

# The Sharpshooter



~ 2017 ~

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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.  
[www.ksymuseum.org.uk](http://www.ksymuseum.org.uk)





## Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)

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The paper with **MORGYN THE MIGHTY!**

No. 969 SEPT. 15th, 1979.  
Every Monday.

# Victor

8p

A  
TRUE  
STORY  
OF  
MEN  
AT  
WAR

After the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, during World War II, men of the 6th Salforth Highlanders, supported by two tanks of the 3rd County of London Yeomanry ('Sharpshooters'), started on the long and dangerous night march to capture the town of Augusta.

Captain Oliver Woods of the Sharpshooters left his tank to march with the infantry commander.

THIS COULD BE TRICKY, Y'KNOW. I THINK THOSE PILLBOXES AND HOUSES COULD BE GARRISONED BY THE EYETIES.

IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE KEEPING DARNED QUIET. MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF YOUR TANKS.

SEEMS THAT YOU'RE WRONG! KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN AND WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS LITTLE LOT.

Woods climbed back into his tanks and let fly with everything he had got.

AAARGH!  
AIEEEE!

CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE



CONTINUED FROM  
FRONT PAGE



Two hours after midnight, men of the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers relieved the Seaforths. Captain Woods spoke to Second-Lieut. John Crews.



The dangerous march continued into the darkness.



At the crossroads—



The 2.8 cm "needle-gun" fired explosive bullets.



One bullet killed young John Crews.



Captain Woods made it to the second tank. Then—



The Fusiliers followed up.



The Fusiliers went forward into Augusta with the bayonet and before dawn the town was in British hands.



For this action, Captain Woods was awarded the Military Cross.

Look out for another true war story NEXT WEEK!



3000 (PHEC)-8000-4-2		1. Date Recommendation passed forward		Amr. Form W-312	
4th Armoured		Brigade		Division	
Unit		Regt. No.		Rank and Name	
3rd County of London Yeomanry		69785		Captain Oliver Frederick John Bradley	
Action for which recommended		On the evening of 13 Jul 43 Captain Woods, commanding 30th Bn. 3 C.I.V., having marched and fought throughout the day was joined by 17 Inf. Bn. to help the infantry into AUGUSTA by night through very close country.		On the evening of 13 Jul 43 Captain Woods, commanding 30th Bn. 3 C.I.V., having marched and fought throughout the day was joined by 17 Inf. Bn. to help the infantry into AUGUSTA by night through very close country.	
Rank and Name		Rank and Name		Rank and Name	
Woods		Woods		Woods	
On the evening of 13 Jul 43 Captain Woods, commanding 30th Bn. 3 C.I.V., having marched and fought throughout the day was joined by 17 Inf. Bn. to help the infantry into AUGUSTA by night through very close country.		On the evening of 13 Jul 43 Captain Woods, commanding 30th Bn. 3 C.I.V., having marched and fought throughout the day was joined by 17 Inf. Bn. to help the infantry into AUGUSTA by night through very close country.		On the evening of 13 Jul 43 Captain Woods, commanding 30th Bn. 3 C.I.V., having marched and fought throughout the day was joined by 17 Inf. Bn. to help the infantry into AUGUSTA by night through very close country.	
During the action the other officer with Captain Woods was killed and Captain Woods continued alone.		During the action the other officer with Captain Woods was killed and Captain Woods continued alone.		During the action the other officer with Captain Woods was killed and Captain Woods continued alone.	
Captain Woods showed initiative and gallantry of the highest order in the most trying circumstances entirely foreign to normal tank tactics, and his action was of inestimable value to the infantry.		Captain Woods showed initiative and gallantry of the highest order in the most trying circumstances entirely foreign to normal tank tactics, and his action was of inestimable value to the infantry.		Captain Woods showed initiative and gallantry of the highest order in the most trying circumstances entirely foreign to normal tank tactics, and his action was of inestimable value to the infantry.	
Awarded M.C.		Awarded M.C.		Awarded M.C.	
15/6000		15/6000		15/6000	

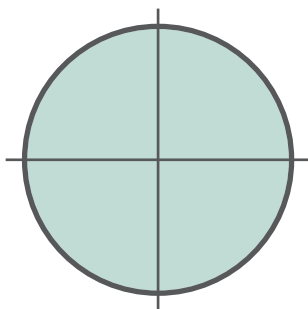


Lt Col Sandy Cameron and Major Ollie Woods on a LST between Sicily and Italy.



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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very warm welcome to the 2017/2018 edition of the *Sharpshooter* journal.

Much as 2016 was remembered, amongst other things, for the Royal Yeomanry being presented with its first Regimental guidon, so 2017 will be remembered for the laying up of the *Sharpshooters'* guidon. There is more on this elsewhere in the journal, but suffice to say that *C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron RY* did themselves proud on the day and must be congratulated and thanked on a job well done and for providing such a tremendous day throughout for families and friends.

Our affiliated Livery Company, the Worshipful Company of Insurers, continue to be increasingly supportive of *Sharpshooter* activities and events during the year. The Insurers' support is very much valued as the *Sharpshooter* family benefit from their generous financial support as well as considerable personal support from their Clerk, Sarah Clark; the Master; the Chairman of Trustees, Angela Darling and Court Assistant, David Sales (who is effectively the Insurers' Liaison Officer to the *Sharpshooters*). As a Liveryman of the Insurers myself, I am especially proud that the relationship develops so strongly.

The Army Reserve continues to integrate into the training cycle of Regular Army with most major exercises involving mixed crews / troops / platoons of Regular and Reserve personnel. Having spoken to Commanding Officers and other Commanders during the year, it is clear that the *Sharpshooters*, both Royal Signals and Royal Armoured Corps, continue to step up to whatever is asked of them and continue to impress whoever they work with and for. They are to be applauded for their professional dedication and the achievement of such high standards.

This year's El Gubi Dinner, the 70<sup>th</sup> was a roaring success. The Cavalry & Guards Club laid on a fabulous dinner again for us, and the Club really does feel like the right place to be holding our dinner. Held on a Saturday, rather than the usual Friday evening, this year was again a sell-out. Sitting down at around 8pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, as we did, was especially poignant given that the first shells of the battle of Bir El Gubi were fired at around 8pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> November during Operation CRUSADER (some 76 years before).

During the dinner, the service that our Honorary Secretary, Tim Rayson, and our Standard Bearer, Kevin Wright, give to the *Sharpshooters* was recognised by the Master Insurer, Tim Carroll. The Master presented each with a set of gold Worshipful Company of Insurers cufflinks.

We have said goodbye to too many *Sharpshooters* during the year, and their names and memories are commemorated in Empty Saddles in later pages. We raised a glass to them all during the El Gubi Dinner when Guy Farage, our President, proposed the toast to Absent Friends. May they all Rest In Peace and find one another on the tank park on the other side.

As is customary, I'd like to publicly thank my fellow trustees, committee members and other supporters for all their hard work and dedication supporting the *Sharpshooters* family during the year. *The Association* simply would not function so successfully without all their hard work, energy and enthusiasm.

I look forward to seeing many *Sharpshooters* and families and friends at the many various events at which we can gather.

Very best wishes.

