Sharpshooters passed. The Association standard is paraded at funerals (when requested) and Kevin Wright, our Standard Bearer, travels the country with the Standard in support of families on these occasions.

2016 will be an interesting and exciting year. The results of the current "National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review" may have implications for our serving Squadrons and therefore potentially for the Association. Let us see



whether there are any changes in store.

In 2016, the Royal Yeomanry will finally receive its new regimental guidon, incorporating the IRAQ battle honour. A historic and proud moment for the regiment, and also a sad one, as the squadron guidons will be laid up. We are looking forward to supporting this event in May.

There is lots of great copy and wonderful pictures to read and enjoy in this edition, so please do enjoy. And for those of you online, do follow the updates on our Facebook page and website. (We continue to operate offline / on paper too to try and ensure that we maintain contact with as many people as possible in as many possible ways that suit everyone).

As has become my custom, I'd like to publicly thank my fellow trustees and committee members for their energy, hard work and commitment supporting the Sharpshooter family. Without your efforts, the Association would not be able to function. More, we would not be able to deliver this superb journal, provide financial support to those in need, support the men and women in the serving squadrons and generally maintain the links with those that have served. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing Sharpshooters and families and friends at the many various events that we have the pleasure of being able to attend.

With very best wishes.

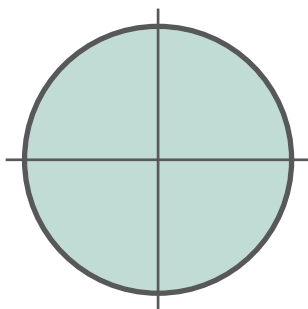
Yours aye

---

(Major) Mark Hodson TD  
Chairman





## HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year 2014/15 has been a challenging year – one tinged with joy as the new Museum at Hever Castle was opened with great panache and style by HRH The Princes Alexandra and yet sad as more of our dwindling band of World War 2 veterans and some of my generation of service marched off parade to rejoin their comrades in the canteen in the sky. The keenest loss was that of Boris Mollo the Curator (and post opening Hon Curator) whose 40 years of service to the Museum Trust culminated in the new Museum at Hever where it has been decided that the medals area should be called “The Boris Mollo Gallery” – a fitting tribute to his dedicated service. Boris and all the others will be missed for the variety of character – especially Johnny Evans who had many characters in his play book – that they brought to our family and I hope that you all take a moment to reflect on their obituaries and to remember them.

The first challenge in 2015 was to get the Journal out on time and again we missed that due to late contributions holding up the checking, proof reading and eventual printing for which I can only apologise. If there are any missing articles this year it will be because they did not make the required date for contributions. In the year there have been the usual events – Cavalry Sunday, The Federation of London OCA Parade, the Lord Mayors Show, Field of Remembrance at Westminster and, the Bir El Gubi dinner. All of these events have been quite well attended – some more than others – and they are the framework that forms the Association’s programme into which ‘special’ events are fitted. For 2015 the specials were the opening of the new Museum in September which became our ‘Main Effort’ in current military parlance and a very well attended All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner with an increase in numbers of 25% over the 2014 dinner. To all of you who do support these events I say thank you and for those of you who do not attend for whatever reason I say you do not know what and more importantly *who* you are missing!

In 2015 there was no overseas trip although there were aspirations to link Agincourt 600 to St Valery 75 in a short trip to France. However some intrepid *Sharpshooters* undertook a trip to Italy which is reported on elsewhere in the Journal. The Association remains on standby to provide welfare support to *Sharpshooters* if and when they are deployed on operations and given recent world events this remains a distinct possibility. We are very well supported in this area by our adopted Livery Company – The

Worshipful Company of Insurers and we are really most grateful for their efforts.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry* guidon will together with all of the other squadron guidons in the Royal Yeomanry be paraded for the last time at Windsor Castle and a new RY guidon will be presented. This is not surprisingly going to be a big day marked by sadness as well as pride at the presentation of a new guidon and the Association will be invited to be present en masse. If you would like to attend please either email me or send in the hard copy return included with the journal as soon as you possible. I should also advise you that there will be a charge for tickets as we need to recoup the costs of what will be a splendid day. The El Gubi dinner will be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Cavalry and Guards Club at a cost of £46.00 per person. This is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle and to remind ourselves as to what happened Dan Taylor – new Curator of the Museum – has penned a short account of the battle. It would be wonderful to have 75 members attending so please complete the flyer.

As you read the Journal you may be surprised by the lack of reading material and this is because the normal contributors have not had much time to research and write new articles as the Museum opening was the focus of effort for the year. That being said there was still time to acquire three important medal groups that are described in Croydon museum piece. Notwithstanding the successful opening of the museum there remains an obligation to the Lottery to continue with a programme of events at Hever and 2 of these are in the 2016 FOE to which you are all warmly invited. The Lottery Fund – our single biggest donor - will be looking to us as an Association to continue to demonstrate that the *Kent and Sharpshooter* family is continuing taking an upfront and active stake in the development of the Museum. The best way to achieve this is to support both the programme of talks and volunteer to help out at the Museum by manning it whilst it is open. For those who wish to donate money perhaps in memory of a *Sharpshooter* or *Kent Yeoman* who has since passed on then that would be wonderful as we will need to build a fund to continue to support and maintain the artefacts in the Museum.

I know that every year the question of subscriptions and the costs of producing this Journal have come up and each year we just scrape by with voluntary donations from you. These are very much appreciated and I thank you all but the Association really does need each and every member to voluntarily contribute something towards the cost of producing something which is much envied both within and without RY. A £15 donation per member per year (and we print/dispatch over 500 copies each year) made as a Standing Order with a Gift Aid contribution will guarantee the continuation of this Journal well into the future – and save the Hon Secretary a whole pile of stress worrying about whether we can afford to continue it or not.

Finally what of the future? We live in uncertain times and the development of the Army and the Reserve continues towards the 2020 deadline of generating a large and active reserve. We must not forget that under current plans the Reserve will be 30% of the Army and one way that integration is being developed is by pairing regiments of

Regular cavalry with a reserve regiment. In the case of RY their and indeed our paired regiment is 1<sup>st</sup> The Queens Dragoon Guards, and as when the Blues and Royals paired with the *Sharpshooters* in 1959, we should welcome them to our family and of course the wider RY family. The Association must continue to review and adapt how it supports its serving squadrons and remain relevant to them. One way of doing this is through the Museum by making better use of our heritage by making it more accessible in the Drill Halls – sorry ARC as they are known as. The enforced closure of the Museum room at Croydon has been a blessing in disguise with a distributed museum that fits with the squadron's requirements and, going forwards, that is how it must develop.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2016 and look forward to seeing you at any or indeed all of the events in the FOE.

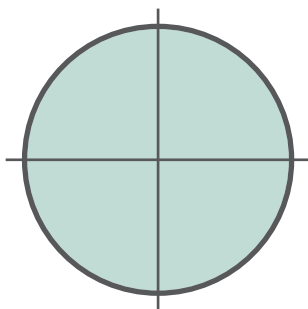
Tim Rayson  
Hon. Secretary

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE ASSOCIATION.  
ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:**

**The Hon Secretary  
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association  
Sharpshooter House  
Army Reserve Centre  
Mitcham Road,  
Croydon  
Surrey CR0 3RU**







## **TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2015**

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

For income and expenditure accounts, please see next page

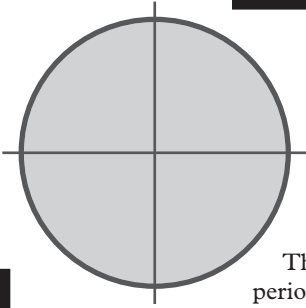
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2015

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
<b>Note:</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Other donations	5,256.80	1,750.00
Payments under Gift Aid	1,470.05	2,109.30
Merchandising	<u>6,726.85</u>	<u>3,859.30</u>
<b>A</b> Investments/Bank deposits	2,053.88	1,970.02
	<u><u>8,780.73</u></u>	<u><u>5,829.32</u></u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants	525.00	1,350.00
Wreaths & Crosses	440.40	180.00
Ei Gubi (net)	226.50	-215.00
Printing (News Letter)	3,259.00	3,799.92
Website	0.00	450.00
Welfare	<u>0.00</u>	<u>333.67</u>
	<u>4,450.90</u>	<u>5,898.59</u>
<b>Excess/Shortfall</b>	<u><u>4,329.83</u></u>	<u><u>-69.27</u></u>
<b>Note</b>		
<b>A</b> Investment Income		
Charifund Income Units	1,893.88	1,811.02
National Savings Investment A/c	<u>160.00</u>	<u>159.00</u>
	<u><u>2,053.88</u></u>	<u><u>1,970.02</u></u>

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2015

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
<b>Note:</b>		
<b>B</b> Investments at cost		
2837 Charifund Units	<u>19,726.61</u>	<u>19,726.61</u>
	19,726.61	19,726.61
<b>Current Assets</b>		
National Savings Investment Bk	21,483.00	21,323.00
Cash at bank	12,399.42	10,180.59
Sundry debtors	<u>67.50</u>	<u>67.50</u>
	33,949.92	31,571.09
Less sundry creditors	936.00	2,286.00
Ledger Tours	0.00	3,860.00
Magazine	<u>3,259.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	29,754.92	25,425.09
Publications	0.00	0.00
Total Accumulated funds	<u><u>49,481.53</u></u>	<u><u>45,151.70</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Balance brought forward	45,151.70	45,220.97
Plus/less surplus/loss	<u>4,329.83</u>	<u>-69.27</u>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<u><u>49,481.53</u></u>	<u><u>45,151.70</u></u>
	0	0.00

<b>Note:</b>		
<b>B</b> Market value of investments at 31st March 2015		
2837 Charifund Units	15.14 <u>42,948</u>	14.53 <u>41,212</u>
	<u><u>42,948</u></u>	<u><u>37,229</u></u>



## **EMPTY SADDLES 2015-16**

The following Sharpshooters sadly passed away in the period 2015/16. Where relatives request it the Association attends funerals either with or without the Association banner.

John Philip-Smith MC

Chas Rae

Ian Sanderson

Tom Richard

Keith Dempster

Rob Lockyer MM

Peter Wynne-James

Boris Mollo TD

John Evans

Where there is sufficient detail their obituaries are in the pages that follow.

# **OBITUARY**

## **John Philip-Smith**

**1921 – 2015**



Captain John Philip-Smith M.C. of the 4th County of London Yeomanry died on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015, at the age of 94. He passed away only nine days after his beloved wife Betty, following more than 68 years of marriage. He leaves two daughters, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. John was a gentle, kind and thoughtful man, whose main love in life was his family, who he sought to support, guide and provide for throughout his married life.

Much of John's life was shaped by his experiences during World War 2. He joined B Squadron of the 4th CLY in 1939 and served throughout the war until he was medically discharged in 1946, having taken part in many of the Sharpshooters major campaigns and battles in the Middle East, Italy and the D-Day landings in France.

John was commissioned from the ranks during 1942, and in September that year he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery shown at Manaquir el Taiyara. Having engaged the enemy, his tank was hit and the crew had to bale out. Without regard to his own life, John went down into the driver's compartment to try to rescue a wounded man, during which the tank was again hit. He also took part in the Battle of Wadi Akarit leading the break through the German defences and losing one of his tanks in the process. He rose to the rank of Captain, landed in France on D+1, and was present at the start of the Villers Bocage conflict.

John made several life long friendships during his time in the CLY. He met Dick Tryon, who was to be his best man at his wedding in 1947. He also became great friends with Captain Charles Pearce, and it was through him that he met his future wife Betty, Charles' sister. During a period of home leave, he was visiting Charles, who asked Betty to collect John from the railway station, and as they say, the rest is history!





John, far left, as an NCO with some of his comrades.

practice, which he continued to run for many years until a slight stroke affected his eyesight when he was 70 and he retired.

John was a quiet hero! He rarely talked about his experiences during the war, and in fact, his campaign medals all remain un-mounted and never worn to this day. But he was a hero to his fellow soldiers and especially his family. He was a modest, unassuming, hard-working and dedicated man who lead by example throughout his life.

After the war, severe tinnitus caused John difficulties. Advised to get work outdoors, he became a salesman for insulation materials. However, he soon realised that he wasn't cut out for selling! In an effort to provide the best possible life for his family, he trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He worked for several firms before setting up his own private

WL 42822/122. 500m. 2/40. W.S.Ltd. 51-6133. Forms/W.3121/0. Army Form W.3121.

22nd Armd Brigade 20th Armd Division Corps

Schedule No. Unit 4th County of London Yeo. (RAC) T.A.

Brigade 11th Div 18 Sep 42

Division 16 Sep 42 18 Sep 42

Corps 2nd 9.12 2nd 9.12

Army 28.9.42 29.9.42

Army No. and Rank. 2/Lt.

Name John PHILIP-SMITH

(Christian names must be stated)

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
<p><del>Throughout the summer campaign</del> This officer has shown the greatest qualities of leadership and bravery and has produced the highest degree of offensive action amongst his Troop in many tank engagements.</p> <p>An outstanding example occurred on the 31st August, 1942, at MANAQUIR EL, TAIYARA. This officer's troop was the first to be engaged by the enemy when his Squadron was attacked by 60 German tanks. Almost immediately his tank was set on fire and the crew had to bale out, with the exception of the driver, who was badly wounded. Although the ammunition was already exploding, 2/Lt. Philip-Smith, regardless of his own life, went down into the driver's compartment, in order to rescue the wounded man. During this time the tank was again penetrated in front and the driver was killed.</p>	<p>H. B. Alexander</p> <p>Comdg 4.C.L.Y.</p> <p>H. B. Alexander</p>	<p>M.C.</p> <p>General, Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Forces.</p>	<p>179</p>

B. H. Donohoe  
Lt. Gen.,  
8th Army.

B. H. Hards  
Lieut. General,  
Commander, 13 Corps.

W. B. Smith  
Major-General

# **OBITUARY**

## **Captain Keith R Dempster**

**1967 – 2015**

On 20th June I took a phone call with the very sad news that Keith Dempster had collapsed and died suddenly on the previous Friday evening. Keith and I had served together, initially as troop leaders, in the 1990's, and shared many challenging and amusing moments together on field exercises, in barracks and at various military gatherings.

I have the pleasure of knowing Keith's wife Sonia, his parents Kathleen and Alistair, and his brother Ed, and I felt very privileged and honoured to be asked to speak at Keith's funeral.

The copy that follows is the eulogy that I made at the funeral on Friday 10th July.

### **Tribute to Keith Dempster.**

#### **Very fond memories of a good friend and yeoman.**

"Keith, or as he was known in the Royal Yeomanry, Captain D, or "bluffer", made an impression on all who he met. He was both popular and respected, a sometimes rare combination.

Keith joined the Royal Yeomanry in 1993, in Croydon, in C Sqn - The Kent & Sharpshooters Squadron, one of the two London squadrons of the regiment. Previously he had served in various reserve capacities including the TA infantry and had cut his teeth as a troop leader, or in infantry parlance, a platoon commander, in York leading miners and other tough men and women. He used to tell me that after those early experiences in the TA he was prepared for almost anything that anyone might throw at him.

As the Troop Leader of 4th Troop, Keith and I and many people here today spent many cold, exhausting but challenging and fun weekends on military training areas. He was popular with his soldiers and his brother officers; many have written recently about how highly they thought of him. His never dimmed good humour and desire to do things well gained him the affectionate nickname of "bluffer"; like many of us [soldiers] he was caught out by saying that we were in one place on a training exercise when in fact we were somewhere else, only he would always be the most resolute for the longest! And whilst Keith wasn't always revered for his map-reading, he never fell short when it came to looking after the people under his command. Undaunted by anything he always maintained an energetic smile and very positive approach, an "utterly uncrushable optimism" as one of our officers said.

Keith would often work late into the night even on Fridays. He would often drive to join a training exercise in the early hours of a Saturday morning having left his civilian job a short while before. He'd train through the weekend, and then having returned to barracks, dekkited, and gone through all the usual endex routines, he'd be seen returning

to his office to carry on his civilian work whilst the rest of returned to our homes for a well-earned rest.

Keith's passion for life didn't end with our military training, he was always a keen supporter of regimental dinners, cocktail parties, regimental balls and our regimental associations.

Keith was promoted to Captain and moved up to the Duke of Yorks Headquarters to work in Regimental Headquarters and also with our HQ Squadron, the Westminster Dragoons. It's true to say that each of the Regiments squadrons has its own unique personality, and C and HQ squadrons although only a few miles apart, are no exception. Keith quickly established himself within the Dragoons as easily as he had done in the Sharpshooters.

As Intelligence Officer (IO), he suffered all the usual jibes about the title being a contradiction but showed himself to be a very capable operator in this area. I think he was the first regimental officer to routinely deploy to the field with a laptop. His role ultimately expanded to be the CBRN [chemical biological radiological and nuclear] warfare officer (CBRNO) too: an area where he developed some significant expertise. I had the pleasure of working closely with Keith when he was both IO and CBRNO, and I was the OpsO (Operations Officer). We wrote and ran numerous regimental exercises together and spent a great annual camp in 1998 in Alabama working in the Headquarters of the US Army Chemical Corps, during which I relied heavily on Keith's CBRN knowledge to conduct the joint operations we were running. It was in that US Headquarters that on one occasion the exercise controllers thought we were not under enough pressure and essentially attacked our control centre. The lights went out, it was pitch black and a very noisy intruder was inserted into the tent to effectively take us all out. The operations tent was huge. Whilst I stayed seated, somewhat bemused that if I couldn't see what was happening no-one else could either, Keith managed to find and apprehend the intruder, restrain him and then find the exit too through which they both disappeared! Alabama had many adventures that we shared with Keith, including three days of jazz and cocktails whilst exploring New Orleans.

Many of you will know of Keith's love of skiing and hence it is no surprise that he took to Regimental Skiing in the annual Yeomanry SNOW FOX exercise. He was one of the first skiers we ever witnessed wearing helmet and protective clothing, long before it became obligatory, and it was clear that he meant business on the snow. Sure enough his appetite for living life to the full was certainly visible when racing in Verbier where he was always a contender for prizes as his big smile would disappear into his ski helmet and then into a cloud of snow dust as he powered down the slopes. It was a sad day, when in 2002, he finally finished soldiering with us.

Keith was a good Officer, a good lawyer, a good friend, brother, son and husband. He was also a good Sharpshooter, Dragoon and Yeoman. He loved singing the regimental song, Farmer's Boy, and will be very much missed by us all.

Farewell Keith, it was always fun when you were around."

Mark Hodson  
10 July 2015

# OBITUARY

## Bob Lockyer MM

### An introductory note

Whilst working on Bob's tribute I asked David Hannam if we had any details of Bob's time with the Sharpshooters so that I could pull together something appropriate. David very kindly sent me six pages of handwritten notes that Bob had, and passed to the late Roy Cawston (4<sup>th</sup> CLY), on his time with 4<sup>th</sup> CLY from 1940 through to 1943 22<sup>nd</sup> Armd Bde, although he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex Yeomanry) who were signallers. Now you may ask why we had a signaller attached to the Sharpshooters. That was because in those days signals communications from Regiment to Brigade were handled by the Royal Signals unlike today.

The following pages therefore are Bob's own notes of his time with the 4<sup>th</sup> CLY in his own words and they provide a far better tribute of his time than I could possibly write.

Of the two photographs one shows Bob on active service in Cairo with two rather large New Zealanders called 'Tiny' Harkett (L) and 'Lofty' Dunkly (R) whilst Bob was – unsurprisingly called 'Titch' and he is in the middle! The second picture shows him in later life.

Tim Rayson  
Hon Secretary





20 joined Middlesex Yeomanry (1st CLY) 1st May 1939  
 & was then 2 Cav. Div. Signals  
 Some time before years end it became 2nd Arm Div Sig's  
 of which 4CLY was a part previously 23rd Arm'd Car Coy  
 Some time in 1940 4 Sqn 2MY became signal squadron  
 to 22nd Arm'd Bde which comprised 2RGH, 3CLY & 4CLY  
 I joined MY when Anschluss between Germany & Austria  
 occurred no recall of our River Cross SS  
 I first met up with C Sqn 4CLY at the Gog Hills near  
 Cambridge in August 1940 when the Brigade was operational  
 6B & 6C light tanks with BESA & 13.7mm armament  
 & 7.92 machine gun (used Bren Carrier with a turret)  
 9.2mm wireless  
 In Autumn 1939 the MY purchased its own vehicles  
 Morse (D3) telephones & the later tanks as electricians  
 at the Northern Polytechnic  
 I was in R Troop 4Sqn 2MY as Capt Neville Faulks (later  
 Mr Justice Faulks) after a period at Rudgwick near  
 Horsham billeted on Hon Mrs Holman's Farm (near Bods Shagles)

Born 26th January 1920. Joined Middlesex Yeomanry (1st CLY), 1st May 1939 when it was then 2 Cavalry Div. Signals Regt.

It became 2nd Arm'd Div Sig's of which 4 CLY was a part (previously 23<sup>rd</sup> London Arm'd Car Coy) sometime in 1940. 4 Sqn 2MY became signal squadron to 22nd Arm'd Bde which comprised 2RGH, 3CLY and 4CLY.

I joined MY when Anschluss between Germany and Austria occurred. In Autumn 1939 the MY purchased its own vehicles, Morse (D3) telephones and we were trained as electricians at the Northern Polytechnic.

I first met up with C Sqn 4CLY at The Gog Hills near Cambridge in August 1940 when the Brigade was operating with Vickers Mk 6B and 6C light tanks with BESA 13.7mm armament and 7.92 machine gun – bit like a Bren Carrier with a turret and a wireless.

I was in R Troop 4Sqn 2MY. The OC was Capt Neville Faulks (later Mr Justice Faulks) after a period at Rudgwick near Horsham billeted on Hon Mrs Holman's Farm.

We went to Tinkers Firs – C Sqn 4 CLY was commanded by Major George Kidston, 12th Lancers, who used to jump on his side cap when upset especially on Mondays when gasmasks avoided by C Sqn fitters who hid in A15 (Crusader) turrets. George spotted this and lobbed rocks from the hard standing into the turrets whose occupants had to keep silent to avoid punishment. During this time, Arthur Cranley became Sqn Ldr when George Kidston was promoted.

In July 41 we were withdrawn back to 22<sup>nd</sup> Arm'd Brigade to go to M.E.F (Middle East Forces) and billeted at Trowbridge. We went via Free Town (where the transport ship was rammed by HMS Revenge) and the Cape to Egypt arriving Oct 41.

On arrival at Egypt, signalers rejoined their squadrons and fitters and electricians went for some weeks to RN Workshops at Warfian fitting wireless sets (No. 9's about 1 cwt in 3 units), reinforces track arms on all A15's and 32 gall jettison tanks to rear of A15's over exhaust pipes (later very useful for water).

Sometime before 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 41 joined C Sqns fitters crew under Sgt Brazendale, 11 Hussars Sam Berry and myself. The Regt was heavily engaged at Bir Gubi and lost quite a few tanks to an "anti tank" set up. At this time we laagered at night and the fitters and I worked on tanks and wireless equipment by moonlight – we even tried to repair an axle arm. We met our first dead men – pushing off bodies to get at working units as we cannibalized tanks to get more on the road. By this time we had got to Sidi Rezegh – we as part of A Echelon were on the edge of the battle and I think it was Lord Cranleigh told us to shelter with the South Africans and it was not a pretty sight. We dug holes amongst the infantry and I remember Sgt Brazendale saying get up Tich as a Panzer MkIII got in amongst us. I think it missed us in the excitement and the Ford truck did us proud, the South Africans had no such luck. At about this time I remember

a troop of 25 pdrs coming forwards and swinging their quads like the Royal Tournament and firing at the German armour over open sights. At night what was left of 4 Sqn laagered. One night we were with a group salvaging food and ammunition from wrecks and Frank Igguleden and I were on guard duty. We were under Capt Rosskill (REME to 4CLY) and had our vehicles parked against the odd wreck to look less conspicuous when a long column of Medium Enemy Tanks went eastwards some 50 yards from us – “Rommel’s lot” on its push to Egypt. Iggy and I sheltered in the shadows.

About a month later C Sqn went on a column, the Brigade (22<sup>nd</sup> Armd) having been bashed about a bit by a new crop of Panzer MkIII’s that the 8<sup>th</sup> Army said couldn’t be put ashore at Mersa Brega. I was trying to repair a wireless in a Crusader as they came on us, Sgt Brow picked me and my tools up and threw me into the fitters truck – I was dumbfounded but it’s the only reason I’m here today.

Later as we withdrew the A Echelon with Major Sutton returned via MSUS where we fitted up tanks and transport with petrol – I first discovered the Germans had taken it over when I saw what I thought was a 2 pdr antitank gunner who was going to the toilet throw himself over his gun barrel without even pulling his trousers up – his mate swinging the trail but they missed and we scarpered. I feel we owe our successful escape to some bofors gunners who contrived to fire their guns on the move, the lads in the tractor tossing clips of ammo to the gunner as he sat on the bouncing gun.

After this spell we (the Brigade) went back to Egypt (where we were paid 6d extra a day by King Farouk) and I was made a Corporal at Brigade TAC (4 Crusaders) where I encyphered the Brigade Tank State and maintained the wireless sets and sat in a gunners seat throughout Alam Halfa and Alamein. Subsequently I was made Signals Sargeant to 1RB from where I was commissioned being posted to Italy with the 21<sup>st</sup> Tank Bde with whom I finished what might be called active service – though I was demobbed as OC Signal Troop 3RHA at Kiel.

Looking back, what a crowd the CLY were: Ronnie Aird, Neville Faulks, Pip Roberts, Dick Sutton, George Kidston and host of others – seven years and five days was probably the time of my life.

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# OBITUARY

## Peter Wynne-James

Peter was a National Service officer of the same period as Boris Mollo and Robin Ludlow. He was a somewhat flamboyant individual sporting a yellow lining to his BD blouse! Peter was a Consultant with many projects including the Commonwealth Memorial Gates at Hyde Park where he was involved in the fund raising and subsequently the opening ceremony.

## Chas Rae



Chas (or Jock) Rae served with 3 RHA and was at Villers Bocage when 4th CLY were given a hard time by Michael Wittman and his company. A fuller obituary will be in the next journal but suffice to say he was an absolute character with some great stories to tell in a very broad scots accent. Fortunately David Hannam and Tim Rayson managed to get his story on tape and it is in the archive.

# OBITUARY

## Boris Mollo



Boris was born on the 7th January 1936 and his interests in things military became evident pretty quickly when at prep school where he and the late Sir Paul Newall (Former Lord Mayor of London and CO of Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) became avid war-gamers. After prep school Boris attended Charterhouse following which he was called up for National Service deferring going to university until after completing his service. Boris served as a subaltern with the 8th Royal Irish Hussars – now the Queens Royal Irish Hussars.

Following National Service Boris attended Cambridge graduating with a BA and whilst at University he joined the then 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry serving as a Troop Leader. He eventually went on to command in 1968 not only C(KCLY) Sqn of the relatively newly formed Royal Yeomanry Regiment at Croydon but also subsequently the Westminster Dragoons who formed HQ Squadron at Elverton Street in London.

As Sqn Leader at Croydon Boris frequently outsmarted the Regular Army opposition on exercise by the simple expedient of playing as the Soviets would do in the event of war. This on one memorable occasion in Germany led to the exercise being halted early to allow the Blue opposing force to regroup. The Sharpshooters led by Boris had completely broken through their lines and seized the bridge over the river well before they should have done so.

Boris's involvement with the museum started many years ago and in the late 1950s there was no regimental museum either in the Kent Yeomanry or CLY: items were displayed here and there but not as a collection. After the amalgamation in 1961 Boris, by then a professional military curator, started to take an interest in the regimental property and some years later he set up small museums in the Drill Halls at Bromley and Croydon and later at Bexleyheath so that the serving squadrons could enjoy on a regular basis their heritage.



In the 1970s John Warde of Squerres Court, Westerham, offered the regiment a small room in the house as a regimental museum. The offer was accepted and it was Boris who furnished the room, organised the display and as Hon Curator looked after the museum. Some years later the Warde family wanted to use the museum room as a visitors' tea room so a new home had to be found for the museum. At the time Robin Ludlow was working as a consultant for the new owner of Hever Castle so he asked whether there was room in the castle for the museum. Fortunately there was room so the museum moved to Hever thirty years ago. Boris planned, organised and, supervised the move, and whilst Robin Ludlow took care of the ceremonial side it was Boris who conducted Princess Alexandra around the museum when she paid her first visit in 1985.

In addition to supervising the museum Boris also professionally catalogued the regimental property for the first time ever including uniforms, swords, medals, china, headdresses, the silver collection, oil paintings, watercolours, prints, maps and various papers. He also found the time to write short histories of the Kent Yeomanry, 3 & 4 County of London Yeomanry and the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) which were professionally published. These books were and remain key reference books and of the ways that the Kent & Sharpshooter history is communicated to the serving soldiers and the wider public.

Since the opening in 1985 Boris continued to act as Hon Curator and, even though he lived in Shrewsbury, he continued to visit Hever regularly – especially in 2014 and 15 as the Tent in the Park slowly but surely became a reality with funding. The new Museum was very much the culmination of Boris's vision for the heritage of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry and we are truly fortunate to have had someone with his knowledge and determination to carry forward the vision that he had over the last 30 years – a truly remarkable achievement. In recognition of this achievement the Museum Trustees have with the family's agreement decided that the area of the Museum which houses the medal collection should be named 'The Boris Mollo Gallery' as a lasting tribute to his work and dedication to the *Sharpshooter* family.

We mustn't however, forget about Boris the man. He was a kind, generous person who was devoted to his family and friends as well as the military. Whenever people stayed with Boris, they could be sure of two things – good food and a fantastic host. He spent a lot of time visiting his brother John and his family and always enjoyed his time with them. And although he didn't get to see them often, he always spoke of his brother Andrew and his children with great fondness. As a father to Eugenie, his only child, he was a gentle soul, with a great sense of humour and supported her in everything she did.

Boris will be greatly missed by so many.

Attendance list for the Association and Museum Trust: Mr G Farage, President KSY Association and Museum Trust; Mr T Rayson, Hon Secretary KSY Association; Mr K Wright, Standard Bearer KSY Association; Mr C Sutton, CEO KSY Museum Trust; Mr D Taylor, Curator KSY Museum Trust; Mr P Arnold, KSY Association; Major C Field, Former OC C (KSY) Sqn representing CO RY; Mr Tony James, KSY Association; Lt Col Ben Tottenham, Former CO KCly; Mr Huw Jones, KSY Museum Trust; Mr D Whitehouse, KSY Museum Trust; Mr Tony Bentley, KSY Association; Mr and Mrs A Jewell, KSY Association and Museum Trustee; Mr D Carter, KSY Association.

# OBITUARY

## John Evans



A number of us met John whilst serving in the Westminster Dragoons (WD) in the late 50s: John had previously completed his two years National Service in the Royal Signals. On the formation of the Royal Yeomanry many W. Ds were posted to 'C' Squadron Sharpshooters, John being one of them.

You immediately became aware of him as being a character due to his 'humour, Ducking and Diving and Craftiness' all gained through his service in the army and T.A.

As far as we are aware he never bought a drink! This was an art in itself. Despite this he was a loyal dependable soldier with a sense of duty, but always considered he was in a competition between himself and persons in higher rank than him to see if he could get away with whatever he could.

Here are some of the capers he got up to:

First time I was on exercise I was posted to admin troop where John was the driver of a 3 tonner at 3 o'clock. He stopped in a layby, told me to get out a table and chairs as it was tea time, and we had tea as that was what admin troop always did, I knew no better!

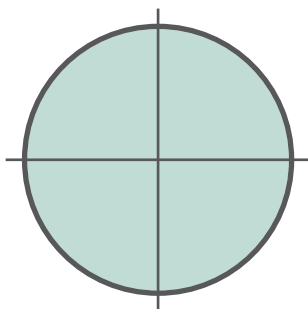
On another exercise the squadron leader (Maj Radcliffe) told John to stay where he was. Three days later he returned, the Maj said "Where have you been you f\*\*\*ing git". I stayed where you told me to stay, I was only obeying orders but I ran out of food so I came back. Maj not pleased, but John was correct. Thereafter for the rest of Camp he reported to the Sqn Ldr by saying "F\*\*\*ing git reporting sir".

He was arrested dressed as a vagrant and started winding up SSgt Turner RP who locked him up and was about to call the police when someone recognised him as Cpl Evans from C Sqn. The RP was not too happy so he kept him locked up for a while. The next time John saw the RP he stole his weapon only for a short time but it was enough to get him worried.

He always liked to volunteer as a waiter for officers and sergeants mess dinners so he could obtain extra cash and maybe with a bit of luck an odd bottle of wine (left over of course). On one of these dinners somebody was being dined out and was going to be presented with a china vase and John was outside the door waiting to be called. When he was called to bring in the vase he dropped a plate on the floor and of course everyone in the room thought the vase was a goner, but it wasn't was it.

He was one of those characters you can never forget and will never be replaced.

John passed away on 21st December 2015 leaving a daughter, son and six grand children.



## **KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS MUSEUM**

**Daniel Taylor**

Some ten years ago I was wine and dine at the Cavalry & Guards by a select group of Sharpshooters and awoke next morning to find that I had volunteered to make a documentary for them. I am disturbed to acknowledge that I have been caught by the same ambush again.