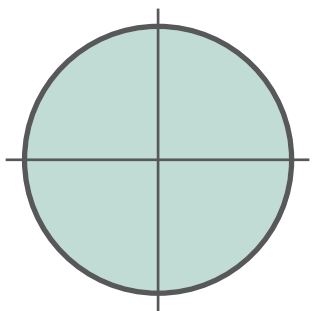
Yours aye

Mark Hodson

(Lieutenant Colonel) Mark Hodson TD FInstLM  
Chairman





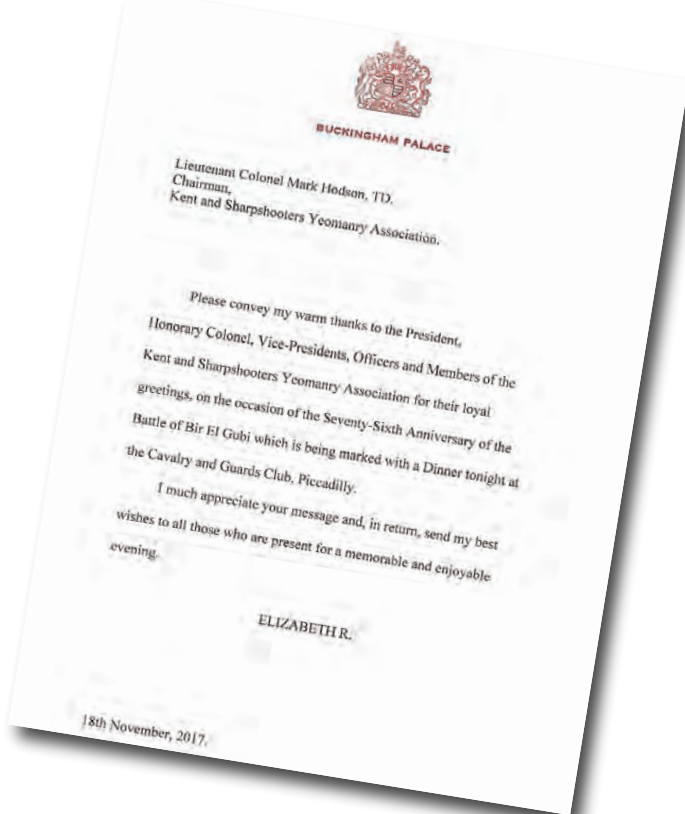


## EL GUBI DINNER 2017

The Battle of Bir El Gubi Dinner, which has now become the *KSYA* annual dinner, was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly central London on Saturday 18 November 2017. It was the 70th dinner to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the first time that both regiments of the *Sharpshooters* went into action in World War 2 with 2 Royal Gloucester Hussars all three of which formed 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade. Historically the dinner had been held on the Friday nearest the day of the battle because most of the veterans from WW2 worked in the city whereas today's *Sharpshooter* is likely to work in a much wider catchment area. In the post WW2 era the dinner was also 'stag' and the bar opened at 1800 for a 2000 sit down!

Following on from the 2016 dinner where wives and partners were welcomed this year it was decided to move to a Saturday as this would be easier for many of those attending – including most importantly the party from C Squadron who every year bring the silver, standard and orderlies. To recognise the importance of this year's dinner and the splendid location of the Cavalry and Guards Club, the preferred order



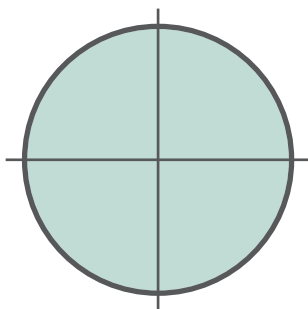


of dress was black tie. However in true Yeomanry tradition this included a multitude of variations on a theme including for some *CLY* tartan trews!

Sixty four association members and guests sat down to an excellent meal in fine company with Sword Orderlies from *C (KSY) Squadron Royal Yeomanry*. The Chairman, Mark Hodson, welcomed members and guests, particularly Master Insurer Tim Carroll from the Worshipful Company of Insurers, the Commanding Officer and the Honorary Colonel 71 (CofL) Yeomanry Signal Regiment together with our old comrades in arms 2nd Royal Gloucester Hussars. In addition he warmly welcomed Lt Colonel Wolfgang Mann and WO1 Ortmann both old friends of the *Sharpshooters* who had travelled from Germany to attend the dinner. The Chairman had sent a message of Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty The Queen to which Her Majesty had graciously replied and this was read out. The evening ended with the traditional toasts, including 'Absent Friends' proposed by Guy Farage, President of the *Association* and which by regimental tradition was consumed in total silence.

In recognition of outstanding service to the *KSYA*, Tim Rayson, Honorary Secretary, and Kevin Wright, Standard Bearer, were awarded silver gilt cufflinks by the Master Insurer on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Insurers.

The date for the 2018 Bir El Gubi Dinner is 17th November at the Cavalry and Guards Club. For further details see the flyer.



## HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year 2017 has on a personal level not been quite as challenging as 2016 but there have been times when it has been difficult to put it mildly.

The year 2017 saw the original guidon presented by HRH Princess Alexandra to the *Kent and County of London Yeomanry* in 1963 formally laid up at Croydon where it will go display in an appropriate display case for future *Kent and Sharpshooters yeomen* to see. This year has also seen 15 *Kent and Sharpshooters yeomen* from both WW2 and post that period march off parade and rejoin their comrades in the 'wet' canteen in the sky. They include Stanley Middleton who made a remarkable 107, Vic Dickens who marched off one month short of making 101 and Tamsin Kelty who was tragically murdered whilst canoeing the length the Amazon in Brasil. All of them will be missed for the variety and depth of character that they brought to our family.

The laying up of the Guidon went very well indeed and this was in no small way due to the professionalism of the team at Croydon whose focus for the first six months of the year had been very firmly fixed on Ex Wessex Storm which was a 7 Bde FTX and where RY were tasked to provide a Sqn to take part. In particular Cpl Will Wright is to be commended for his work in assembling a display of Kent Yeomanry Guidons and drum banners from 1793 through to the 1920's. I recommend his and the outgoing Sqn Leader's reports about the parade. Elsewhere in the Journal you will find a review of the year by CO RY as well as reports of activities by both serving Squadrons. In addition to the laying up of the Guidon there have been the 'usual' *Association* events – The Federation of London OCA Parade, the Lord Mayors Show, Field of Remembrance at Westminster and, the Bir El Gubi dinner.

These events are the framework that forms the *Association's* programme into which 'special' events are fitted. 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 you do not know what and more importantly **who** you are missing! The *Association* remains on standby to provide welfare support to *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* from both serving squadrons if and when they are deployed on operations and this remains a distinct possibility with two *Sharpshooters* being mobilised for service with the 1<sup>st</sup> Queen's Dragoon Guards in January 2018. We are very well supported in this area by our adopted Livery Company – The Worshipful Company of Insurers and we, together with the Museum Trust are really most grateful for their support without which many things would not have happened.



There are at present two welfare cases. In one we are acting in partnership with SSAFA and the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund and in the other case a multitude of council and NHS agencies who do not all pull together or even in the same direction. I want to pay tribute publicly to the work that Sid and Carol Jonas together with John Adamthwaite and Kim Hunter (to name but four) have undertaken so willingly over the last year in this very difficult and time consuming arena which has many battles (not all of which are or can be won) but where the outcome of the campaign is the key thing.

The *Association* contributes money where it can in support of these larger charities/organisations for *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* and whilst it is not very much it is true to say that every little helps them – and us! Your donations each year therefore are always most welcome as they do enable us to coordinate, contribute to and, deliver support.

If you are not presently donating to the registered charity that is the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* then I'd ask you to do so now. In this connection you should note that the *Association* successfully changed its account details in the summer of this year so that it aligns with the change of name which took effect in November 2011. We are also in the throes of reducing the number of accounts to one and you can help that process by checking that your Standing Order/Direct Debit is going to The *Association's* sole account whose details are as follows:

Lloyds Bank  
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association  
30-11-75  
00593399

If it is not then it means it is not going to the *Association* and you will need to change it. You will not need to change any existing Direct debits or Standing Orders made under the old '*Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association*' title but new ones and new cheques should be made out using the full name as above please.

As you well know every year I bang on about subscriptions and this year as you might expect there is no change! Just over 10% of our membership of 450 donate to the *Association* and the balance of income comes from legacies/wills, interest on the sound investments that our gallant predecessors (as a charity we are not allowed to be adventurous) made and our adopted Livery - the Worshipful Company of Insurers. I thank you all for those donations and whilst we do not aspire to be completely financially independent (we do not have the numbers to do so) we all need to give rather than the few.

The *Association* really does need each and every member to voluntarily contribute something towards the *Association*: A £15 donation per member per year made as a Standing Order with a Gift Aid contribution will not only allow us to do more to help former *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* and their dependents in need both now (and in the future) but also guarantee the continuation of this Journal which we all enjoy and others both within and without the RY admire.

So what is the programme for 2018? There will of course be the usual events and there is a racing certainty that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 1 will not

go unnoticed. The Forecast of Events gives some WW1 specific dates where you might want to build your own events around. Last year the *Association* trialled having the El Gubi dinner on a Saturday and although it did have its problems (such as keeping up with a hard drinking KRH crowd post dinner!) the event was a great success. As someone commented “always first class food and company; a missed opportunity for those who were not able to attend”.

This year’s dinner will similarly be held on a Saturday and further details are in the flyer and there is an increase but the maths show that this is the cheapest best VFM option.

Looking even further forwards to 2019 there will be the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the raising of the *Sharpshooters* in December 1899 whilst there will also be the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day and in particular Villers Bocage in June 19. If there is sufficient demand then the Touring Bus Company may well come out of retirement to organise a trip and we will see if the *Westminster Dragoons* would like to join in for a joint venture. How we cover the raising of the *Sharpshooters* is a bit more problematic: it could be a special dinner in a special place or even a trip to South Africa perhaps to tour one or two of the battlefields there plus of course Isandlwana/Rorkes Drift. Thinking caps on one and all and let me know if you have any ideas!

Finally what of the future? We continue to live in uncertain times and the growing importance of the Reserve, as the Army progresses towards the 2020 deadline for completing its reorganisation, can only see more pressure imposed on the volunteers who make up our serving squadrons. There is therefore a continuing need for the *Association* to review and adapt how it delivers support to the serving squadrons and remain relevant to them.

We communicate information by email and via Facebook - and some even use other applications (two are enough for me!). We will however continue to produce this journal in hard copy in its current format for as long as you the membership want it. The 2018 edition will be a commemorative edition focussed on WW1 but not at the expense of the serving squadrons.

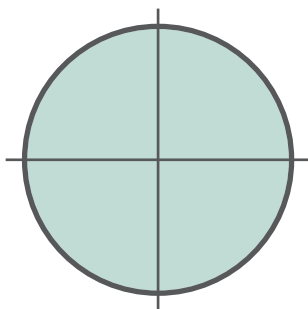
Please send all correspondence to me at the address below clearly marked for the attention of the ***Hon Secretary***:

The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association  
C/O Sharpshooter House  
Army Reserve Centre  
Mitcham Road  
Croydon  
Surrey CR0 3RU

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2018 and look forward to seeing you at any or indeed all of the events in the Forecast of Events.

Tim Rayson  
Hon Secretary





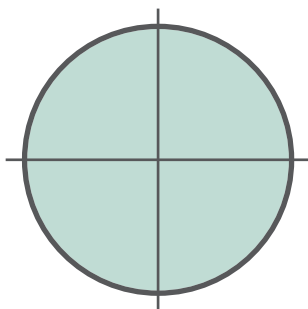
## **KSYA DONATIONS 2017**

The *Association* is always grateful for donations that it receives and donations were received from the following in addition to those received by Standing Orders:

The Worshipful Company of Insurers, William Stancomb, W M Fernie, Doreen Matthews (In memoriam Ian Matthews late 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY), IP Malcolm Tanner, David Sinker, Tim Lawson-Cruttenden, Philip Moore, Trevor Tew, J R Parish, David Smith, Mr G Bloom, Maurice Tomlin, Euan Watt, Robin Laurence, Ronnie Todd-Young, Gordon Jones (2RGHYA), Carole Amitrano (In memoriam Mrs Mary Spain whose husband William served with *The Sharpshooters*), Ben Steel (In memoriam Vic Dickens).







## WELFARE REPORT

It has been a busy and sad year, with a number of *Kent and Sharpshooters yeomen* to whom we have had to say goodbye.

### Support to Combat Stress

Two 'old and bold' nights have been held at *Sharpshooter House* (ARC Mitcham Road) where auctions have been held to raise funds for the charity Combat Stress. At both evenings there was much drinking and telling of many old war stories and a substantial sum was raised through a number of donated items that were auctioned off.

Combat Stress was formed in May 1919, and is the country's leading mental health charity having helped over 100,000 ex-service people since its inception. The charity's centre in Tyrwhitt House, Leatherhead was first opened by Princess Alice in October 1946 as a convalescent home accommodating veterans for a period of treatment, recuperation or rehabilitation prior to their return to civilian employment.

Over 70 years on Tyrwhitt House is now the Head Office of Combat Stress and also remains as a treatment centre having been extended with additional bedrooms for veterans as well as an Occupational Therapy building. The Charity's work is as vital today as it was in 1919 and further details are on their website at:

<https://www.combatstress.org.uk>

Marc Stoner got involved in January 2016 when he spoke to friend about volunteering. On meeting Paul, the Head Groundsman, Marc learnt that the koi pond had a leak and could not be used to hold the fish, so he decided to get some likeminded people on the case. After asking around help was found from:

Koi Water Gardens | Martin & Gary @ W T Interior Ltd | Easymix Concrete | Johnson Scaffolding | Guy Saunders Construction | Surrey Masons | Surrey Fire & Rescue.

The pond has been cleared and levelled, reinforced and concreted, with a fibreglass lining, new lights and filters. Altogether with discounts and donations more than £20,000 has been raised. (When Marc started he thought he could get it done for a couple of grand, how wrong can you be!). Since its completion, it has been heart-warming to see the solace and pleasure the veterans get from just watching the fish and listening to the running water. The proceeds from the auctions have helped with the



annual running costs which are estimated at £4-£600 per year. We have a group of people hoping to continue to fund the upkeep of the pond.