I was asked, ever so gently, by Guy Farage whether I would be willing to join the KSY Museum Trustees. Soothing words about a small workload and just two convivial meetings per year seemed to offer an ideal social outlet with some pleasant and engaging fellow devotees of the country's pre-eminent Reserve Army unit. I should have recognized the signs.

The first meeting, in the orangery at Hever, a couple of years back, was based around some plans to move the museum into a new structure in the castle grounds. Flip charts and PowerPoints reassured me that the planning was well under control and that I could get away with vague affirmative murmurs as the amount of doubloons required to be raised seemed so astronomical that it was little more than a pipe dream. Once again I had under-estimated the resolve of those who had Sharp-shot. Indeed, Chris Sutton seemed able to conjure appropriate word formations for any number of funding forms. Why didn't I notice the signs?

Moving on a year I had the sensation of waking with a hangover. A very full inbox on my computer indicated that I had somehow volunteered to become project manager for the new museum build. Furthermore, the preposterous sum had not only been raised, but exceeded. I really must avoid port at these dinners. Naivety about the scale of the task I had taken on is the only explanation I can offer for my inner belief that it could be done. The backing of the inestimable depth of knowledge of Boris Mollo, coupled with useful guiding insight from Dave Whitehouse, Huw Jones and Tim Rayson, bolstered the fantasy that I was up to the task.



2015 has therefore proved a frenetic year. The box structure for the museum was handed over at the start of February and immediately a flurry of activity commenced. I was very fortunate to find in Andy Martin a builder who quickly







became as enthused as I was about the project. His team set about adapting half the country's supply of 4x2 and Fire retardant Medium Density Fibreboard into our conception of what a Sharpshooter museum ought to look like. Similarly enthused were our electricians, Lee Terry and Mike Head, who adapted my vague sketches into a lighting scheme, and strung the place with kilometres of cabling.

Slowly the museum took shape. Simon Scott's team swathed the structure in dexion and canvas; Barry Forsyth had a gang of chaps install alarms; vast and shiny display cabinets were installed by Andrew Robinson's team; and all the while John Gunn kept me supplied with suitably signed and timely cheques to keep these busy bodies sweet.



Through a welter of site meetings and conference calls the impossible seemed to edge its way into place.

By August we suddenly found ourselves on the final furlong. It is disturbing how the prospect of a Royal opening can galvanise an operation. Gangs of volunteers were turning up and painting things, building oddments and generally beating the building into shape – all ably conducted by the inestimable Edward Hodgskin. One volunteer, Bob Orridge, has built us the interior of a Cromwell tank turret for goodness sake! There are countless others who, though un-named, have contributed to the great task and, without whom, I could not have got close to completing the build. Thank you one and all. I should also mention those sterling chaps from Mitcham Road's REME contingent who ably led by Gavin Harper snuck our Saladin and 25-pdr field gun down to us.

As time for the opening drew near the sheer weight of the to-do list nearly proved our undoing. The panelling was busily being adorned with sticky-back vinyl with text written by a number of hands, edited by Boris and laid-out by myself. With all the other tasks to co-ordinate I had severely under-estimated the amount of time required to complete this design work and so I found myself hurtling towards completion date with little prospect of everything being ready (despite Herculean effort by the printer's designer, Lee Hughes, and his boss, Paul Amner).

With heavy heart, I admitted my reservations and was enormously relieved when Chris decided that it was merely a question of presentation. That which could be completed by 6th September represented the successful completion of Phase 1 of the build! That which was finished later became Phase 2.

The Royal Opening, as noted elsewhere in this tome, was a most gratifying success. It was a terrific honour to escort HRH Princess Alexandra around the museum and I don't feel too bad that the schoolchildren in the party outshone my attempts as tour guide.

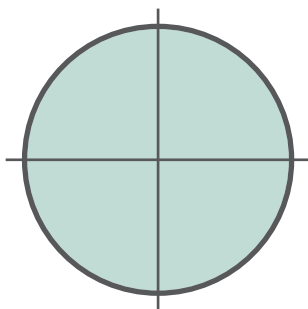
And my reward for seeing the project through to completion? I have been deeply honoured to be offered the post of museum curator. Clearly I accepted before they had time to reconsider. This is, however, a double-edged sword: It is evident that I am taking over from a most accomplished predecessor. Boris is so steeped in Sharpshooter history and lore that he will be an impossible act to follow. As a former Greenjacket I feel something of an imposter – perhaps cuckoo – to be taking on the role. I only hope that I can provide some small percentage of the inestimable benefit that Boris has given to the museum over the years.

So, where are we now? Phase 2 is complete and all of the vinyl is in place. Drawing on our theme, Phases 3, 4 and 5 have now been engendered as further tweaks and adaptations are being put in place. The 'closed' period at Hever during January is being used as an opportunity to evaluate and finesse the displays – including the incorporation of some new artefacts which missed the original deadline. Pleasingly, this means that, when you next come to visit, there will be plenty of new and interesting adaptations for your viewing pleasure.

Additionally, a programme of talks and events is under way with subjects as diverse as 'Waterloo', 'Cooking with Rations'. 'Winston Churchill', and 'War Reporting' will unfold over the coming year. Each will provide an opportunity to visit the museum (without charge), whilst taking in a fascinating discussion of things Sharpshooter related. We hope to see you soon.







# **KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST**

**by Chris Sutton  
Trustee and Chief Executive**

On Sunday 6th September 2015, HRH Princess Alexandra officially opened the new Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum at Hever Castle in Kent. Over 500 guests attended the opening ceremony, in glorious late summer sunshine.

The day began with an inspiring talk by Professor Sir Hew Strachan about the Yeomanry during World War One. Guests then enjoyed demonstrations by World War One re-enactors and the opportunity to picnic in the beautiful grounds of Hever Castle.

The Honorary Colonel of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry, the Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Soames MP, took the salute at the military parade on the castle forecourt. The parade involved serving members of the regiment, members of the Regimental Association and the Royal Russell School CCF, together with the band of the Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry), which played by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Simon McMenemy..

HRH Princess Alexandra, Royal Honorary Colonel, The Royal Yeomanry, arrived at the site of the new museum, and was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the High Sherriff, the chairmen of Sevenoaks District and Kent County Councils, the MP for Tonbridge and Malling, Mr John Guthrie the chairman of Hever Castle Limited, Lt Gen Sir Barney White-Spunner (Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry), and trustees Guy Farage and Chris Sutton. She chatted with the builders, curators and selected schoolchildren, and then toured the museum.

Subsequently Chris Sutton gave a brief speech to thank HRH Princess Alexandra for returning to open the new museum, thirty years after she opened our original museum in the Hever Castle keep, and to thank all the donors, volunteers and contributors who have made the project such a success. He mentioned in particular the Heritage Lottery Fund, represented by South East Regional Chairman Paul Hudson, and the Armed Forces Community Covenant – we were delighted to have officials from SSAFA and the ABF with us at the event.

HRH Princess Alexandra then cut the ribbon and declared the new museum open, before spending time talking with the band, donors and contributors, serving soldiers, old comrades and members of the public. Guy Farage, chairman of the museum trust, then invited her to unveil a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

After her departure from Hever, our guests all enjoyed afternoon tea in the Guthrie Pavilion, where we celebrated the achievements of Boris Mollo, who handed over the curatorial reins to Dan Taylor after an incredible 48 years of exceptional service. The



Opening ceremony Colonel Sir Nicholas reviews the parade.

new museum is a tribute to Boris' vision and successful acquisition strategy across all those years. Dan, who is known to many association members from battlefield tours, has been project director for the new museum project.

Thank you to everyone involved in the day and we look forward to welcoming you back soon!! We are pleased to say that the final wall panels for the period since 1939 are now in place, including the roll of honour, which gives a great reason to make a return visit.

Please also come and support our programme of talks and other activities at the museum throughout 2016. You can read more about that in Edward Hodgskin's article



Photograph: Simon Malik

Opening ceremony Cutting the ribbon - HRH with Chris Sutton.



Photograph: Simon Malik

Opening ceremony HRH in the museum with Dan Taylor and schoolchildren.





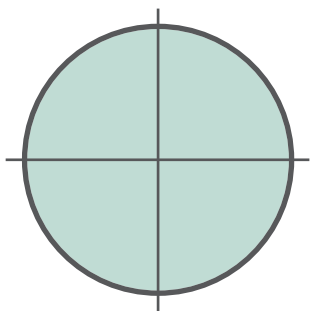
Photograph: Simon Malik

Opening ceremony Members of the Association march off from the parade.



Photograph: Simon Malik

Opening ceremony Members of the Association march off from the parade.

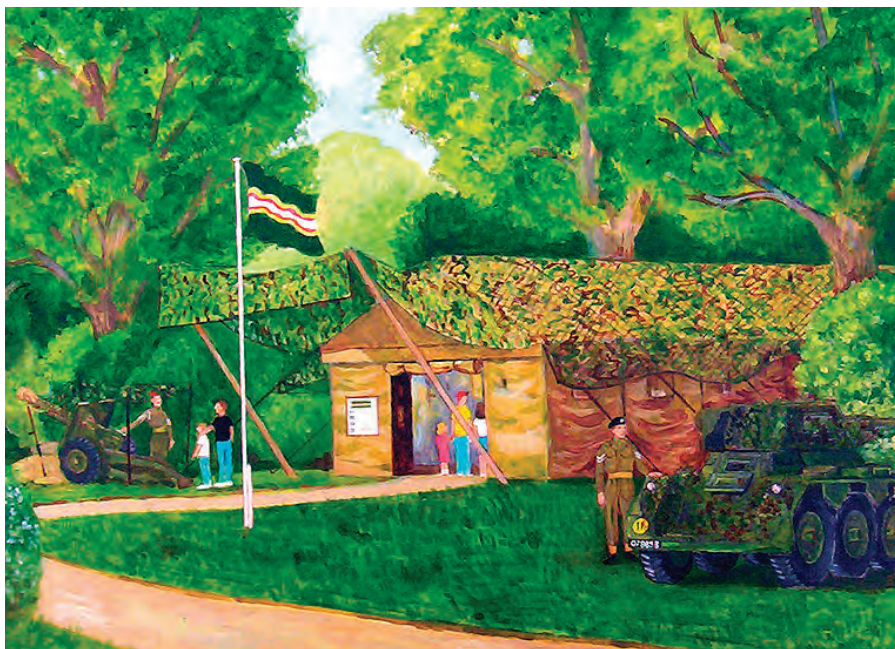


## VOLUNTEERING AT THE NEW MUSEUM

My name is Edward Hodgskin and I came on board as Volunteering Manager in May 2015, having left the Army (2nd Royal Tank Regiment) in November 2013 and this is my first report for the Sharpshooter Journal and the wider Sharpshooter family.

Having hosted Professor Sir Hew Strachan on the day of the Museum's opening, and Professor Ian Becket and Dr Patrick Mileham on 10 October, the Museum's events for 2015 were rounded off by David Whitehouse's excellent seminar on researching ancestors who had served in the British Army.

Once the long, dark nights are behind us, in 2016 the Museum will continue to host outreach events, either in Hever Castle's 'ThinkTank' – the classroom next door to the Museum – or Rickards Hall on Edenbridge High Street. At present there are two important dates for your new diaries which are Tuesday 8 March and Friday 24 June when General Sir Barney White-Spunner (Hon Colonel RY) and Colonel The Rt Hon



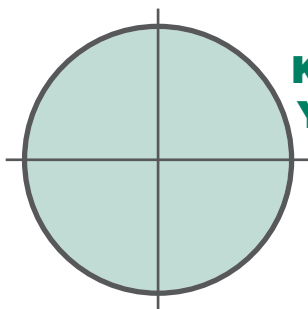
Sir Nicholas Soames (Hon Col The Sharpshooters) will talk about Waterloo and Churchill, respectively. To enable as many as possible to attend, these two talks will be held at Rickards Hall in Edenbridge. Attendance at these and indeed any Museum event depends on gaining a free ticket beforehand. Tickets can be sought online primarily from [tickets@ksymuseum.org.uk](mailto:tickets@ksymuseum.org.uk). However for those not connected to the internet please contact any of the Museum Trustees or officers of the Association who will be able to help you.

Apart from the two talks mentioned above other talks are planned on the reporting of war, the Regiment's crossing of the River Volturno, the Reserve Army today, military model making, and opportunities for senior citizens to come to the Museum to share their stories about their families' experiences in the World Wars (we hope to put the best stories on the Museum's touch screens). Outdoors we are looking to host a map reading challenge for younger supporters and a tour of the pillboxes within the Castle's grounds. Please do keep your eye on the Museum's website for information once it becomes available or as I mention above contact members of the Trust or indeed the Regimental Association.

For those who want to volunteer to support the new Museum maintenance of our Saladin armoured car, 25-pounder gun, and our displays indoors will continue, for which anyone is encouraged to get involved by contacting me at [volunteers@ksymuseum.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@ksymuseum.org.uk). We have a cracking set of sixteen Volunteers, including members of the Regimental family: anyone can and is encouraged to get involved. We need your help! I look forward to hearing from you and helping you support the fantastic new Museum.

EJ Hodgskin  
Volunteering and Community Outreach Officer  
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum  
Hever Castle  
07801 853 427





# **KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST**

## **RECENT ACQUISITIONS 2014-2015**

Trustees : Guy Farage (Chairman), Chris Sutton,  
Dan Taylor, John Gunn, Tony Jewell

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

Boris Mollo held the post of Curator until the day of the Museum opening, 6th September 2015, when, after an informal hand shake, the role passed to Dan Taylor. Boris had sometimes clearly not been on top form as we struggled with the enormous task of completing the museum. However, none of us guessed the toll it had taken on his health. He has been so much a part of the fabric of the Regiment and the museum that a future without his knowledge and understanding could barely be contemplated. His untimely death will inevitably leave a chasm that will be very challenging to fill.

Curatorial posts held, as of 7th September 2015

Curator : Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary : Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon) : Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath) : David Whitehouse

As might be expected, with the opening of the new museum, the last twelve months have provided a veritable deluge of additions to the museum's collection. At last count, there are 55 items that have been, or are being processed, catalogued and accessioned. Further items are awaiting this task and so it is impossible to list everything at this time. There follows a listing of some more eye-catching items, and a list to give a flavour of the rest. The dedicated medal hall in the museum has, in particular, led to a number of new medal sets being gifted to us.

### **Medal Group, Lt Col AA Cameron, DSO MC, 1939-45**

#### **Gift: The Cameron Family**

**2015-40**

Sandy Cameron features prominently in the history of the Sharpshooters during the Second World War. After distinguished service with 4 CLY in the Western Desert, he took command of 3 CLY at the time of the invasion of Sicily. The Cameron family were keen to have Sandy's medals on display to the public, but the value of the original set means that they have to be kept under lock and key. Therefore, they commissioned a





reproduction set for our display.

#### **Medal Set – The Wharton Collection**

**Loan: Mr Colin Heape**

**2015-39**

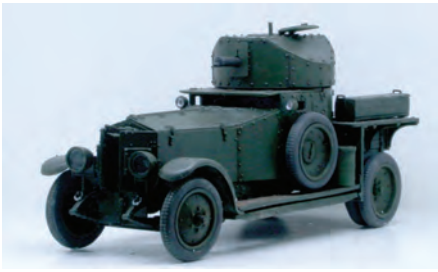
Though lacking a direct link to the regiment, the loan of this set of medals was particularly poignant in this bicentenary of the battle of Waterloo. It comprises a Waterloo Medal; a General Service Medal with clasp marked Fuentes d'Onor (Peninsular War); New Zealand Medal (Moari War 1864-1866); and an Indian General Service Medal (WWI).

#### **Medal Group, Documents and Insignia, SSM GG Rose MM**

**Purchase**

**2015-44**

In addition to a fine medal set, the George Rose collection comprises a number of photographs, assorted documents and some of the insignia pertaining to his trade as mechanic. As an indication of the breadth of the collection, it also includes a set of



... War 1899-1902, the British Army suffered defeat at the hands of the Boers, a group of men who were not only skilled marksmen but also good horsemen. The Earl of Dundee was to raise a squadron of "Sharpshooters". A commander was formed in 1899 and by March 1900, a full battalion (18th Battalion) had been raised for one year's service. The battalion formed part of the Boers' field force intended to threaten the Transvaal and the capital of Pretoria from the north. After six months' training the unit was abandoned and the battalion spent its remaining six months in the Orange Free State engaged in anti-guerrilla warfare. In January 1901, the Government made a further call for volunteers. Between February and May another 1,200 men were recruited by the Sharpshooters Committee and formed into two battalions, the 21st and 23rd. The 21st were sent to the Johannesburg area and the 23rd to the Transvaal. By July 1900 the British had taken the main towns of the Transvaal ending all formal resistance. However the Boers continued guerrilla warfare for another 18 months. The British first used heavy Imperial Yeomanry and Mounted Infantry. They then relied on mounted columns, light machine guns, and eventually the Boers accepted British sovereignty.

Meanwhile back in the UK, a permanent Regiment of Sharpshooters was formed on 23 July 1901 and named the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters). In recognition of its active service battalions, the new Regiment was awarded the battle honour: South Africa 1900-02.



drivers licences dating back to 1929 plus various discharge papers.

**Medal Group, WO2 VP Jewell, 3 CLY, 1939-45**

**Purchase: Boswells 1st July 2015**

**2015-9**

Squadron Sergeant-Major Jewell was one of 3 CLY's original senior NCOs and Jimmy Sale took an excellent group picture which includes him whilst *en-route* to Egypt in 1941 on the SS Orion. This set of medals has a slightly chequered history as they were 're-appropriated' many years ago. It is a pleasure, therefore, that these medals have found their way back into the Regimental family.

**SSM's Gloves/Gauntlets, SSM Jewell, 3 CLY, 1939-45**

**Gift: Tony Jewell**

**2015-41**

This type of glove was issued to motorcyclists and specialised trades within the Army from the 1930s. For the role of SSM within an armoured regiment, they would have been essential for a wide range of tasks. They are in very good condition and the leather remains supple.

**Personal Album, Alfred Wilkerson, 3 CLY**

**Gift: Richard Black (London Medal Company)**

**2015-42**

Presented in the form of a 'This is Your Life' journal, this album outlines Wilkerson's time with the Regiment during the First World War through to its presentation in 1961. He had been a Corporal Saddler – dealing with all manner of leatherware at a time when the majority of kit was made of leather. It goes on to cover a number of post-war Regimental dinners and his service as an ARP Warden in the Second World War.

**Battlefield Relic – Wrecked shell case and ammo rack section**

**Gift: Yann Joualt**

**2015-55**

This twisted lump of metal was found by French metal detectorists in a field near Villers-Bocage where A Squadron 4 CLY were lost on 13 June 1944. It was once a shell case for a 75mm round with part of the rack which held it still wrapped around. It is likely to have come from one of the Cromwell tanks of No 2 or No 3 Troop which were photographed in the orchard which once stood at this point.

**Ceramic Desert Fox**

**Purchase: V Cosier**

**2015-18**

As part of the new displays, it was decided that Noball, a desert fox cub adopted by the crew of John Cloudsley-Thompson's tank, was to become the museum's motif. A noted local ceramic artist, Veronica Cosier, who specialises in the portrayal of animals, was engaged to create a suitable sculpture, and this was the result.

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The collection of scale models has been expanded with the eventual intention of displaying all of the vehicle types used by the various branches of the Regiment to a constant scale. To this end, we have already added models depicting the Rolls Royce 1920 Pattern Armoured Car, A13 Cruiser Mk IV Tank, M3 Stuart Mk I Light Tank, A15 Crusader Mk I Tank, Humber Scout Car, the A27M Cromwell Mk IV Tank,

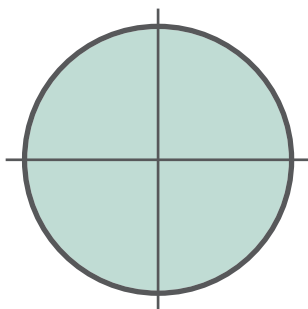
Sherman Mk Vc Firefly, M3A3 Stuart Light Tank Mk V, Daimler Dingo Mk III Scout Car, Ferret Mk 2/3 Scout Car, and CVR(W) Fox Armoured Car. Each is depicted in colour schemes based on the Regiment's photograph collection.

Also added to the collection were a number of original and reproduction uniform items – specifically aimed at providing suitable attire for our mannequins to illustrate specific characters from the Regimental history. These included shirts, scarves, webbing, goggles, boots and even a 1940s pattern headset and microphone.

The reference library was expanded with half a dozen new titles with topics ranging from Gallipoli to the current British Army. Ways are being sought to make the reference collection more accessible to researchers.

The Museum is always grateful to receive donations of artefacts, uniforms, medals, documents, letters, diaries or other items related to the Regiment's history. We do our best to display a representative selection at Haver and in the squadron museums at Bexleyheath and Croydon. Original documents and photographs are preserved in the regimental archives, those of the Kent Yeomanry at Bexleyheath and those of the Sharpshooters at Croydon. These may be consulted by prior appointment (e-mail [curator@ksymuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@ksymuseum.org.uk) or phone 01732 840562)





## C (KSY) SQUADRON RY

Having taken over from Maj Charlie Field on April Fool's Day (his idea, not mine!), 2015 has been another hectic year for the Squadron as we continue our best efforts to re-role to Light Cavalry. Occasionally it has appeared that the goal posts are continually being moved ever further away for us to achieve the aim of being operational in our new vehicles and role. However, the Squadron has continued to grow in numbers. More importantly, the Squadron has proved its ability to put out into the field Yeoman whose spirit and character show them to be worthy successors of the battle hardened reconnaissance regiments in whose footsteps we all proud to follow.

Aside from the usual training, the Squadron has also been faced with the challenges of adapting the Croydon ARC to accommodate a REME Company and the subsequent dispersal of the Museum Room (admittedly to much better effect) around the ARC; and of finding a new home for Windsor Troop whose exponential growth has led them to outgrow their current home inside Combermere Barracks.

High points of the training year included:

- The Regimental MATTs and ranges weekend in Swynerton, in particular the mid ranges pit stop at the Trg Capt's family hotel (aka Vakil Towers), which made the burger van at the back of most Army ranges a bad memory.
- A dismounted exercise on Salisbury Plain where our new REME friends sportingly played enemy and did a very effective impression of surly locals.
- The Regimental CPX where the Sqn SHQ had been so thoroughly over-prepared and technologically enhanced by the 2ic that RHQ had to resort to asking us to print out the DS solution to the Exercise having left their own printer behind– it would have been rude not to take a copy...
- A Regimental FTX where 2Lt Jones's enthusiasm for getting up close and personal on a CTR led to him conduct it inside the enemy position.
- A Sqn Open Day in Croydon with over 120 attendees.
- Annual camp – split between Bovington and Ranges in Germany.
- A mounted exercise in Aldershot where a real life casualty (which fortunately ended happily) showed the point of all the drills.

However, the highlight for the Sqn was the opening of the new Squadron museum at Hever Castle. I for one had no idea so many hundreds of Sharpshooters, families, friends and well wishers existed, let alone would come to support the opening. It is a





Photograph: Simon Malik



Photograph: Simon Malik





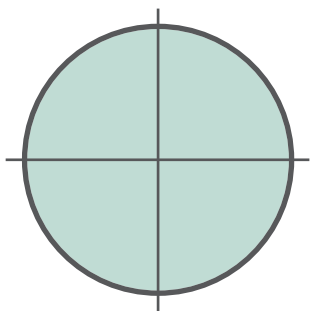


sterling testimony to all the hours of hard work put in by all involved – to get the museum project funded, built, and opened in such style. Leading the Sqn behind the ICCY Band under a glorious Indian Summer's day down to Hever Castle and taking the salute of Colonel Sir Nicholas Soames was one of the proudest moments of my military career.

In terms of personalities: Capt Jules Moore has returned from his brief 'SF' flirtation at the HAC to become 2ic, Capt Alex Vakil has stepped up as Training Captain, and we have welcomed an almost embarrassing number of subalterns. While two of them have won well deserved places on the Lead First scheme to spend a year with the HCR and QDG respectively, we still are fully manned for troop leaders – alone in the RY Sabre Sqns.

For 2016 – the focus for the first half of the year will be the Guidon Parade, followed by the ever present challenge to recruit and retain, as well as to find a new home for Windsor.





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

## 71st (CITY OF LONDON) YEOMANRY SIGNAL REGIMENT

### “What a year – 2015”

#### January / February / March

A new Year and a new up to date FOE for the remainder of the training year, and the Squadron were prepared to complete the training year in style. Under new Management of caretaker OC Major “Paul” Ukpai and Sqn 2 IC Capt “Ian” Mackay and newly appointed SPSI SSgt “Don” Donaldson. The Christmas cheer, a distant memory and we were ready for our first Exercise in **Blandford**, A joint venture of Ops training, trade and BSS involving officers, SNCOs and men of the Sqn practicing estimate training and dismounted **BOWMAN** skills in the ideal surrounds of **Blandford Camp**, a place where the majority of the Sqn had “spookily” never been. The following week found the Sqn completing an Equipment Care Weekend, where all three BOWMAN detachments, under the command of SSgt “Dave” Haskell, three TCOPOs, under the command of SSgt “Daz” Lane and the stand alone REEBOK detachment were thoroughly checked over by the Sqn Ops team under the watchful eye of Sqn PSI (T) Sgt “Guy” Fraser and newly appointed Sqn 2 IC Capt “Ian” Mackay ensuring a thoroughly intensive inspection was carried out. February now find the Sqn Ops team planning for a low level comms exercise in **Longmoor**. The newly appointed caretaker OC Maj “Paul” Ukpai’s main aim is to deploy the Echelon base including the SCP and proactive REPLEN and real life echelon skills over the weekend. In the not too distant future looms another visit to **Blandford** and the dismounted **BOWMAN** trainer being the main asset for the operators of the Sqn to practice their skills on. Meanwhile during this period Sqn personnel attending Adventure Training in France, skiing for nine days, completing their MATTs for Annual Bounty and preparing for the new Training Year Cycle.

#### April / May / June

The Squadron has been particularly busy over the last two to three months in preparation for the Annual Deployment exercise (ADE) to be held in **Wathgill camp** and **Warcop** training areas. The main effort (ME) for June was exercise Phoenix Warrior, a platoon level infantry based weekend in sunny Thetford. The three main Signal Squadron’s provided infantry sections and the Support Squadron provided a section, logistical support, DS staff and main command players. The exercise was driven



Members of 265 Sp Sqn Supporting the Infantry Exercise at Thetford (Ex Phoenix Warrior).

hard by the newly appointed **RSM**, WO1 “Paul” Robertson ensuring that individuals were tested at all levels. The **FOB** was to be the home for all for the next 48 hours, starting with a relief in place, moving onto battle lessons, defence of the FOB, orders (at all levels), aggressive patrolling and finishing with a platoon attack on a suspicious looking enemy, mainly the DS dressed up in their “best trapping kit”. G4 logistics was provided, as usual by SSgt “Paul” Thwaite ably assisted by SSgt “Ian” Lapidge and the catering provided superbly by LCpl “Sylvia” Hirst. Sgt “Mo” Morris was IC comms assisted by Sig’s “Bex” Becks and “Emma” Stewart, ensuring comms was established and maintained from the FOB to the sections on the ground. Capt “Ian” Mackay and “Khush” Cooper had key roles to play, with the planning of the routine and orders in the **FOB** to Capt “Khush” Cooper leading and controlling the final platoon attack. Outstanding efforts were noted from Sgt “Jim” Sutton and Sigs “Danny” Wilsher, “Alex” Lovett and Sig “John” Moody who provided endless supplies of ammo for the GPMG. Loads of rounds, big bangs and bags of smoke later, the battle was won. All that was left was the long “tab” back to the **FOB**, food, medals and the mandatory regimental “battle” photo. June saw the Squadron provide G4 and comms support to Ex Phoenix Gallop on Salisbury Plain. This was a good chance to shake out the cobwebs and to fine tune procedures in preparation for **ADE**. The **ADE** has fantastic opportunities to test the Squadron in its UK Ops role and a final “green” phase, ready for AT, BBQ’s, Sports competition, regimental dinners and the final drive back to our ARC in Bexleyheath.

## July / August / September

Again, this has been a pretty busy period for members of the squadron in preparing for the pinnacle point in the training calendar, namely Annual Deployment Exercise (**ADE**). Balancing the preparation for **ADE** and **RSIT** the detachments and **A2 Ech** were well prepared for what lay ahead. Outstanding performances go to the **SQMS**, **SSgt “Paul” Thwaite** and **SPSI SSgt “Don” Donaldson**, in getting the Squadron to the start line in very good order. Congratulations go to **Pte “Mac” McNally** and **Sig John “Rock” Moody** on completing their Phase 1 a & b training, **Sig Chrissy “T” Tewogbade** on passing her selection. Good luck goes out to **Sigs “Andy” Carrigan** and **“Patrick” O-Boateng** in their attempt to become **Class 3 CS OP (R)** in November in sunny **Blandford**. A very warm welcome goes to our new **OC Maj Paul Baker TD** recently posted into the Squadron from **Thorny Island**. The Squadron is now preparing for remembrance Sunday in **Bexleyheath** and will be joined by the Mayor and **DL** or the **London Borough of Bexley** for this occasion. Additionally the final two exercises of the year will constitute a comms exercise in November and a **MATTs** exercise in December.

## EXERCISE PHOENIX FOCUS 15 – ANNUAL DEPLOYMENT EXERCISE SEPTEMBER 2015

by Sqn 2 i/c Capt Ian Mackay

September saw the Regiment and 265 Support Squadron’s busiest month of the year with the Annual Deployment Exercise based in **Wathgill**, utilising Training Areas around **Warcop** and sunny **Catterick**, for a five-day UKOPs scenario driven by 11 Sig Bde followed by a Regimental lead Tactical Green Phase in the field, finally culminating in Regimental AT – with a well-earned beer, Sports and Visitors Day in glorious Yorkshire sunshine, then the exercise turnaround and closedown at **Wathgill**. For the first time we had a Regular contingent of attached personnel from our partnered Regiment, 3 Signal Regiment **Bulford**, with REME support from 103 Bn, the first time the system has been used by ourselves

Saturday 12th Sept dawned bright and fair with the 265 Support Squadron convoy, ably led by Capt Khush (“Gimme that Airwave”) Cooper departing Bexleyheath for The North at 0830 hours – a largely uneventful and long haul up the M1 and A1 following the cunningly disguised route card devised by our very own MT Guru SSgt Daz (“I’ve said it once – so I’ll say it again”) Lane. We arrived unscathed, if a little tired at **Wathgill** – the well-known communications (if you have Vodafone) black spot, just in time for evening meal.

Suitably refreshed after a good night’s sleep on beds that should have been in the Hilton and showers that involve having to be spread eagled against the walls to get wet, Sunday was a mixture of testing and pre-deployment checks. RHQ took over the CAST Trainer in **Catterick** while the Sqn set up the **A2 Echelon** at **Wathgill** in preparation to support the Regiment. Our FFR crew of Sgt Jim (“Is that a mirror?”) Sutton assisted by Cpl’s Paul (“Pardon?”) Broadbent, Carl (“Crazy”) Crane and Brett (“Barista”) Harries soon had the Detachment set up with the Vodafone reliant CST equipment looking menacing in the corner. Routine is the key to any exercise; fortunately we had the numbers to allow this. As the exercise developed 265 practiced our real life role

resupplying rations and fuel to deployed elements – but only if they asked, no-one went hungry, some learnt some valuable lessons, Major Mike (“Where’s my lunch?”) Curtis-Rouse will remember it well. SSgt Tony (“No Sympathy”) Eastley, Sgt Fummi (“I’ll strap that”) Osho and Pte (Can I stick a needle in it?) Turner were always busy especially when presented with their first case of suspected D&V at 0630 day 1. Fortunately this was an isolated case and a pandemic was avoided.

With the UKOP’s phase drawing to a close, the Sqn departed early to **Warcop Moor House Farm** in preparation to receive the Regiment for its Tactical Phase. Catering was provided by our very own chef’s SSgt Taylor and Pte Liam (“I cook Sushi”) Burbridge with all the behind scenes organisation and work carried out by the unsung heroes of SSgt’s Ian (“I’ll do anything”) and Paul (“Pan-Bash) Thwaite. We detached our FFR crews to other Squadrons with A2 Ech and RHQ operated by reinforcements from 3 Signal Regiment, many thanks to Cpl (Clarkey) Clarke and his team for showing us how it’s done – despite being obscured by Sig (Day and) Knight man pack size vapping kit, LCpl (Smudge) Smith talking like he was belt fed, so much so he needed sub-titles and Cpl (Cully) Culliford for educating the REME in how to fix a generator. Our would be aggressors of The Cumbrian Liberation Front – who bore a striking resemblance to WO1 (RSM) Robertson, SPSI’s and other permanent staff such as the QM Capt Frank (“I’m texting my missus!”) Greenwood, proved no match for the destructive fighting prowess of the regiments soldiers or the threat of interment at Moor House Farm for use as pan bash, soon crumbled – all too soon it was all over and time for another master plan by 265 Support Squadron of reconstitution to be initiated – what could possibly go wrong? Well if it wasn’t for the advance party back to **Wathgill** breaking down en route or the POL point having no POL, not much, fortunately a 13’6” “Pantec Truck” does fit under a 13’6” bridge – otherwise it was a long walk with the POL point keys to **Warcop Camp**.