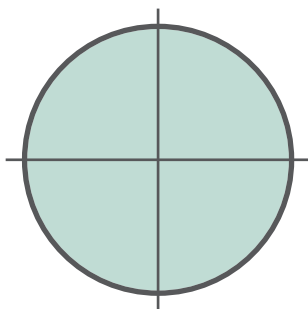
### **Welfare help from the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association***

Several *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* have been provided with support and financial help during the year. A generous donation was made to Help for Heroes after a collection at Terry Drew's funeral.

The Welfare team's remit is to provide support for both all serving and former Kent and *Sharpshooters* yeomen. If you know anyone who needs our support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

*pennyohare@hotmail.com*





## **TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2017**

Using current valuations of investments the *Association* had net assets of £75k at 31st March 2017 (£73k prior year). Income in the 12 months was £9k (£9k prior year). The current year included £1.5k of dividend income from investments.

As in previous years the largest item of expenditure was the magazine at £3.0k (£3.3k prior year). The Trustees still consider this to be essential in maintaining the *Espirit D'corps* of the *Sharpshooters*. £5k was spent on the Guidon parade at Buckingham Palace.

Income less expenditure was a deficit of £1.2k 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. There are now approximately 40 individuals paying standing orders into the SYA and this regular income is essential to the ongoing production of the magazine.

John Gunn ACMA  
Treasurer

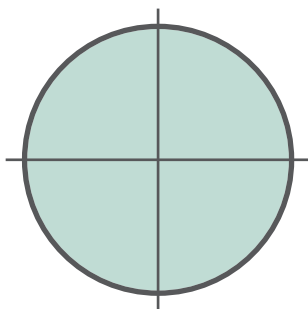
For income and expenditure accounts, please see next page



Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2017

Note:	Investments at cost	31st March 2017	31st March 2016
B	2837 Charifund Units	19,727	19,727
	<b>Current Assets</b>		
	National Savings Investment Bk	21,805	21,644
	Cash at bank	10,199	11,144
	Sundry debtors	68	478
		<u>32,071</u>	<u>33,266</u>
	Less sundry creditors	936	936
	Magazine		-
		<u>31,135</u>	<u>32,330</u>
	Publications		
	Total Accumulated funds	<u><b>50,862</b></u>	<u><b>52,056</b></u>
	<b>Represented by:</b>		
	Balance brought forward	52,056	49,482
	Plus/less surplus/loss	(1,195)	2,575
	<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<u><b>50,862</b></u>	<u><b>52,056</b></u>
		0	0
Note:	Market value of investments at 31st		
B	March 2017		
	2837 Charifund Units	15.59 <u>44,238</u>	14.15 <u>40,151</u>
		<u>44,238</u>	<u>40,151</u>





## **COMMANDING OFFICER ROYAL YEOMANRY'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017 – AND LOOK FORWARD**

**Secretary's Note: This is an edited version of the original letter sent to all serving soldiers within RY.**

1. For the last five years, the RY's primary mission has been to grow. Reaching the Army Reserve target of 30,000 meant that our focus was on two tasks: recruit and retain. Operation FORTIFY, the programme aimed at reaching that manning target, is drawing to a close. The RY is nearly fully-manned: there are over 550 of us.
2. Since the start of last year, the Army's Main Effort has been readiness. This means getting ready to fight any war, rather than a war of choice. While the recruitment and retention battle is still ongoing, our focus shifted during 2017. Everything we do must now be directed, in some way, to being ready to fight.

### ***How ready do we need to be?***

3. In 2015 we became part of 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (7X, the Desert Rats). We are now part of a deployable – and deployed – warfighting brigade. There are eight fighting units in the Desert Rats: six infantry battalions (three regular, three reserve) and two regiments of light cavalry (one regular, one reserve: us). This year has seen the Desert Rats deploy up to 555 soldiers on eight operations, over 1300 soldiers on OTXs to eight countries, participate in or command six UK operations and deploy over 300 soldiers on defence engagement, primarily in West Africa.
4. From the start of 2018, the Desert Rats will be the British Army's vanguard light brigade (VLB) headquarters. The RY's regular Army paired regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG), will be the Army's vanguard lead battlegroup. We are "all of one company" with our fellow Desert Rats. If they go, we go: at the front, QDG supported by RY.

### ***At the end of 2017, how ready are we?***

5. There are five strong indications that we have moved our regiment closer to the readiness level we need to reach: our performance on Exercise WESSEX STORM, our mobilisation for Operation CABRIT, the start of effective pairing with QDG,

the way our Influence Cell concept has been embraced, and the way we now communicate. The top three indications are these:

- a. **Exercise WESSEX STORM.** RY deployed a full Squadron (four sabre troops of R-WMIK Land Rovers plus a Squadron headquarters and logistical support and known as 'Imperial Squadron') on Exercise WESSEX STORM led by Maj Dom Ruck-Keene, OC C (*KSY*) Squadron. The Squadron operated alongside the Light Dragoons and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and was assessed by the Force Training Unit (FTU) on the same basis as its regular counterparts. FTU praised it for its flexibility and its sustained offensive spirit. It was a great performance, and it got us noticed. Reputations matter, because a good rep gets us quality people and access to opportunities.
- b. **Operation CABRIT.** The credibility we gained from Exercise WESSEX STORM was crucial in persuading the Army Directorate for Operations and Commitments (ADOC) to allow the RY to mobilise nine soldiers (including two *Sharpshooters*, LCpls Salamat and Wright) and one officer for deployment with QDG to Poland. This will be our first substantial deployment since Afghanistan in 2012. Mobilised deployment is essential for us: it is what people join to do, and it is why they stay.
- c. **Pairing with QDG.** Pairing is not just affiliation. It is more like a marriage. Officially, RY and QDG were paired in 2013. But it is only in 2017 that we have started to lean on each other and make the bond strong. QDG helped us prepare for Ex WESSEX STORM. They took ten RY soldiers with them to the Mojave Desert, to assist in developing light cavalry tactics. In return, RY has supported QDG's sniper and anti-tank courses and helped their headquarters prepare to step up as part of the VLB. Most significantly, one-tenth of the QDG's deployment to Poland will be RY. When pairing works, as it does now, it builds trust. And trust is vital when we are side-by-side on the battlefield.

### ***What comes next?***

6. Among the Desert Rats, the perception is that the RY is starting to deliver and that pairing is beginning to work. But we have some way to go. In 2018, we will deploy some of our people on operations to Poland, on short-term training teams to West Africa, and to train in Australia and the United States, as we continue on the path to readiness and warfighting excellence.

### ***Conclusion – some thoughts for the New Year***

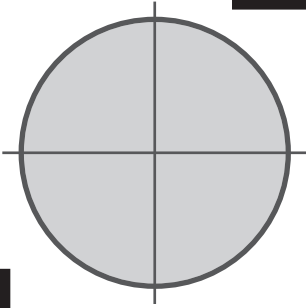
7. All of the squadrons of The RY have worked extremely hard in 2017. The results are clear. In 2018 I want them to be even clearer, proven and known. I am very confident that the traditions and ethos of the original Desert Rats embedded in the *Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry* will be well to the fore in helping RY to achieve this.