The next phase was the eagerly awaited Adventure Training, kindly funded The Company of Drapers and organised by SSgt Don (“need another push bike”) Donaldson MBE, The Squadron was split into an A&B Team to take part in events such as Sedgway driving, buggy driving with slick tyres on wet grass (interesting) and an equally uncontrollable dual engine and crewed contraption where one driver controls a two position throttle (fully on or off) and the other driver is supposed to control the other. Luckily there was a gap after our attempt which saw SSgt Paul Thwaite and Sig Danny (Cruise Control) Wilshire, disappear into the distance after trashing every single cone on the marked out course. Suitably confused by the concept of map reading we arrived after lunch at the Raft Building stand, we played our Joker and with Capt Ian (“Pigwash”) Mackay designed craft (The stand DS said it would never work, having seen nothing like it - ever) promptly propel 265 Sp Sqn Team B to a best ever time and maximum 100 points. Time eventually ran out, we missed the Leap of Faith – a 60 foot climb up a wooden pole followed by a giant leap into space to punch a ball suspended in mid air – after three unsuccessful attempts Cpl Brett (“I’ve got short arms) Harries finally admitted defeat, still he only let down the 265 Sp Sqn A Team – you are the Weakest Link.

All that remained of ADE was a Sports and Visitors day, 265 Sqn again showing they are a force to be reckoned with on a sports pitch – providing it is Tug-o’-War coached by our secret weapon PSAO Capt Steve (“Trib”) Slaney. The Squadron team finished



top in the five-a-side football competition, comfortably pushing aside all opposition, however our volley ballers were appalling. After a quick shower and change the Officers and SNCO's of the Squadron attended a Regimental joint mess dinner function – interestingly held in a local establishment that had never experienced or hosted one before, not that anyone noticed. A huge credit and thanks go out to all that organised the event, well done, a fantastic function and thank you for our sore heads.

Sadly Friday and the inevitable kit finding and turn round took place on **Wathgill** car park, just when you think it's all over – up pops the QM Dept with 100 plus weapons to clean – deep joy! However the high point was the Regimental photograph in Richmond, with the beautiful castle in the background. Everyone mucked in for the remainder of the day and in a couple of hours everything was loaded ready to travel back down South on Saturday, hopefully in time for the big game (the less said about that – the better) on the TV.

### **October / November**

Following on from a successful Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE), in recent weeks the Squadron has focussed on the lessons learnt as well as preparing for the Royal Signals Inspection Team due in December. All key communications assets, procedures and detachment folders, including BOWMAN, REEBOK, CST and TCOPO detachments were meticulously inspected by the Squadron residential PSI (T) Sgt “Guy” Fraser and the detachment commanders were tasked and supervised



Oc Leads the Remembrance Sunday Parade at Bexleyheath.

accordingly.

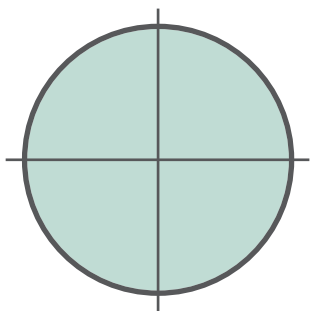
There have been a number of key personality changes, including the change of Command of the Squadron on the 1st Oct by Major “Paul” Baker TD, who assumed command from Major “Paul” Ukpai, who has left us to command the Berkshire Squadron in Windsor, namely 94 Signal Squadron, we wish him good luck in his new command. Also SSgt “Dave” Haskell, who has taken over the role of Squadron Sergeant Major from SSgt “Leigh” Griffiths, and the Squadron are looking forward to your inspirational guidance and direction for the future.

One of the Squadrons recent highlights of the year is a permanent fixture in our calendar of organising and running on behalf of the local RBL the Borough Remembrance Sunday parade and civic service of remembrance. The Army Reserve Centre and reserves are utilised to host such dignitaries as the Mayor of Bexleyheath and her party including local MP’s, Councillors and representatives from the Borough Police and Fire Brigade departments. A considerable amount of cadet units also take part in the parade, ranging from contingents of Army, Air, Sea, Marine, Police and Fire cadets. The event concluded with a curry lunch in the Squadron bar which was well received by one and all including a large contingent of extremely well turned out and immaculately dressed veterans who enjoyed a glass or two of port with the PSAO Capt “Steve” Slaney. Additionally former members of the Squadron and families of the reserves were in abundance enjoying a quality time and curry served by our mother and son pairing of LCpl “Sylvia” Hirst and her son Pte “Mac” McNally.

The Squadron remains fully recruited, trained and focused to carry out its role to







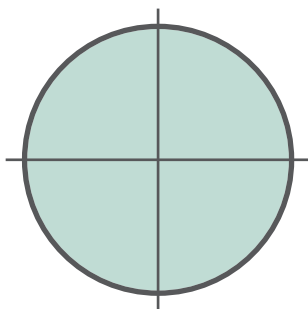
## ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL CCF



As ever with the CCF we lose our senior NCOs at the end of the academic year and start the new year off with a new set plus a new intake of cadets. Although May/June is heavy with exams we still managed to undertake some interesting activities including taking part in Waterloo 200 celebrations. Our annual camp of seven days was this year held at Penally in Wales which is almost as far west as Castlemartin – and we had six Australian Army cadets from Scotch College, Melbourne attached for the first three days of it. Everyone got on fine – the weather untypically being good rather than wet – and the Australians got to fire the Cadet Rifle system as well as undertake tactical training that they do not normally do using blanks.

The Contingent was proud to take part in the opening of the new Museum at the beginning of September and some cadets were very lucky to be presented to HRH Princess Alexandra. One cadet was selected to present the ceremonial scissors to HRH to cut the tape and was tipped with a £1 coin by the Princess.

At the end of October we will have held our first weekend training camp for the new intake and undertake training with our JNCOs to ascertain where the budding SNCOs are.



## **KSY MUSEUM TRUST**

### **CROYDON REPORT**

Notwithstanding the success of the opening of the new Museum it had been my intention as Curator for Croydon to carry out a refresh of the Alam El Halfa Museum Room at Croydon and to look at ways of updating the displays. I particularly wanted a Squadron input because they are the prime customers. No sooner than I had started looking at producing a plan of work then I was advised that the room had to close as it was now required by the Squadron as a locker room following the arrival of the REME and their takeover of the former JRC and locker room there.

The arrival of the REME has incidentally meant that the JRC has been stripped of all pictures and artefacts and these have been stored around the TAC. However the loss of the Museum Room means that there is now much more property that needs to be assessed and reallocated/put into store.

Following a meeting with the OC it was agreed that conceptually there should be a 'walk through' museum on the first floor corridor utilising the wall panels in the Museum. The panels will have photographs/prints/artefacts facing them on the opposite wall which will be keyed to the panels therefore providing further information on specific aspects. The display cases were to be redistributed around the Drill Hall where there was space for them. However it was recognised that one or possibly two of these might become redundant due to lack of space.

I, together with Kevin Wright (KSYA Standard Bearer) and a party of eight from the serving Squadron started work on the relocation project on Saturday 28th November and essentially completed it in one day. I was anxious to prove the concept of the linear museum so we removed just one panel from the museum and relocated it – with some difficulty – into the corridor and got input from the soldiers on height, visibility and whether it actually worked for them. Fortunately it did and everyone set to work with a will – and in Kevin's case a drill! The panels and supporting photographs are now all up in the top corridor providing a walk through Museum. The four display cases have been removed and relocated around the Drill Hall as follows: two display cases are in the entrance hall with a particularly good display of uniforms whilst the remaining two are in the Dunraven Room at present together with the medals cabinet. The opportunity has also been taken to reunite the medals belonging to Colonel Macdowell together with the display case with his DSO booklet in it with his portrait in the Officers Mess thus creating a coherent story about this important Sharpshooter. We will see if we can also get his dress tunic in there as well thus providing more input to his story.

The work was finally – well almost – completed on 12th December and we now move forward into the New Year with a raft of tasks to be completed including conducting a



The View from the Sqn Ldrs office (left) and the view from the Pay Office (right).

full audit of all of the property and a refresh of the archive including co-locating the silver store with it. And what of the pictures in the store? There is a plan to mount these as a single collection – or a selection of them – next year and I will be working on that with the Sqn as the year progresses. In the meantime I would like to publicly thank those that helped out on the 28th November because without them we could not have done it – and I look forward to more help next year to realise the emerging vision for the new museum.

In the meantime and spanning the same period – if not before – I have been active in getting some important new acquisitions for the Trust and in particular Croydon. The first of these was an email appeal to the Sharpshooter family to raise funds to purchase the medals of WO2 Rose MM who was the Regimental ‘Tiffany’ in the desert. Fortunately we were successful in raising sufficient funds to purchase the group together with an absolute cornucopia of ephemera which were it not for the Museum opening would have kept Boris extremely busy. The next acquisition was the gifting (by his family) in September of the medals of Corporal Arthur Cook MM 3CLY. This set of medals were accompanied by a variety of documents and letters but the really unusual thing is that he never wore them so they were in mint condition with original ribbons and in their boxes. Finally the third acquisition is the loan by the family of the medals belonging to Captain K Berelowitz MC together with his SD hat and various papers. All of these medal groups will be on display at Croydon for the next 12 months before transferring to the museum at Hever. In the meantime I enclose as part of this article photographs of all three medal groups and their citations.

These three sets of medals tell different stories of great bravery and gallantry by our forebears and I would like to thank David Black who helped us secure the Rose group,

June Senior and the family of Arthur Cook for their great generosity in passing his medals to the Museum for the Sharpshooters to enjoy and Keith Berelowitz for allowing us the opportunity of showing his grandfather's medals so that Sharpshooters today can appreciate a little known part of the Battle of Villers Bocage.

Tim Rayson  
Curator, Croydon

Army Form W. 3121.

Date recommendation passed forward **13**  
Received **12 FEB 1942** Passed **13 FEB 1942**

**22nd Armcd. Brigade** Division **4th C.L.V.** Corps  
Schedule No. **7892934 (A/P/W.O.II) (QMS(M))**  
Unit **4th C.L.V.**  
Army No. and Rank **George Gibson ROSE**  
Name **George Gibson ROSE**  
(Christian names must be stated)

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
This Warrant Officer with his fitters was always right up in the battle areas during recent operations in the Western Desert during the periods 18th Nov. - 29th Nov. and 23rd Dec. - 30th Dec. Although travelling only in an unarmed truck, he would time and time again come up to a tank which had broken down while in action and, although under heavy fire, would get about putting the trouble right as if nothing was happening about him and as if only the vehicle being made a "runner" mattered.	Lt. Col. W.G. Carr	Immediate Award	MM Coburn Commander in Chief, Middle East Forces.
During the battle in the area of the S.A. Leaguer on 23rd Nov. he was working on a broken-down tank with shells falling all around him. By the time he got the tank going the enemy were in the Leaguer; he made dashes from one slit trench to another, found his fitters lorry and drove out almost through the enemy lines. Again on 30th Dec. when we had to	Lt. Col. W.G. Carr	Immediate Award	

P.T.O. **2775**

withdraw at BELANDAH he stayed behind in a desperate effort to get a tank going and so strengthen our slender force. He stayed at work on this tank until the enemy were dangerously close and get away with only a few seconds to spare, a hail of bullets falling round him. It was due to his courage in coming right up on these occasions and to his great ability that many tanks were saved and crews prevented from falling into enemy hands.

His great spirit inspired all the regimental fitters.



Rose group of medals and citation.





3002/PMSC-0000-442		Date Recommendation passed forward		Army Form W. 3121		
4th Armoured Brigade		XIII Corps		26.7.43		
1000		1000		1000		
Schedule No. (to be left blank)	Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name (Christian names must be given)	Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by (Signature)	Approved by (Signature)
	3rd County of London Yeomanry	7911971	W/S/Opl. Arthur COOK	At TRENTWELL north of MELILLI on 13 Jul 43 the tank formation in which Opl. Cook was a tank commander went forward to aid an infantry position which was being heavily counter-attacked by the enemy. The tanks came under devastating A/T. fire and in a short time only Opl. Cook's tank and two others remained in action. Cook coolly fought his tank to give our infantry the maximum support, and withdrew with and in conformity with them. The enemy attack was halted, and as our own troops were reorganising Opl. Cook observed that the tank on his right front was on fire and the crew in difficulty. He went forward on foot under very heavy mortar and S.A. fire to the blazing tank. He rescued the two survivors and beat out their burning clothing absolutely regardless of his own danger. He rendered first aid, got the wounded men under cover, returned to his tank and shortly afterwards went forward again when our infantry attacked to restore the position. The commendation was based on the fact that Opl. Cook's coolness and lack of regard for his own safety were of the highest order.	Recommended by M. M. MM	Approved by Lieut. General Commander, 13 Corps
Awarded M.M.		L.C. 21. 10.43		Granted on Immediate M.M. B. B. Dondorey		15825
		H. R. Alexander		General, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, 45 Army Group.		

Cook medals and citation.



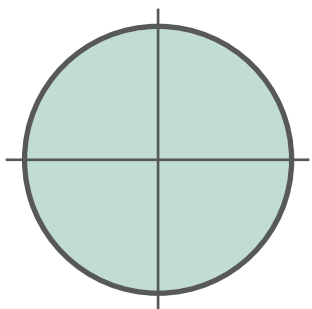




Croydon new entrance display.



New decorations outside the Joint Mess.



## **CURATOR'S REPORT**

### **Bexleyheath Museum 2015**

The last year have seen some changes to the exhibits at Bexleyheath. The uniform of Captain Best (KSY:2011-05) has now been removed and installed in the new museum at Hever. Likewise Binoculars (KSY:1997-03) that were on display in the WW1 cabinet have been relocated to the WW1 display at Hever. The Punjabi statuette (KSY:1950-37) that was in storage at Bexleyheath is now on display in the new museum at Hever.

There has been some good news with regards to silver cups undergoing renovation with a silversmith with whom we had lost contact. I have re-established contact with David Barker who has completed the work on two silver cups. These cups have been picked up by Chris and are now in my possession so that they can be returned to Bexleyheath. One of the cups (KSY:1985-23-3) is part of a collection awarded to Sgt Foreman in the 1920's. The other is a silver cup engraved 'Sharpshooter Cup' presented by the OC of 265 Squadron in the 1980's. This latter item appears not to have been accessioned and I recommend that we do so.

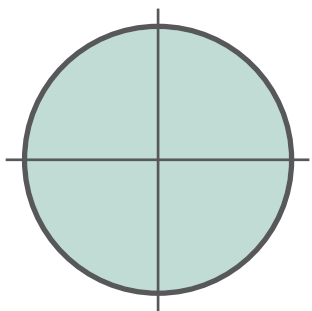
The KCLY personnel database now contains 15,607 names of those who have served in the Kent Yeomanry or Sharpshooters. Work has been completed on a version of the database that is being used in the registry of the new museum. This only includes records of those who served up to and including WW2.

The computer system used to catalogue items in our collection, including those at Bexleyheath, is known as MODES which was developed some years ago. It is becoming evident that MODES is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain and update. This is due mainly to the fact that the software is currently run on two different operating systems and to keep them updated will mean purchasing new licenses which are expensive. With experience gained with the development of the Personnel Database, I have begun to develop a more flexible and simpler solution to replace MODES that can be hosted on-line if required.

Our programme of digitising the Kent Yeomanry archives at Bexleyheath is ongoing. In April 2015 work begun on the third tranche of photographs for digitisation. The work on this tranche is now complete, and in the New Year it is hoped that the work will begin on the fourth tranche.

I have completed a written history of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry from the formation of the Yeomanry in 1794 up to the present day. The document (comprising 72 A4 pages) has been prepared primarily as a reference for our volunteers but could also be used for other outreach activities.

David Whitehouse, Assistant Curator



## **“WENT THE DAY WELL” THE LORD MAYOR’S SHOW 2015**

**by Terry Bodman, KSYA**

Went the day well went the day wet, yes another wet one this year, we few we happy few. Only five of us this year due to various reasons, even our faithful Standard Bearer Kevin had disappeared of the face of the earth. I arrived to find the Low-loader all spruced up with new paint work and new updated Association signage, looking good. This year was the 800th anniversary of the show, now that is some going!



We had very good TV coverage by the BBC with Dan Snow, the best we have had for many a year it's just a pity there was not more of us on board, slightly less crowds in places possibly due to the weather or the increased Security with lots of armed police in place. So plenty of waving till your arms ache and then a stop for the lunch break with plenty of packed lunches, with so few of us we had plenty to spare. Then it was mount up for the return back with more waving to London Wall for a dismount, take photos then head for home for a dry out.

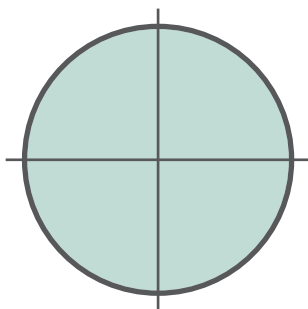


Our thanks go to Rex Cadman of the War & Peace Revival for his Continuing support, our Driver (Huggie) and co driver Rory for a smooth ride, to Major C Field and his team from C Sqn and the Royal Yeomanry for their help and assistance. To Helen at the Pageantmasters Office for all her valuable help and assistance with the feeding vouchers and Vehicle Pass.

Association members on board were our President Guy Farage, Secretary Tim Rayson, Mike Swan and his Traveling assistance Anna, and me.







## **THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE: 5 NOVEMBER 2015**

**by Marian Hannam**

The Field of Remembrance Service, which is held annually by the Royal British Legion at Westminster as part of their annual Poppy Appeal commemorations, opened on the morning Thursday 5 November. The lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster, between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament had been marked out with plots for 390 regimental and armed services associations.

The *Association* plot contained three large crosses representing the *KSY*, the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *CLY (Sharpshooters)*, together with 11 Poppy Crosses each representing 50 Kent Yeomen or Sharpshooters from the Boer War, Great War and Second World War together with those who have died on exercise or active service. In addition there were seven individually named crosses in the plot.

At 10.50am HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Henry of Wales arrived at the Field where they were met by The Very Reverend Doctor John Hall, Dean of Westminster Abbey. Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend Doctor John Hall and The Venerable Andrew Tremlett, Sub-Dean and Rector of St. Margaret's Church, after which Their Royal Highnesses laid personal Crosses of Remembrance.

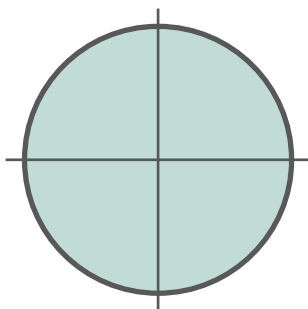
'Last Post' was sounded by a Trumpeter from the Band of the Scots Guards followed by the Exhortation to Remembrance, which was delivered by Mrs Sara Jones, President of the Royal Legion Poppy Factory. At 11am the two-minute silence was observed, followed by 'Reveille'.

Their Royal Highnesses then undertook a review of the plots when HRH The Duke of Edinburgh spoke with our Plot Representative, Tony Jewell.

The following members of the *Association* also attended: John Annett, Pam Bodman, Barrie and Carol Corfield, Guy Farage, Hilary and Philip Wilson, Keith Wrate, Kevin Wright and Mr and Mrs Simmons with two other families who attended for John Phillip-Smith.

***"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"***





## THE LEGION D'HONNEUR



In 2014 I was made aware that the French Government had decided to award the Legion D'Honneur (Chevalier or Knight) to all those surviving veterans who had landed in France and took part in the liberation campaign in 1944. The Legion D'Honneur was founded by Emperor Napoleon in 1804 and the level of Chevalier is roughly comparable to being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

With some help from Dave Whitehouse I researched and put up a list of 3rd and 4th CLY who were we thought still around from that campaign – mainly Normandy veterans – and I put forward a list to the MOD who were co-ordinating the responses. It then went very quiet and as I subsequently found out it was because the French government had seriously under estimated the number of survivors in the UK let alone in Canada, USA and other nations who had fought in France. The administrators of the Order were overwhelmed with responses and were not it seems prepared to change their processes to accommodate the fact that all of the veterans were of an age where they might not live to receive the award.

In the case of the Sharpshooters very sadly three of the six passed away before they could be awarded the medal but by the end of 2015 the remaining three – Hal Currie, Wilf Oxley and Eric Gray - had all received theirs (through the post!) and in Hals case had attended an awards ceremony in Glasgow.

## MY DAY OUT by Hal Currie

As I don't get out and about very much these days owing to my lack of mobility, I welcomed the invitation from the French Consul General to receive my Legion d'Honneur medal for which special arrangement had been made for the presentation at the Glasgow City Chambers.

I was of course very honoured to be presented with this medal which is the highest military honour available for the French Government to present. It was particularly important for the French people that the liberation of France was achieved and my

colleagues and I who were involved in the battle of Villers Bocage were very proud to be honoured in this way.

I would like to thank Tim Rayson for having put me up for the award and those that helped with the arrangements with the Consul General which proved very effective, particularly with the agreement of the Lord Provost to have the use of her private dining room for the occasion.

The event brought to mind some of the detail of my experience in Normandy generally but also of course in Villers Bocage. Having travelled overnight, the 4th County of London Yeomanry entered Villers Bocage early in the morning and we all took great pride in witnessing the civilian population coming out from their houses with flowers, cider and calvados. We could not believe that there was such a calm atmosphere in

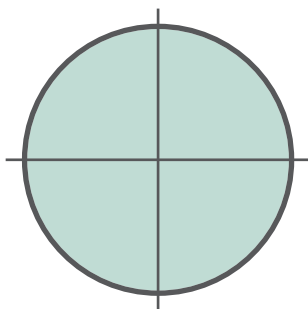


the town which was several kilometres behind the existing German lines and which gave us all a feeling of complacency but then all hell was let loose when we were suddenly surrounded by an entire Panzer Division which had come off trains from a point a few kilometres from the town as reinforcements for their troops who had set up defences preventing the British Army to penetrate their lines on our approach to Caen through the small town of Tilly Sur Seules. At that point we were faced with quite impossible odds, particularly in tackling the German Tiger Tank which had superior armour to our own tanks and in a single day we unfortunately lost many of our tanks, but at the same time we inflicted significant damage to the German tanks.

It was almost impossible to succeed against the Tiger Tank which had a 88mm gun as compared our own Sherman and Cromwell which had 75mm guns. In addition to that, the armour plate of the Tiger was impossible to penetrate head on and the only way to overcome these disadvantages would be to manoeuvre ourselves to positions where we could fire at the side or rear of the Tiger. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, the Sharpshooters could take great pride in the manner in which they dealt with what was then a critical situation and the Villers Bocage battle has been recorded as one of the more serious encounters between the Germans and British.

It made me extremely proud to have been a member of the 4th CLY which I joined after training in Bovington at the age of 19.

The awarding of the Legion d'Honneur was entirely unexpected and the medal which is extremely attractive will be treasured by me for the rest of my life.



## BIR EL GUBI

by Dan Taylor, Curator

The Libyan plain in Cyrenaica is a featureless, rock strewn, dusty wasteland that stretches mile on mile with barely a recognizable change of elevation. Scattered amongst the rocks, camel grass can give the illusion of lush vegetation into the distance. But an illusion is what it remains.

Over the millennia tracks have been worn by Bedouin traders. They trace the path between watering holes, criss-crossing the wide expanse. Some forty miles south of Tobruk there is an intersection of these ancient trade routes at a spot called Bir el Gubi. On 19th November 1941 el Gubi's well was just another map reference for the advancing gaggle of British tank crews of 22nd Armoured Brigade who had landed in North Africa barely a month before. Those of them who were in the know were aware that it was occupied by the Italians, but this held few perils for them: they were equipped with the latest tank – the A15 Crusader – and they were confident that their superior training and aptitude would roll back all who tried to stand in their way.

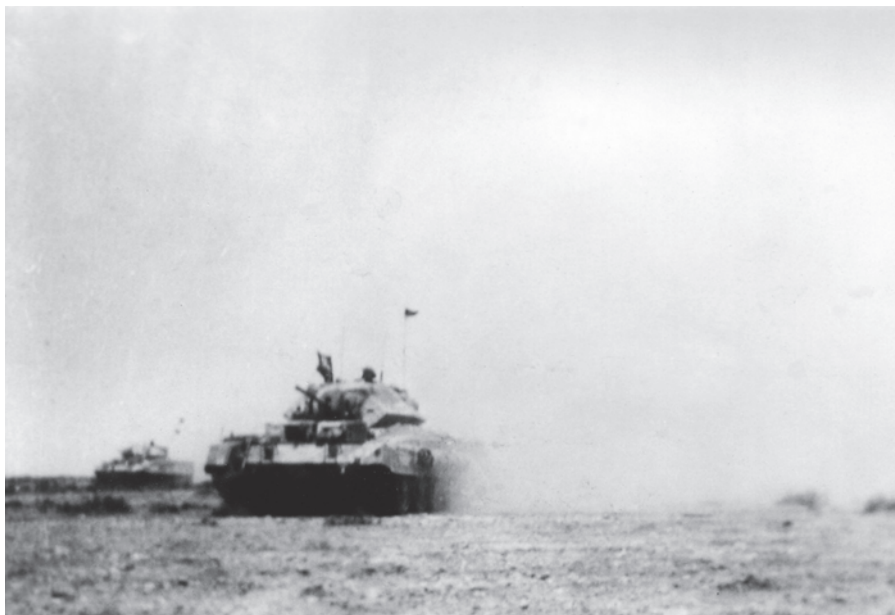
This is not to say that there were no nerves. This was, after all, their first time in action. As they rolled towards the spot where the Italians of the Ariete armoured division was dug in they felt their stomachs tighten, the hairs rise on the back of their necks, and sweat trickle from their brows, despite the cool of the winter's morning. Headphones clamped to their ears, they peered through the narrow slits that gave them their only view of the daylight outside. A cloying claustrophobia made the confines of their vehicles seem to shrink around them.

The tanks fanned out into battle order. Despite the recent rain, they began to kick up plumes of dust, like the bow waves of a flotilla of ships. In the distance they could just make out some soft-skinned vehicles, stark against the horizon. Could it really be this easy?

The tank commanders had a slightly better view. With their heads just out of their turret hatches they could watch other tanks, like their own, arrayed on either side, ploughing on through the dust. With a thrill, they could feel their confidence surge with the rush as the distance between them and the enemy narrowed. Did someone actually call out 'Tally Ho!' over the wireless?

Some fifteen-hundred yards out one or two of them may have wondered why there was a seemingly solitary fuel drum standing alone in the desert. They rushed past without giving it a second glance. Another appeared out of the swirling dust a couple of hundred yards further on. They could not remember hearing anything over roar of their engines but, of a sudden, one of the tanks, over to their right, suddenly slewed





awkwardly, being overtaken and enveloped by their following cloud of dust. Just as suddenly, away to the left a plume of dust suddenly erupted. It took a little while for them to compute that these freakish events were the first signs of incoming fire. Within moments the tanks had begun to weave, churning the earth still further until it seemed to boil. With a flash and a crack, one or two of the leading tanks began return fire. The shots were un-aimed and unlikely to hit anything, but perhaps the Italian gunners could be persuaded to keep their heads down.

The ragged line that had begun the charge was losing its cohesion. Perhaps some drivers were more reluctant with their accelerators. Perhaps patches of softer sand slowed the progress of others. Whatever the reason, the rolling maelstrom of pitching and turning tanks spread more widely. More tanks dropped out. Here and there gaps appeared where whirling dust storms had previously indicated a speeding tank. For some a sudden and violent penetration had unleashed a miniaturised hell inside their vehicles, flame licking greedily at their clothes and flesh as they struggled to get out. For others the rigours of their manoeuvres had slipped their track or smashed their suspension leaving them suddenly immobile and witheringly vulnerable.

At last the remaining distance seemed to diminish. There was less than half a mile to go and it was now possible to make out individual Italian vehicles. They could also begin to see the flash as the anti-tank guns let loose their solid shot. As well as their cannon, the British tankers began to reply, unleashing the staccato rattle of their Besa machine guns. A quarter of a mile to go. Figures could be made out beginning to flee or suddenly crumpling. A growing sensation of elation began to swell in pit of the tankers' stomachs. As the final few yards were covered the enemy began throwing up their arms in surrender. As the tanks barrelled past they could see the look of defeat in

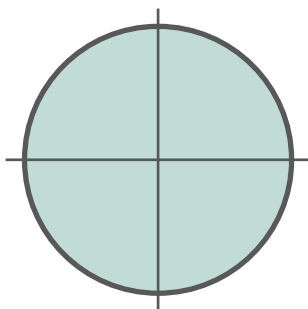
the ashen and shocked faces of the vanquished foe. The tanks that had survived the advance wheeled round, they had done it. They had survived.

However, there followed a long and disquieting moment. Something was not right. As the dust began to settle the Italians looked around, blinking, expectantly waiting for someone to take charge. Slowly they became aware what was wrong. Where was the British infantry? Where were the troops who were going to take them captive?

Unnoticed, one of the Italian gun crews re-manned their gun, wheeled it round and fired at one of the tanks. Others, heartened by this, began jumping back into their weapons pits and started taking pot shots at the tank crewmen. Without support, the tank crews were unable to complete the capture and, with the Italians recognizing their advantage, the situation was rapidly becoming untenable. Elation quickly turned to something very different as the British tanks re-fired their engines and began to beat a hasty retreat.

Numerous acts of heroism, as crews rescued their unhorsed colleagues, and beat a hasty retreat, could not hide the guilty truth. No amount of *élan* could make up for the fact that an ill-prepared and reckless attack could not win the day against experienced troops. The days of the decisive cavalry charge were over, and this was a bitter lesson for the Sharpshooters to learn. Fortunately, they were quick learners.





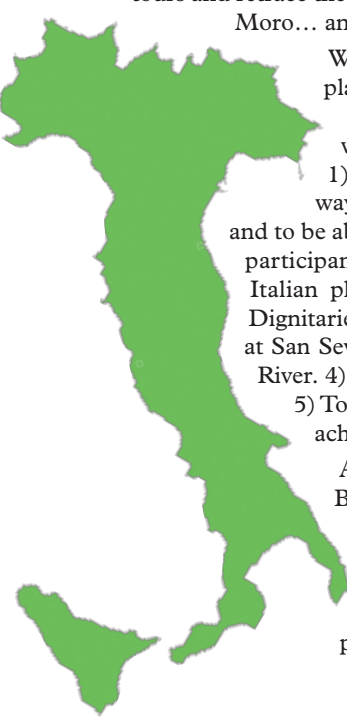
## THE ITALIAN JOB

14th – 21st May 2015

by Peter Arnold

Major W.H.J. Sale MBE MC - 3 CLY was a remarkable Sharpshooter. He joined 23rd London Armoured Car Company in 1933, serving throughout WWII with 3 CLY and 3/4 CLY. He remained in Germany on civil government duties until 1951 then re-joined 3/4 CLY, staying with the regiment until the amalgamation with the Kent Yeomanry in 1961. What makes 'Jimmy' Sale remarkable is that despite rules and regulations to the contrary, throughout his time in the Western Desert, Sicily, Southern Italy, D-Day and on to Hamburg, he took over 5000 photographs of Sharpshooter events. He not only processed them but managed to retain them despite being briefly captured, the Germans failing to spot his compact Leica in his battledress pocket. His legacy is for all to see at the National Army Museum and the new KSY Museum.

Tony James, whose father Captain Freddie James served with 3 CLY, wondered if now was perhaps the time to continue with another of those Sharpshooter battlefield tours and retrace the 1943 steps of his father up the Adriatic heel of Italy to the River Moro... and indeed it was.



With the IT help of Peter Tomlin, Tony started the intricate planning for such a trip and canvassed a dozen fellow travellers to accompany him on a leisurely trip from Bari northwards in a well-appointed vehicle with plenty of space. The objectives were:-

- 1) To follow the 3 CLY actions, stopping at key points along the way, including the crossings of the Rivers Sangro, Biferno & Moro and to be ably guided by Boris Mollo with maps and tactical discussion. All participants were to receive a prepared small brochure of Jimmy Sale's Italian photographs.
- 2) To meet and dine with various Mayors and Dignitaries along the way.
- 3) To commemorate the fallen Sharpshooters at San Severo and the CWGC cemeteries at Monte Cassino and Sangro River.
- 4) To visit the magnificent rebuilt Abbey at Monte Cassino... and
- 5) To eat well and drink plenty, in good company. All objectives were achieved in full with the aid of excellent pre-arranged local guides.

As we pulled away from Serracapriola heading toward the River Biferno and the port of Termoli beyond, Boris Mollo remarked that this was the 'start line' in October 1943 where some 60 Shermans set off along this road advancing to contact. I felt a sudden tingle at the back of my neck and my thoughts were immediately back commanding a 3/4 CLY Dingo... in peacetime 1960.



Tony James and Guy Farage hold aloft a ceramic plate given by the Mayor of Pietramontecorvino following an excellent meal and exchange of gifts at the ancient banqueting hall on the first night.



Approaching Serracapriola, Boris Molloy said – “Do look out and see if we can recognise any of the buildings in the Jimmy Sale photographs”. As we pulled into the outskirts and stopped, it was like a time warp and clear that nothing had changed in 72 years.





Tony James and our driver Savino had the uncanny knack of pulling up at any passing village or small town and immediately conjuring up chairs, tables, drinks service and nibbles in a flash. Surely not just luck, as they did it on at least four occasions!