#### **Our Core Values**

***All of One Company:*** Desert Rats

***Do as you ought not as you want:*** disciplined professionals

***Think to the finish:*** understand the context



## **EMPTY SADDLES 2017**

### **AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

The year since the last issue of the Journal has seen 16 members of this *Association* marching off parade to the big canteen in the sky. Where possible and where families request it the *Association* standard is on parade and a trumpeter from RY is also present. Their names are recorded below and where there is sufficient information obituaries appear in the following pages:

Eric Grey – (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY)

Derek Williams – (CLY)

Giles Rooke – (KY)

Robert Melville – (3<sup>rd</sup> CLY)

Stanley Middleton (aged 107) – 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY

Ron Jones – (KCLY and C (KSY) Sqn RY)

John Newman Taylor

Vic Dickens (aged 100 years and 11 months) – 4<sup>th</sup> CLY

Terry Drew – C(KSY) Sqn RY

Tamsin Kelty – (C(KSY) Sqn RY)

Malcolm Tanner – (HQ LAD REME RY)

Marina Nicholson – 265 (KCLY) Sqn 71 (Y)SR

Mick Conn – 265 (KCLY) Sqn 71(Y)SR

Doug Coppard – 97(KY) Regt RA

Peter Dey – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY

Tony Aplegate – 265(KCLY) Sqn 71(Y)SR

### **THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVER MORE LEST WE FORGET**



# OBITUARY

## HIS HONOUR MAJOR GILES ROOKE

### KENT YEOMANRY



Giles Rooke being presented to HRH The Princess Alexandra after the presentation of the Guidon in 1963.

Giles Rooke was educated at Stowe School and then Exeter College, Oxford, reading classics. He was called to the Bar in 1957 and took silk in 1979, becoming a recorder in 1980 and a judge in 1981. He was appointed Canterbury Crown Court's very first resident judge in 1995 retiring in 2004. As a judge Giles was known for his love of latin and it was said that "He was a judge of skill, fairness, humanity and old fashioned courtesy... together with a boyish twinkle-eyed charm and humour". This latter is best summed up by a colleague who recalled him turning down a bail application on behalf of a defendant by telling him: "He can eat the bread of reflection... in the house of correction."

Giles was commissioned into RA on the Regular Army National Service List in Jan 1950 and transferred to the TA in July 1951 as a 2Lt in 297(Kent Yeomanry) Regt RA. In March 1961 he transferred to the *KCLY* following the amalgamation of the *Kent Yeomanry* and the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> *CLY* and was awarded the TD in November 1963 – the guidon having been presented to the new Regiment earlier in the year. In 1964 he was promoted Major and in July 1965 transferred to the unattached list where he continued to serve until retiring in 1995.

David Hannam and I were very fortunate enough to be able to interview him for the Sound Archives and we approached the task with some trepidation as the late Robin Ludlow had warned that he was a pretty tough cookie and had some strong views of the amalgamation of the regiments in 1961. The interview could not have been different in that he did have some strong views which were given in a forthright manner but always with charm. He was a typical Yeomanry officer from the old days and although he was not active in the *Association* he was proud to be a member of it.

Giles Rooke died on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

# OBITUARY

## ROBERT MELVILLE

(This obituary is an edited version of records of discussions that Robert Melville had with family members who thoughtfully compiled records. It is hoped to publish the full recollections in a future issue of this Journal)



Robert Melville (left) in the desert.

Robert joined the *3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)* at just about the time of the Munich Agreement in 1938. The *3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry* had only recently been formed from the 23rd London Armoured Car Company, and were then doubling up again to form a second line regiment.

Robert worked for Legal & General, and in the early summer when war seemed to be likely the staff there started moving all the files to the basement at Aldwych House and filling sandbags. As he put it “ At the end of August 1939 we got our T.A. calling up papers so it was goodbye to the L&G and Wandsworth Bridge station – without any regrets – and hullo to Albany Street barracks. I was posted to C Squadron.”

Robert served throughout the ‘Phoney War’ with *3<sup>rd</sup> CLY* becoming a driver and wireless operator (you only got paid for one trade then) and becoming great friends

with Derek Hawkins – later to become Lt Colonel Derek Hawkins MC MM. It was during this time that he met Derek's sister Joan who he subsequently married.

In December 1940 he was posted to Blackdown RAC OCTU passing out in the Spring of 1941 and posted to 57<sup>th</sup> Training Regt RAC and eventually to 47 RTR. Although offered an appointment with 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY he declined – a decision that he subsequently regretted.

Robert served with the 47RTR in Egypt until it was disbanded in December 1942 and was then posted to India as part of a training team tasked with the conversion of an Indian Cavalry Regiment to Armour. On his return to Egypt in 1944 he was seconded to the Arab Legion as training officer (armour) in preparation for deployment overseas. In 1945 he was transferred to the Sudan Defence Force to command a Company of Equatorial Corps stationed in Wau for a year returning thereafter to the Arab Legion where he undertook command and staff duties. These involved command of a Mechanised Regiment, security in Palestine and Jordan and skirmishes with the Israeli Army 1946-1949. In 1949 he was appointed Staff Liaison Officer London as Glubb Pasha's personal representative with promotion to the rank of Colonel until 1956.

Robert Melville died in January 2017 aged 98.



Robert Melville post war working for the Arab Legion and Glub Pasha.



# OBITUARY

## VICTOR DICKENS



Vic Dickens was born on 31 Dec 1916 and educated at Upton House Central School following which he started work with stock brokers Zorn & Leigh Hunt. During the thirties, he went to Germany twice, the first time with his younger sister when they had a fortnight's walking holiday in the Black Forest.

On the 8th of August 1939 Vic along with others, were made redundant because of the decline in business and thanking him for his seven years' service. There were no redundancy payments in those days, although he did get six weeks extra pay.

There were few suitable jobs available as most firms were not wishing to take on young men because of the likelihood of war. However after about a fortnight of fruitless job seeking, Vic received a telegram from the Adjutant of the *4th County of London Yeomanry* inviting him for interview for the post of a Territorial Clerk which he immediately accepted. Vic duly attended the interview at Allitsen Road, St. John's Wood, London and on 1st September received a further telegram appointing him to the post which also required him to join the Territorial Army. On the 9th September Vic's post disappeared and he then became 7897370 Trooper Dickens V.C. and placed on the strength of HQ Sqn to serve with RHQ in the Regimental Orderly Room.

Vic served with the *4th CLY* in the Orderly Room and his memoir is a treasure trove of little vignettes of the *4th CLY* and of life in the B Echelon in the field from the very beginning of the war. Following D Day and the amalgamation of the *3rd* and *4th* at Carpiquet Airfield Vic was transferred to a RAC Reinforcement Group and remained with them until June 1945 as the Orderly Room Sgt when he was posted to the Town Major's unit in Cologne finally being demobbed in December 1945.





# OBITUARY

## TERRY DREW



Terrence Drew was a private man. Some would say he could be difficult to get to know. Information from Terry about his personal life was usually served on a strictly need to know basis. He believed that life was not about him; Life was about others. He wasn't a show man...unless of course someone played Running Bear by Johnny Preston in the mess...TD's routine and actions to this song were outstanding and brightened countless occasions in the OR's and later, the Sergeant's mess!

For many of his friends from the military, his life as we knew it, began when he walked through the gates of Mitcham Rd Barracks in 1980. For most, joining the military was somewhat of an ordeal, where selection weekends, tests and two-week cadre courses were usually required. Not so for Terry! His selection consisted of driving Sergeant Sid Jonas around Croydon on a Wednesday night in 11 tonnes of Saracen armoured car. With his previous bus driving skills coming in handy, he of course drove it well. So he passed selection that very night and Trooper Drew was driving Sid around Salisbury Plain the following weekend! After passing through "selection", he became a proud member of *C Squadron, The Sharpshooters, Royal Yeomanry*, in 6 troop / Support troop. Terry quickly became a hugely respected member of the troop, the Squadron and indeed the Regiment, where colleagues quickly learned that although he didn't always say a great deal, when he asked you to do something, you tended to do it! Oddly, oftentimes even if you were a more senior rank!

There was of course though another part of Terry's life that most didn't get to see. Terry really had two families; he had two sisters, two brothers and his nieces and nephews... he was a beloved Brother, Uncle and Great Uncle to Tony, Michael, Lesley, Gillian, Andrea, Barry, Lorraine, Jack, Robyn, Toby and Samuel.



Terry was rarely seen without his cherished dog and companion, Stef, and of course he had his military brothers and sisters; the abundant number attending his funeral was true testimony to how important he was to so many.

To his friends, Terry was known by many nicknames: The Druid, Tel, El Tel, TD to mention a few. To those that did not know TD well, he was occasionally accused of having a hostile approach. The truth however, was that he simply did not suffer fools; if he felt you were wrong... you would know it! Once you did get to know TD, you found a truly special individual and soldier. He was a calming influence under pressure with a huge breadth of military knowledge. He was kind, generous, thoughtful and funny. Most importantly

though he was a loyal friend and a true leader, who taught so many of us so much. He was truly a legend and a proud *Sharpshooter*.

He will be missed greatly by so many.

RIP dear friend.



# OBITUARY

## EMMA TAMSIN KELTY

– a life less ordinary  
By David Turner QC



I first met Emma in the late-90s. She had joined *C Squadron* of the Royal Yeomanry (known as ‘the *Sharpshooters*’) based in Croydon. Women were still barred from frontline roles in the Royal Armoured Corps, so she became the Squadron Headquarters troop leader – in charge of the squadron’s command vehicles and the soldiers who manned them. She was a model of efficiency and quickly became much respected – even by the most garrulous members of the squadron. To her fellow-*Sharpshooters* she was always ‘Tam’.

Sitting in command tents was not for Tam – she wanted to be out, on the ground, mixing it up in the sabre troops. All too briefly she was indulged – helping track down and capture students on a NATO long-range patrolling course in southern Germany. But the re-rolling of the squadron to providing replacement crewmen for Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks (at the time a decidedly male-only occupation) spelled an end to any dreams of breaking the mould and – after about three years with the *Sharpshooters* – she turned to her right and departed the squadron.

What happened next? I don’t know much beyond the occasional snippet in relation to the period through to 2015. She pursued a career teaching deaf children. She became, briefly, the headteacher of a struggling primary school in Surrey: an Ofsted inspection shortly after her appointment recorded that she was working “*very effectively*” to implement the much needed improvements to the way the school was led and managed. But within a year, and perhaps because of her father’s terminal illness, she had gone. She took to the road of life, pursuing a penchant for skydiving, triathlons and (in her own words “slowly”) running ultra-marathons. She spent the summer of 2015 hiking solo from the US/Mexican border to Canada. Then in the winter 2015/2016 she skied to the South Pole, kindling a determination to go back to the frozen continent to become the first woman to complete the return trip solo and unsupported.



Most of 2016 was given over to training. With three former colleagues from the *Sharpshooters* (and supported by two more) she took part in Great Strides 65 in the Surrey Hills in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust: for her a non-stop 40-mile walk really was a stroll in the park. She cycled the length of the country and back again. Invited to give a motivational talk to Army cadets in Northumberland, she arrived on her bike – having ridden the 300 miles from London. And then she was off to Chile for the great attempt on the South Pole, aiming at the same time to raise badly-needed funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Teach Africa.

Unfortunately, Tam's sledge and other supplies were temporarily mislaid in transit and the ensuing delay was compounded by inclement weather. When she finally did get onto the ice, she knew it was too late into the Antarctic summer to have time to complete the return trip. She set off regardless. Within days her fuel bottles had failed in the extreme cold, necessitating their replacement – a seemingly inconsequential interruption of her solitude which meant that (as far as the record books, but not her legion of supporters, were concerned) her trip was no longer solo and unsupported. She soldiered on. After a solo journey of 46 days, the last fortnight of which had been spent battling the cripplingly-painful condition known as “polar thigh” (essentially large, ulcerated chilblains), she finally reached the South Pole. The return gig would have to wait for another occasion.

Within a fortnight of reaching the South Pole, and days after her return to the UK in January of this year, Tam had alighted on a new adventure: kayaking the length of the Amazon from Source to Sea. Apart from the extreme distance involved (around 5,000km), the early part of the journey would involve some of the most extreme navigable rapids on the face of the planet. There was only one small snag: Tam didn't know how to kayak.

Undaunted, Tam set out to equip herself with the skills necessary for the Amazon. Her canoeing started in a swimming pool, graduating to a canal and then Welsh rivers. Between her canoeing lessons, she fitted in unarmed combat training. By March she was taking on stoppers and weirs, but still finding time to indulge her passion for music by attending a performance of the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall. April saw her in the Ardèche, and then in Scotland taking advantage of rivers in full spate. A final burst of training took Tam to Cyprus, hiking to build fitness and resilience, ahead of a ten day trip to Slovenia to tweak her technique on water.



After a last visit to the Barbican to listen to the London Symphony Orchestra, Tam flew to Lima in mid-June, finally setting out from the source of the Amazon (the headwaters of the Rio Marañon) on the 20th. For the first part of her journey, in deference to the technical demands of the rapids, she was accompanied. By the end of July, however, she was through the rapids and on her own. Her writing exudes her delight at the magic of Peru and the people she met on her journey. Her final blog post came on 9th August, when she was still in Peru, having completed around 1500km of her odyssey, as she took two days off to rest, recuperate and regain some of the weight she had lost over the preceding seven weeks. After that, news came only from intermittent posts via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

On 26 August, Tam crossed the border into Brazil. Posts in the following days spoke of her battles with oppressive heat and monumental thunderstorms and the challenge of finding sleep as inquisitive locals approached her tent throughout the night whenever she pitched it on sandbanks in the river. By 6th September, Tam had completed around 3,000km (the last 2,000km on her own), with “just” another 2,000km to go. Her spirits seemed high after achieving some much needed rest. Her final photos were posted on 10th September and show a life of beguiling simplicity: filtering water, cooking chicken curry in a bag and her tent pitched in magnificent isolation in the middle of a massive sandbank.

Later the same day (still on the 10th) came a less reassuring post. *“So [I have been told] in or near Coari (100km away) I will have my boat stolen and I will be killed too. Nice.”*

Two days later, Tam was past Coari and back on the grid – again battling storm conditions and then encountering boat loads of men armed with rifles and bows and arrows shortly after passing by an eerily quiet town. But that evening, things seemed more promising. She posted to say she had encountered *“three lovely locals and two kittens that slept next to my tent for the night”*, and she posted again almost immediately (at 1am on the morning of the 13th), confirming that she was now in a happier mood: *“such a dramatic change in one day ... but such is the river ... every km is different and just because one area is bad doesn’t mean next is”*. She signed off with a smiley emoticon – her final communication with the world at large.