San Severo town cemetery. Guy Farage, along with the Mayor, honour the three 3 CLY Sharpshooters who were killed on a recce on the road between Foggia and San Severo.





The German command always claimed they did not occupy the Abbey at Monte Casino. Indeed when the bombing got heavy they retreated from their headquarters in the town to the cave system, glimpsed here, at the rear of their building. However, the Abbey once bombed and flattened by the allies provided excellent defence positions for the axis forces.



Although Sharpshooters did not fight at Monte Casino, a panel on this magnificent plinth, in the GWGC cemetery at the base of the hill leading up to the Abbey, honours seven members of both 3 CLY & 4 CLY lost in the



Sherman Tanks that equipped the Sharpshooters in North Africa and the advance on to the plains of Southern Italy were soon proven to be unsuitable for the mountainous areas and the rain encountered further North. A Sherman here at Ortona honours the fallen of the 12<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Regiment, with inset, Tony James' father Freddie with his crew on 26 September 1943. Some might say he was running quite a risk flying that Swastika souvenir.



Maurice Tomlin conducted a service of remembrance at the CWGC Sangro River cemetery, while Guy Farage laid the principal wreath. Each of seventeen Sharpshooters lost were commemorated with a personal cross by individual members of the party.



A contemplative Keith Wrate lays a personal honour to Jewish Sharpshooter - Trooper C. S. Harris of 3CLY... a moving moment at Sangro River.



Ewen Watt cut a fine dash wearing his kilt on several occasions during the week, prompting very favourable comments from appreciative local Italians. Here he is at the CWGC Sangro River cemetery with Maurice





Was there ever a finer place to have breakfast on a summer's day than on the roof terrace of our 'Palazzo Paciotti' hotel, overlooking the magnificent harbour at Trani? Here, a final 'photo call' of the party to celebrate an excellent trip. L-R:- Keith Wrate, Anne Hill, Chris Hill, Tony James, Guy Farage (seated), Maurice Tomlin, Ewen Watt, Boris Mollo, Peter Tomlin, Kay Arnold, Dan Tomlin & Peter Arnold.



... and it was over. The last meal at the rather swish 'Le Lampare al Fortino' restaurant on the quayside at Trani - " Cheers Tony, a job well done, and very many thanks on behalf of us all".

## The Italian Job - Addendum

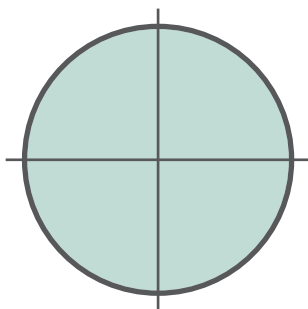
By an amazing coincidence, less than three weeks after committing 'The Italian Job' report and images to the editor of Sharpshooter, a Hove bookshop placed a 3 CLY Christmas & New Year card from Italy 1943 on the eBay website. As the only bidder I was pleased to purchase it for a modest amount.

The odds on those two paths crossing so close after seventy years are enormous. Dial in that the card was signed by 'Freddie' and it borders on the 'spooky'. Tony James, who organised the Italy trip, immediately confirmed with some delight that it was his father's signature – Captain Freddie James.

Peter Arnold







## **SHARPSHOOTERS REMEMBERED – Ian Basil ‘Ibbie’ Aird**

**By TIMBER**

Over the years we have been on many Battlefield Tours overseas and visited the graves and memorials to many of the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry. However, in the UK, there are numerous places where passed members of our Association are remembered – on our Regimental War Memorials, The National Arboretum, in the Sharpshooters’ Church at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, on town and village War Memorials – particularly in Kent. There are also individual memorials in Churches and Churchyards.

Every two years, Mrs Timber and I visit the grave of Ibbie Aird. Those of you who have followed the evolving story of the Battle of Villers-Bocage as crafted by our eminent Museum Curator Dan Taylor, will know of the important role Ibbie played at that Battle and in the aftermath.

Ibbie was born in London on January 4th 1905, the third and youngest son of Malcolm Rucker Aird and Nellie Margaret Dummett. He was baptised on February 23rd at St. John’s Church, Paddington. His father’s occupation was “constructor” and they were living at 3, Hyde Park Square. In 1911, they employed nine servants. The Aird family were constructional engineers and Ian’s grandfather, John, was created the 1st Baronet in 1901.

Ian was educated at Malvern College and matriculated in 1924. He captained the Christ Church cricket team and played hockey for the college.

On going down in 1927, he joined Thomas de la Rue & Company and became a Director in 1935.

He was Gazetted on September 13th 1939 (late Cadet C.S.M., Malvern Coll. Contgt., Jun. Div., O.T.C.) to be 2nd Lt. 2nd Sept. 1939 in the Royal Armoured Corps 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters). He joined the Regiment at Washford along with Lt. R. Aird [his older brother Ronald] on September 20th 1939.

The award of the Distinguished Service Order was gazetted on August 31st 1944 “For gallant and distinguished service in Normandy.”

He was serving with the rank of Major and Regimental Second-in-Command and was going back on some administrative chore in his jeep, when he was run into, on the open road, by a scout-car which was out on driving instruction. Though at first his injuries were not thought to be severe, he died about a month later on December 17th 1944 from cerebral haemorrhage.

His funeral took place at Woolton Hill church at 2.30.p.m. on December 20th and he is buried in the Aird Family churchyard of St. Thomas, Woolton Hill near Newbury.

Here are the images from this beautiful location from our visit in July 2015.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FORM NO. 101-10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27		Army Form W-1141	
Date recommendation passed forward		25	
22 ARMD	7 ARMD	30	Corps
Brigade	Division	Brigade	14
Schedule No.	Unit 4 SHARPSHOOTERS	Division 19	19
(To be in block)		Corps 22	2
Rank and Army or Personal No.	W2/Capt (2/Maj)	Army 5 JUL 1944	12 JUL 1944
Name Tan Daril AIRD			
(OFFICIAL NAME MUST BE PRINTED)			
Action for which recommended (Date and place of action must be stated)		Recommended by	Honorary or Retired (To be blank)
<p>On 13 Jun 44 Maj AIRD commanded a Squadron of 4 SHARPSHOOTERS when the town of VILLERS BOGAGE, May ref 817758, Regt B3 and one Bn suffered extremely heavy casualties and Maj AIRD assumed Command. The enemy counter attacked and Mark VI tanks entered the town together with infantry. This situation called for the very highest display of leadership, resourcefulness and cool judgment. These qualities were not lacking in Maj AIRD and the skill with which he fought his command resulted not only in the destruction of nearly every enemy tank that entered the town but also in the successful defense of the position in cooperation with our infantry. Subsequently when ordered to repoin the Bde this officer covered the withdrawal of the infantry and brought his command out almost without loss. It is not possible to exaggerate the excellence of Maj AIRD's leadership nor to over-estimate the importance which he personally exercised on this most important operation.</p> <p>I recommend him for the immediate award of DSO.</p>		<p>Brig WEN HARRIS Comd 22 Armd Bde</p> <p>A. M. B. C. J. G. W. C.</p> <p>Comd 22 Armd Bde</p> <p>1. <i>John J. ...</i> 2. <i>...</i> 3. <i>...</i> 4. <i>...</i> 5. <i>...</i> 6. <i>...</i> 7. <i>...</i> 8. <i>...</i> 9. <i>...</i> 10. <i>...</i></p> <p>LEUT. GENERAL Commander 53 Corps</p>	<p>Immediate DSO</p> <p>LEUT. GENERAL Commander 53 Corps</p>
Approved D.S.O.		21534	
LC 81 8-44		P.T.O.	





The Church and Church Yard.







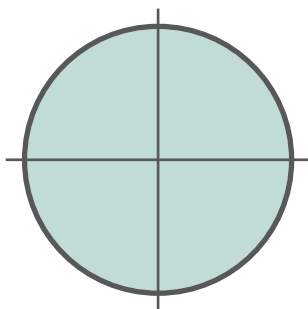
Ibbie's grave before and after the make-over.





Of Ibbie Aird, Brigadier Rankin (Lt-Col as he then was) wrote in *Sharpshooters at War* “No-one had given the Regiment more loyal service over the whole war, nor was there anyone in the Regiment who was more universally liked and respected. A dry sense of humour never left him, no matter how trying the circumstance might be; he was the greatest stand-by to the Colonel, from whom he removed all administrative problems, and to whom his knowledge of all ranks in the Regiment was of the greatest value.”

Thank you Ibbie – We Will Remember You.



# KSY and Rugby – Social Media Input 2015

By **TIMBER**

## 1. BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, the KSY Museum kicked off an active social media campaign led by Sophie Adair. This article is the research report produced in three days by TIMBER using online material from the National Army Museum, the artefacts in our marvellous KSY Museum and Timber's own archives and penchant for creating high quality storyboards, which Sophie used to great effect.

## 2. RESEARCH REQUEST

**Requestor** – Sophie Adair, Social Media Specialist, KSY Museum

**Date of Request** – Monday 7 September 2015

**Request** – Research on Rugby and the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry, to coincide with The Rugby World Cup 2015

“...I thought it would be good to focus sport based history around the time of major sporting events. So come the 18th of September and the Rugby World Cup, I thought I could do a series of posts about the KSY links to rugby...”

## 3. INTRODUCTION

Sport and the Military have always been associated, going back to the skill-at-arms competitions of Jousting through to Cavalry doing tent pegging. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, sports such as boxing and rugby were ways to toughen up troops and also prevent them from getting stale whilst waiting to go into action.

The National Army Museum has a wonderful online exhibition called:



[source: <http://www.nam.ac.uk/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/sporting-soldiers>]

Here are some extracts which describe Sport as Preparation for War, as an aid to Recruitment and in which Rugby and the Pursuit of Excellence were key components. “To celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the National Army Museum is delving into the essential relationship between sport and the Army.

Sport has always played an important role in the British Army. It has been used to prepare soldiers for active service, both mentally and physically. It has also served to boost morale, develop ‘esprit de corps’ and rehabilitate the wounded.

Sport has had a significant impact on Army recruitment and retention. The sheer variety of sports on offer to soldiers has certainly helped to encourage enlistment, with sport often cited as a major motivating factor behind a career in the Army. Many recruits have gone on to compete at the highest level, resulting in a host of Army sporting heroes.

The Army has been involved in establishing many of the recreational activities we know and love today. It has also helped to spread sports such as cricket, rugby, hockey and football throughout the world, where they have been used to build links with local populations and win ‘hearts and minds’.”

### 3.1 Preparation for War

<http://www.nam.ac.uk/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/sporting-soldiers/preparation-war>

The British Army has long believed that sport prepares men for combat by increasing fitness, channelling aggression, and focusing the mind. Sport serves to strengthen the ties between men, instilling discipline and readiness to serve a common cause.

The notion that war was a sporting contest writ large was commonly expressed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when thousands of men enlisted to ‘play the greater game’. However, after experiencing the bitter realities of industrial warfare during 1914-18, this analogy between sport and war was replaced by an emphasis on the concrete advantages that sport could bring to the Army. These included building physical fitness, boosting morale and encouraging unit cohesion. The 1932 edition of ‘Infantry Training’ explained:

‘Fitness of body and contentment of mind come more readily in the free atmosphere of games. The platoon commander should organize in the afternoon football, cricket, boxing, and cross-country running, especially in competition with other platoons, and take part in them himself. The men will respond wholeheartedly, and will carry the spirit of their games into their work. A platoon which plays football, runs, and boxes, will be qualified to meet and overcome the stress and strain of



Recruiting poster calling on the ‘Young Men of Britain’ to ‘Play the Greater Game on the Field of Honour’, 1914

Chromolithograph poster published by the Central London Recruiting Depot, printed by Johnson, Riddle and Company Limited, London.

battle.’ (Cited in Tony Mason and Eliza Riedi, ‘Sport and the Military: The British Armed Forces 1880-1960’, (Cambridge, 2010), p255)

This emphasis on sport as a practical preparation for war continues. For today’s Royal Irish Regiment:

‘A soldier needs to be at the peak of his physical condition, and most of the Rangers will play some form of sport - whether it be football, rugby or any other sport. Not only are we aggressive on the battlefield, but we channel our aggression into winning on the sports field. Controlled aggression on the sports pitches are excellent fitness training and also let out the warrior spirit in us all.’ (British Army Website)

### 3.2 Recruitment

<http://www.nam.ac.uk/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/sporting-soldiers/recruitment>

Although factors such as family influence, financial security and the opportunity to see the world have always been important in persuading men and women to enlist, sport has also played a major role in Army recruitment.

This was especially true for officers from the sport-dominated public schools. However, by the late 19th century sport was such a key part of British popular culture that working class men were no doubt equally attracted by the opportunity to exercise their athletic prowess. Certainly, access to facilities and equipment, alongside the amount of time given over to play, would have been appealing to soldiers from both classes.

Sport was a way of making Army life more attractive and fitted into the overall improvement in conditions of service that took place during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The emphasis on sport in attracting recruits has continued into the modern era. A 1972 Army recruitment pamphlet declared: ‘You’d have to be a very rich civilian indeed to take part in all the sport available to the average infantryman.’

More recently a serving soldier noted: ‘I joined because I enjoy being physically challenged. I enjoyed sports at school. The Army came in to do a “look at life” sort of day and I really enjoyed it and thought I’d like the physical side to it.’ (Sergeant Chris Barnes, 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington’s), interviewed February 2011)

A colleague from the same unit explained: ‘I knew this regiment had a good reputation for rugby, which I enjoyed playing, and therefore found the opportunity to work with a lot of like-minded individuals.’ (Captain Rob Taylor, 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington’s), interviewed February 2011).



'Rugby Union Footballers are Doing Their Duty', 1915

### 3.3 Pursuit of Excellence

<http://www.nam.ac.uk/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/sporting-soldiers/recruitment>

Certain British Army regiment's excelled at specific sports. This was used to recruit individuals who favoured these pursuits. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), for example, was enhanced by the recruitment of officers and men with a flair for rugby. Indeed, 11 international players, seven English, one Irish and three Scottish, have served in the regiment. Since 1914 over 50 players from 'The Dukes' have been capped for the Army in matches against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Today, its successor unit continues to attract rugby players: 'There was a company commander at Sandhurst who was in charge of recruiting officers into this battalion, and... being a rugby player - and it's a rugby regiment - I was captain of the Sandhurst rugby team and that was my destiny!' (Captain Andrew Bond, 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), interviewed February 2011).



Rugby match between 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) and the 44th Royal Tank Regiment, Worthing, 1944

Photograph by Major Jimmy Sale, 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)

### 3.4 Rugby

<http://www.nam.ac.uk/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/sporting-soldiers/preparation-war>

This photograph depicts a rugby union match between 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) and the 44th Royal Tank Regiment at Worthing in Sussex. Both units were part of the Royal Armoured Corps and were stationed on the south coast of England in the weeks prior to D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy.

By May 1944 the men who embarked for Normandy were at the peak of physical conditioning and had completed all their training. As they awaited the order to embark for France their officers kept them active with sports, long marches, exercises and inspections.



Rugby training, Worthing, May 1944

Photograph by Major Jimmy Sale MC, 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)



For many in the Army, rugby was 'a school of true manhood and leadership'. A 1919 survey, of which sports were the best games for soldiers to play, placed rugby second behind only boxing. (Cited in Tony Mason and Eliza Riedi, 'Sport and the Military: The British Armed Forces 1880-1960', (Cambridge, 2010), p121).

The interesting piece here of course is that the rugby images used are of our own chaps – in this case from 3<sup>rd</sup> *County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)*. For those readers familiar with the National Army Museum publications in print and online, you will know that when showing WW2 British Army troops, invariably it is *The Sharpshooters*. This is because Jimmy Sale MC took 5,000 images of *The Sharpshooters* between 1939 and 1946 and these are now under the safekeeping and copyright of The National Army Museum. It is an historic collection of photographs and ensures that *The Sharpshooters* will remain in the public eye for generations to come. Huzzah!

So with that as background, it is clear that Rugby played a part in the life of the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry* certainly pre the Second World War. Let us start by getting a feel for what life was like in *The Sharpshooters* in the pre-war period and how rugby played a part. Here is Oliver Woods MC from his Preface to the 1964 publication *Sharpshooters at War* by Andrew Graham – the official war history of the Sharpshooter side of the KSY.

#### 4. SHARPSHOOTERS AT WAR

"*The Sharpshooters* in 1935 were a small, compact body of not more than 120 men. Officially known as the 23<sup>rd</sup> (London) Armoured Car Company (*Sharpshooters*), RTC, TA, it would take a military historian of AD 2064 a lot of rummaging to interpret the meaning of this hieroglyph in the Army List.....In the mid-thirties, the *Sharpshooters* were a socially homogeneous, clubbable, rugger-playing corps such as was not uncommon among the better London units of this epoch. Entry into the ranks was carefully screened. Subscriptions and the social life in which a recruit was expected to participate meant that he must be prepared to pay for the privilege of serving his Country.