That night, Tam’s emergency beacon was activated. The following day the Brazilian authorities began searching for her between Coari and Codajas. By the Friday her canoe had been found. On Tuesday, 19th September, the Foreign Office confirmed her death. My heart goes out to her sister and brothers as they come to terms with this terrible news.

Tam’s motto appears on her blog: *“Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today”*. It might equally have been: *“Don’t sit there wondering. Get off your backside and do it!”* Few people live the life they would like to live. Tam did. And the world is a far less interesting place for her passing.



# **OBITUARY**

## **MALCOLM TANNER**



Malcolm Tanner and Tim Connell at the 2016 El Gubi Dinner.

Malcolm Tanner died on 9 August 2017 aged 74. Despite having a heart transplant 20 years ago he lived a full and active life but the last couple of years saw his health begin to fail.

Malcolm joined as an Army Apprentice aged 15 in 1958 at Arborfield and later was transferred to the newly opened school at Carlisle. He trained as a Gun Fitter and served a nine year career in REME in a wide variety of postings in BAOR as it was including deploying to Borneo on active service. His later career included service with tank units in North Africa at El Adem and with the 17/21 Lancers again in BAOR. Malcolm left Regular service in 1970 to return home to look after his recently widowed mother.

Having seen his mother settled he returned to the military environment, serving in the TA with HQ LAD and then joining Millbank Technical Services in Iran in 1973 in their support to the Shah of Iran's tank force. His Iranian adventures terminated when the Shah was overthrown in the revolution in 1979 and he made a dangerous cross country journey to a last minute escape on one of the last UK flights out of the country.

Back in the UK Malcolm took employment with the Redland Tile Company which led to more foreign travel installing vast tile making plants in France and Thailand until his need for a heart transplant in 1997 led to early retirement. Both prior to this and after he continued to pursue his lifelong love of cricket, playing in his local league. He also became actively involved with the REME Association Surrey Branch taking up the post of Branch Secretary becoming the key member in driving the group's activities and business. Malcolm undertook his duties conscientiously and was instrumental in arranging care and support for those members for whom welfare and company was becoming necessary. He maintained strong links with the *Association* and was a very



Malcolm (second right) at the lunch post the Federation of London OCA parade at the HAC.

keen supporter not only of our battlefield tours to France, Gallipoli, and other locations but also attending more local events such as the Federation of London OCA and Combined Cavalry Parades. His enthusiasm for both *Association's* never dimmed, nor his keenness to help others, despite his many painful conditions.

With the onset of now failing health in 2016 he moved into the Royal Hospital Chelsea to join the small but select band of REME in-pensioners. His last parade with the *Sharpshooters* was the Federation of London OCA in June 2017 where both myself and Kevin Wright delighted in his company.

We will all miss him but celebrate Malcolm having led a full and good life.



# OBITUARY

## SERGEANT MARINA NICHOLSON



It is with great sadness and regret that we announce that Marina Nicholson, a former long serving member of 265 (*KCLY*) *Signal Squadron (Sharpshooters)*, passed away after a long illness on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the age of 56.

Marina enlisted into 265 *Signal Squadron* in October 1984. After completing her recruit training she was initially posted to 890 Troop but later transferred to 905 Troop. Within a year Marina had completed the first stage of her trade training as a Data Telegraphist (DTG) Class III and was subsequently promoted to Lance Corporal. Over the coming years Marina qualified as a HGV driver, a Physical Training Instructor (PTI) and a Small Arms Instructor, and by 1988 had gained her second stripe and was given command of her own detachment.

It was not long before Marina demonstrated that she was a capable detachment commander who could be relied on to get the job done. Not content to just be accepted by her male counterparts as an equal, Marina strove to be the best and in many ways she was – consistently out-shining her contemporaries.

Her qualities as a JNCO were evident after being selected in 1990 to join an expedition in the Northern Territories of Australia as part of Operation Raleigh. Following a bush survival training course run by the Australian Army, she led a team of young adventurers for three months, trekking in the wilderness and undertaking community projects in remote, aboriginal areas.

Back in the UK, Marina's steadfastness, even under pressure, is typified by an incident during annual camp in Scotland during September 1993, when 265 *Squadron* together with another signal squadron were zeroing their weapons at Melrose Ranges. The ranges were situated at the base of a bleak mountain and despite the rain, sentries had to be posted onto the mountain for safety reasons and were provided with radios to maintain contact with the control station under the command of Corporal Nicholson. After the weather worsened and temperatures dropped, one of the sentries came in



stumbling down the mountain, whilst his partner, from whom he had become separated, could faintly be heard on the radio, before contact was lost. Marina promptly arranged for sweep of the mountain to locate the missing sentry, but to no avail. When the missing sentry's voice was once again heard on the radio, he was weak, confused and scared and Marina immediately ordered him to stand in the open on high ground. She was then able to guide an officer and members of her detachment to his location and get him off the mountain. The sentry was taken to hospital suffering from hyperthermia, and it was probably the swift action by Marina and her team that prevented a tragedy.

In May 1995 Marina was promoted to Sergeant and a year later was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal for completing 12 years efficient service. Marina, left the TA in August 1998, after 15 years loyal service with the squadron.

In that time, Marina's quiet modesty, easy smile and sense of humour, as well as her intelligence, motivation and zest for life, won her many friends, as well as the respect of her peers, both in the squadron and beyond.

There are countless anecdotes from Marina's many friends of times shared both inside and outside of the squadron, but these can only hint at Marina's personality; her love of animals (especially stray cats), her love of adventure and even her love of Tiffin bars in compo rations! Those who served with Marina and knew her well feel privileged to have done so and she will be hugely missed.



# OBITUARY

## DOUGLAS ARTHUR 'DOUG' COPPARD



It is with great sadness that we announce that 'Doug' Coppard, a veteran of the *Kent Yeomanry* during WWII, passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the age of 97.

Doug was born on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1920 and at the age of five went to boarding school at Colonel Colley's School for young gentlemen before moving on to Abbey School, Beckenham in Kent. In 1931 he decided to go to Seaford College, Sussex then moved to Pitman's College in 1935 where he learned to write shorthand 120 words per minute and French. Two years later he left to join his father's fish selling company that had been trading at Billingsgate since 1798.

Getting up at 3.45am each morning and working six days a week, it was a wonder he had time to be a part-time soldier, but that didn't stop him enlisting into the *Kent Yeomanry* early in 1939.

After war was declared, and the regiment mobilised, Doug went to France with the regiment as part of the BEF. On the retreat to Dunkirk he got separated from the regiment and because his boots were falling apart was making slow progress. Luckily he befriended a horse, which although unable to hold his weight, did carry Doug's pack. Thus he arrived at La Panne leading a horse, which he then set free, before making his way to Dunkirk and joining a queue to board a destroyer ferrying troops back to England.