Discipline in the military sense was rather unreal in that the mere threat of dismissal was all that was required to spur the laggard or bring the refractory to heel. Officers were commissioned from the ranks, a rule which only began to be relaxed in the years immediately before the outbreak of the Second World War.....the way in which the *Sharpshooters* were recruited and in which discipline was maintained enabled the commanding officer to insist on much more than the minimum statutory amount of drill attendances and other duties being performed. Although boisterous and full of fund, the unit was essentially serious in a military sense. Any tendency to dodge drills or camps was dropped on with little ceremony.

It was not one of those units where it was an offence 'to talk shop in the mess'. On the contrary, 'King' Jago expected his officers to take an intelligent interest in military matters as well as to be good company....."

Oliver Woods won the MC and went on to be Deputy Editor of The Times. Major 'King' Jago won the MM in the *South Irish Horse* in The Great War, and along with his brother Bill and Terence Green also from this disbanded Regiment were the founding fathers of the success and 'esprit de corps' that served the *Sharpshooters* so well in the

Second World War. Rugby was a key element in developing the ‘esprit de corps’ and physical toughness. We have two team photographs from 1938-1939 season that show young men at the peak of their fitness building the teamwork that would serve them well in the forthcoming battles far from home.

#### 4.1 Sharpshooters Rugby Club 1<sup>st</sup> XV

[source: The *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum*]



Team includes well-known Sharpshooters such as Hugh Matthews who survived the Second World War and is a former Chairman of the *KSY Regimental Association* and John Vaughan who served with 3CLY, then with the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force and also survived. Geoffrey Willis DSO was an extremely important leader and his approach to training before the Regiment went overseas has been held up as an exemplar that saved many lives through the high level of skills and teamwork he instilled – all supported by rugby. Geoffrey was KIA in 1943 during an advance in Sicily – he was at the time Lieutenant-Colonel commanding 3CLY (*Sharpshooters*).

## 4.2 Sharpshooters Rugby Club “A” XV

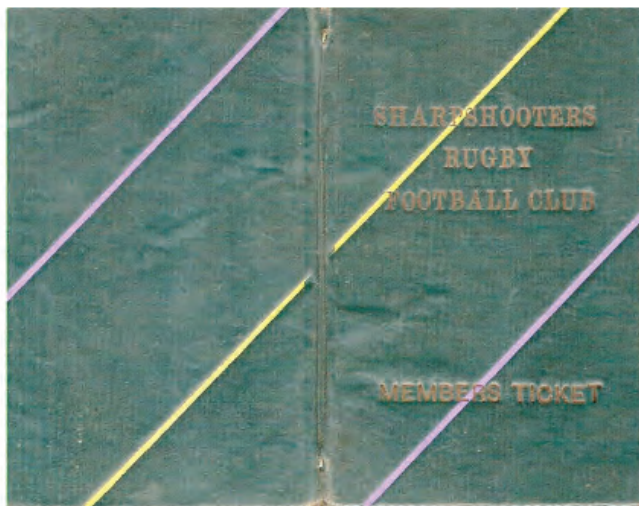
[source: The AGIUS Collection – David Hannam]



Team includes well-known Sharpshooters such as Allan Grant MC who survived and is a former President of the *KSY Regimental Association* and Ted Agius who also survived and was member of the *KSY Regimental Association* Committee and shot the earliest film footage we have of *The Sharpshooters* back in the 1960s.

From that team, here is Ted Agius' Rugby Club Membership Card

[source: The *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry* Museum]



### 4.3 Recruitment into *The Sharpshooters*

Reading through various publications there is a theme that in the 1938-39 period, potential recruits such as Clifford Pace and his friend Bob Moore, were asked at interview if they played rugby. Here is what Clifford recalled:



**Clifford Pace**

A short record of his service with the Sharpshooters in WW2

Clifford joined the 4th CLY, end of 38 or early 39, around New Year and it was surprisingly not his first choice because he actually wanted to be in RNR – but there was a very long waiting list and Clifford, not wanting to hang around and wait, ended up being recruited by someone in his office – Captain John Vaughan to join the 4th CLY.

Recruiting in those days was quite simple and as he recalled in an interview “John Vaughan gave me a note for Adjutant and I went along for a chat and was asked the usual questions – did I play Rugby, what school and then joined up.” This was similar to Bob Moore MM who went through the same friendly laid back approach at the same time.

Interesting to note that the interviewer was the same John Vaughan in the 1st XV picture above – Captain of *The Sharpshooters* Rugby Football Club! Emphasising, the importance of getting the right chap; with the right attributes; to be part of the “team”.

However, it would be wrong to portray all the new members of the Sharpshooters as rugby players. Many of the bravest came from different walks of life, like author Lord Robin Maugham. When the Second World War looked inevitable, he declined a commission in the Hussars and instead joined up as an ordinary trooper in the *4th County of London Yeomanry* (Sharpshooters) tank regiment bound for North Africa. Later, his commanding officer Brigadier Carr recorded in dispatches that Robin Maugham had saved the lives of perhaps 40 men by pulling them from destroyed tanks. At the Battle of Knightsbridge he sustained a severe head wound that resulted in blackouts, which he later joked made him perfect material for a job in intelligence.

Here is how he responded in his commissioning interview when asked about rugby:  
[source: *The Sharpshooter Chronicles*]

Lord Maugham, Lt. "B" Squadron 4CLY

*We have received this story concerning the late Robin Maugham who is well remembered by former members of 4CLY, but particularly those in "B" Squadron. It comes from Major Jonathan Balcon, a former family friend, and purports to describe Robin's interview at Duke of York's Headquarters following his application for a commission.*

Major "Sit down Maugham. I'm going to ask you a number of questions." (Robin could see that the Major had a marking sheet in front of him.)

Major "Where were you at school?"

R.M. "Eton, Sir." (10 out of 10)

Major "Do you play Rugby?"

R.M. "No Sir, I was bad at all team sports." (0 out of 10)

Major "Do you ride to hounds?"

R.M. "No Sir, I suppose I'm really anti blood sports" (0 out of 10)

Major "Do you have a private income of at least £300 per year?"

R.M. "No Sir, I have no private income and I have precisely five shillings and sixpence which is in my pocket at this moment." (0 out of 10)

There was a pause.

Major "What's yer Father do lad?"

R.M. "Lord Chancellor Sir." (True).

Major rises to his feet and extends his right hand. "Very pleased to have you with us my boy!"

Robin Maugham was severely wounded leading his Troop in the heavy fighting in defence of the Knightsbridge Box in the Western Desert in June 1942.

#### 4.4 Rugby Before D-Day 1944

The National Army Museum pictures above, said they were taken in Worthing in May 1944. Here is the story of that match [definitely not training as stated in the second image – play to win Lads!] and who the opposition were, extracted once again from *Sharpshooters at War*:

"From the beginning of March 1944 till just before D-Day 3rd CLY was based in Worthing. The Regiment was in 4th Armoured Brigade, which was an independent formation and not a permanent part of any Division. The other two armoured regiments



in the brigade were the Royal Scots Greys and 44th Royal Tank Regiment....General Montgomery had specially asked for 4th Armoured Brigade to be part of the invasion team...this was taken not only as an honour but as an encouragement to all ranks to show that their experience in battle justified this inclusion. Here at Worthing, 3rd CLY had three months in which to assimilate new officers and men and some new types of equipment. It was commanded by Lt-Col AA Cameron DSO and Bar, MC and Bar, a man who had achieved in two and a half years [of fighting], greater distinction than many professional soldiers achieved in a lifetime.....”

The Sale pictures of the Rugby match from the National Army Museum are between 44th RTR and 3CLY (Sharpshooters) who were in the same Brigade for the Invasion. At the end of the month General Sir Bernard Montgomery made a ceremonial inspection of the Brigade on Worthing Sports Ground and afterwards addressed all ranks – this was on the same sports field as the rugby photos we can presume.

Sandy Cameron survived the War and was a founding father of the Regimental Association and in particular the Welfare Fund. He was great-uncle of our Prime Minister David Cameron.

#### **4.5 Rugby as a Prisoner of War (POW)**

[source: *Before I Forget* by Roy Cawston]

Roy Cawston was captured in his very first battle in the desert in 1941, and spent five years as a PoW. His engaging and wonderfully written book subtitled “some Recollections of a Sharpshooter 1939-1946” has a wonderful section entitled *Stalag Life and Arts & Crafts* which gives a fascinating insight into the world of rugby for Roy and his fellow Sharpshooter POWs.

“....Sport and recreational pursuits were entered into with great intensity and enthusiasm by almost all of us. In a large camp such as Lamsdorf there was room enough for a near normal size soccer/rugby/hockey pitch. There was no grass but by dint of paroled spades and a harrow made from the heavy barbed wire inter-compound gates (also paroled), the sandy Silesian soil was transformed into a reasonable playing surface remarkably quickly – there was no shortage of ground staff!

Nearly all team sports were organized on a national basis so the Lamsdorf population of about 16,000 POWs was able to sport teams from Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa as well as those from the four Home Countries. On the occasion of an ‘International’ it seemed that all the camp’s inmates took part in the event either as players or spectators. The latter could be seen carrying chairs, stools, benches and trestle tables from their huts to the playing area where they were formed into an impromptu stadium that would have been the envy of some of today’s professional soccer teams.

My sport in the camp was Rugby Union, which was played in a league of nine ‘clubs’ whose members were drawn from national groups, individual compounds (such as ‘NCOs’, RAF etc.), or just from rugby playing pals. The names of these teams in some cases give clues as to their composition, for example the Kuris and the Tuis, unmistakably Maori names, were from New Zealand while Thistle and Albion were obviously Scottish and English respectively. The remaining five clubs were Rovers, Eastern, Rebels, Hobos and the Painted Fiends all of whom drew their support from

the second and third categories mentioned above. I played for the Hobos along with some very determined and talented Commandos and SAS hut mates from Benghazi days.

The season started on 14th September 1944 and was brought to an early close on 20 November with the advent of the winter's frost and snow. The League was won by the Hobos after an exciting play-off in which we beat the Rebels by three points to nil both teams having shared top place with a similar record of played 8, won 5, drawn 2, lost 1.

My scoring contribution to the Hobos' league victory was three tries! The slightly smaller than normal playing area, meant that sides had to be limited to thirteen players. The scoring and playing rules were those of Rugby Union in force at that time. There was one concession to the Rugby League code i.e. the touch kicking rule which required the ball to bounce into touch except when kicked from inside one's own 25 – borrowed from the future you might say!

From the league clubs' membership, national sides were selected and Internationals were played between England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. Though picked to play for England against New Zealand I cannot claim to have been in a side which beat the All Blacks. We lost 3-10 to them, but it was an experience I have never forgotten. At least I know what it is like to face a Maori charge. Very lonely!

In case the reader is wondering where all the equipment came from, the answer is that apart from the ball, supplied courtesy of British Red Cross, all other gear was home-made including the boots. Those boots were cleverly fashioned by the camp cobblers from worn-out British Army issue – we had just previously been issued with a change of battledress, greatcoat and boots – once again thanks to our guardian angels in the Red Cross.

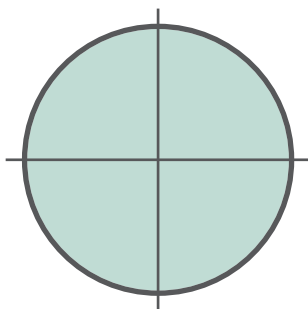
On one celebrated occasion a match was in progress watched by the usual enthusiastic and highly partisan crowd when some latecomers inadvertently stepped back into the warning zone where it came close to the touchline. Several shots were loosed off by the sentry in the adjacent 'goon box' as a result of this act of trespass. In the next edition of the Camp Newsletter (posted on the various notice boards) it was reported: 'The Scotland v. England Rugby International got under way after a Salute had been fired by the Germans from the Royal Box End ....'".

## 5. CONCLUSION

Rugby and the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry have been long associated. In the pre-Second World War era it was a key building block for producing two of the finest tank regiments in The British Army during the Second World War. Montgomery said of them "they always did what they were asked to do, and they always did it very well". The Sharpshooters fought for 3½ years in four major theatres of war. For this they were to receive 42 battle honours, a total exceeded by only one other Cavalry or Yeomanry Regiment. Individually, Sharpshooters received one George Medal, nine DSOs, 42 MCs, eight DCMs, and 71 MMs.

This was not achieved without cost with 381 names on the Regimental Roll of Honour.

But all of them would have appreciated rugby and they went into combat delivering to the highest standard and working for their team and their teammates in the most



## **SHARPSHOOTERS SOUND AND VISION “AGIUS COLLECTION”**

### **Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association in partnership with The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust**

Tim Rayson and David Hannam continue to seek willing volunteers who want to share on camera their individual memories of time with The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry through the decades. We are now working on the 1950s, 60s and 70s and those that have served on active service in recent times, subject to agreement with our Squadrons.

It is a relaxed and friendly experience, with Tim and you sharing a quiet conversation, whilst in another corner of your lounge – we are happy to come to you or the Museum rooms at our TA Centres – David fiddles about with wires, microphones and a video camera. We like to think of it as “preserving the living history of today for tomorrow’s Sharpshooters”.

If you would like to discuss joining the growing band of Sharpshooters (40 plus) who have gone “on the record” then please get in touch with Tim who will be happy to make the arrangements.



# AGIUS DIGITAL CATALOGUE 2016

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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 KSY Museum on-going fund raising.

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

**Cheques payable to:** D Hannam

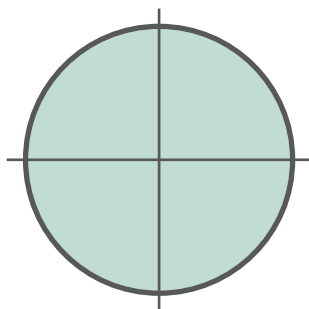
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<b><i>Carpiquet Bound</i></b> by Walter Allen and Roy Cawston		PDF	£10
<b><i>Memory Diary</i></b> by Harry Ramsbottom		PDF	£10
<b><i>Undergunned with the Sharpshooters</i></b> by Walter Allen		PDF	£10
<b><i>The Sharpshooter Chronicles</i></b> by David 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 2016**

### **Dec 2015**

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

### **2016**

## **75th Anniversary of the start of the Desert Campaign**

### **March**

8th KSYMT talk about Waterloo by Lt General Sir Barney White-Spunner  
KCB CBE Hon Col RY. Venue: Rickards Hall, Edenbridge.

### **April**

21st HM The Queen's 90th Birthday.

### **May**

7th Presentation of the RY Guidon at Windsor Castle and retirement of the  
KSY Guidon. Please contact the Hon Secretary in March for further  
details.

8th Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde  
Park. RY are the lead Regiment. Please complete and return the enclosed  
registration form as soon as possible.

### **June**

5th Federation of London OCA Parade and Service Please contact the Hon  
Secretary in April for further details.

10th HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Service, St Pauls Cathedral.

13th 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage

24th KSYMT talk by Colonel Sir Nicholas Soames Hon Col on Winston  
Churchill. Venue: Ricketts Hall, Edenbridge

### **July**

23rd Founders Day. 114th Anniversary of the 3rd CLY being gazetted in  
1901.

## **September**

22nd 73rd Anniversary of 3rd CLY landing in Italy at Taranto

23rd Anniversary of 4th CLY landing at Salerno

## **October**

20th Tbc Combined Cavalry Church Service and lunch RH Chelsea. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.

## **November**

10th Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey and lunch. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in July.

12th (TBC) Lord Mayors Show. KSYA and cadets man the SYA float.

13th Remembrance Sunday.

18th 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi. All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner. To be held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly. See flyer for further details.

20th (TBC) 2 RGH Bir El Gubi service at Badminton. Please contact Dave Carter in October if you are going.

26th (TBC) Ladies Night, C(KSY) Sqn. Please contact the Hon Secretary for further details in October.

## **December**

11th Inputs for the 2016 Journal are required by this date.

12th (TBC) RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.

31st 117th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.





## Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)

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# KENT & SHARPshootERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM

## Sunday 6 September 2015 – Official Opening by HRH Princess Alexandra

Back row: E. Hodgskin, T. Jewell, D. Whitehouse, H. Jones, T. Rayson, D. Taylor,  
B. Mollo, C. Sutton, Cllr Harrison, Cllr McGarvey, High Sherriff, D. Leslie

Front row: Maj C. Field, P. Hudson (HLEF), Col Sir N. Soames, J. Guthrie,  
Lord Lieutenant, HRH, Lt Gen Sir B White-Spunner, G. Farage,

Prof Sir H Strachan, Lt Col S McMenemy, J. Radcliffe.

Photograph: Simon Malik