Doug recalled:

*"As the destroyer HMS Express came alongside the pier, sailors pulled us aboard and told us to drop all our weapons into the sea, but I kept my beloved radio. We were packed neatly together in the hold of the ship until bursting. The boat turned around and sailed to Dover. That was the last full trip that boat ever took, the next time it came around to pick up soldiers it was sunk."*

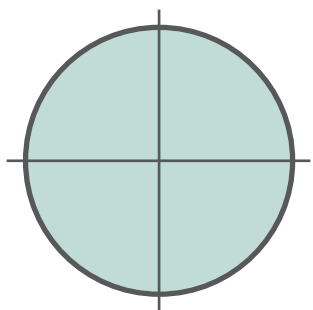
In 1941, Doug went with the regiment to Iraq, where he recalled that the nights were so cold at Habiya where they were based, that in the mornings the cork of his water bottle was sitting on top of a column of ice!

Later on, Doug went with the regiment to the main theatre of operation in the Western Desert. By June 1942 Doug was in the newly formed 470 Battery and during the confusion of the withdrawal to the Alamein Line, the convoy in which he was travelling became surrounded by the enemy. Doug was taken prisoner and spent six months at a camp west of Benghazi in Libya before being shipped to Italy. When the Italians surrendered, he was sent to a German PoW camp in Muhlberg, Saxony where he spent the rest of the war. During captivity, Doug, along with many other Allied prisoners, suffered many hardships and privations, but he never lost his sense of humour.

After the war he emigrated to Australia and served for 15 years in the Australian Army Reserve – first the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery and then the Australian Army Transport Corps. His military service finally came to an end in 1980 when he turned 60 years of age. Nevertheless he remained active and independent and was still driving at the ripe old age of 96!

Doug is survived by his daughters Louise and Sandy.





## **KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST – CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

2017 has been a year of returning to a business-as-usual drumbeat at the museum, after all the drama of recent years in raising funds, building the museum, and running an intensive programme of outreach activities.

The new museum is a great asset, and I love reading and responding to so many 4 and 5 star reviews by members of the public on Trip Advisor. A recurring word in these reviews is “Excellent” and this is a great tribute to all my fellow trustees and volunteers who are passionate about excellence in everything they do.

Our treasurer John Gunn and I wrapped up all our end of project reporting to the Lottery Fund in January, and then Huw Jones successfully led us through a minefield of red tape to achieve Fully Accredited Museum status with the Arts Council of England. We punch above our weight, and our peer group as a Fully Accredited Museum includes the largest museums in the country.

In the Hever Museum, Dan Taylor continues to attend to various finishing touches and implement new displays – you can read more of this in the Curators report. He has also initiated a work experience scheme for student and recent graduate interns which is getting some very appreciative feedback from local universities.

Tim Rayson and Dave Whitehouse have continued to develop our displays at the drill halls, and are always happy to meet new members of our squadrons and share stories of our wonderful history. Dave is also our go-to person for maintaining the registry of all who have served with the regiment, and has done some great research during the year in response to individual requests. Dan, Huw, Tim and Dave have also been busy this year sorting out our reserve collection and an ocean of old documents.

Talking of stories, with David Tomlin’s assistance we now have the majority of our Touchscreen stories available for public viewing on our website, [www.ksymuseum.org.uk](http://www.ksymuseum.org.uk). Do take a look if you haven’t yet explored them.

Guy Farage, Tony Jewell and Tim can always be relied on to keep a sharp eye in the market for potential acquisitions, and scored a big win with our recent purchase of World War One medals.

A big thank you to donors for the medals purchase, and to multiple members of the SYA in Croydon who have clubbed together to donate a plaque in memory of Tamsin.

I would still like to encourage a broader base of regular donations by as many readers of this journal as possible. We have annual running costs of about £5000 and today's annual income is about £2000. We have a few years of reserves, but of course we want to get into a situation where we can cover our operating costs with annual income. Could you spare us say £5 or £10 per month? Our sort code with Royal Bank of Scotland is 16-19-26 and our account number is 10326877. We also have a donations page on Virgin Money Giving.

We were delighted to receive a grant this year of £500 from our neighbours the Great Stone Bridge Trust of Edenbridge, and I intend to write some new grant applications in 2018 – but only once I can show potential new institutional donors that we have a broad base of regular donors such as yourself. How many regular donors do we have today – (a) 12 (b) 37 (d) 85? The answer is at the end of this article.

A number of people continue to be very generous with their time – in addition to those named above, you have a good chance of spotting Michael Achow, Peter Crowley, and Alistair and Kathleen Dempster on your next visit to the museum at Hever, as they have the honour of being our most frequent volunteers, welcoming members of the public with great warmth and enthusiasm.

You mean you haven't visited the museum since the big party we laid on for you at the opening ceremony in September 2015? Or you have never visited? What are you missing! Make 2018 the year you come down to Hever, and bring family and friends with you – it is certainly possible to visit the museum (on its own) for free, and also to get discounted access to the castle and grounds - see the advert in this journal about opening times and prices. I look forward to reading all your reviews on Trip Advisor! And if you let us know in advance, we will try to find a member of our team to host you on your visit.

The last weekends in January and June are always a good time to come and volunteer at the museum. In January we have a range of maintenance activities, and in June we run a number of activities as part of Hever Castle's Home Front weekend. Let us know in advance, so we can confirm dates and plan lots of things to keep you busy. If you would like to become a regular volunteer, do let me know. There is a simple application form on our website.

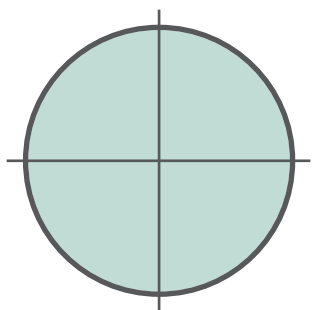
Finally, it is my pleasure introduce two new trustees who have recently joined the team – Brenda Traylen and Paul Acda. A big welcome to you both!

Chris Sutton  
Chief Executive, KSY Museum Trust

Answer = A.







## **KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST**

Trustees: Guy Farage (Chairman), Chris Sutton, Dan Taylor,  
John Gunn, Tim Rayson, Brenda Traylen, and Paul Acda.

### **An update and report on recent acquisitions, 2017**

After the upheavals of the previous two years 2017 provided a small respite to allow some consolidation and an opportunity to take stock of our current, healthy position. This is not so much a rest – new accessions continue to arrive apace – but allows us to explore new avenues to use our volunteers on specific projects so that we will be better able to keep our displays fresh and informative.

Curatorial posts held as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary: Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

For an unmanned museum, an awful lot of man hours go into day-to-day running and administration, not just by me, but by a number of our happy band. This year that number has been swollen by the adoption of Student Volunteers in a new programme aimed at tackling some of the larger projects which had hitherto been regarded as requiring unrealistic amounts of time. We were very fortunate to take on three very capable and enthusiastic students, Emily Budgen, Harold Jones and Ben Taylor, for the main project in July. The programme included a ‘behind-the-scenes’ visit to the National Army Museum to review their conservation facilities, a project to transcribe annotation from a few of our photograph albums, and a major effort to sort out the main store and uniform store at Hever. This last element made huge inroads into understanding, cleaning and recording the reserve collection during which we discovered a number of items which had not reached the accession list. Huw Jones, David Whitehouse and Joe Taylor were also on the team for this part of the project and we were able to photograph and clean over half of our substantial uniform collection: the other half is earmarked for similar treatment in 2018. Following the success of this initial project we have had approaches from a two post-graduate students, David Pullinger and Chris Batt, looking for work experience to help them apply for jobs in the museum and curatorial world. They have been eagerly taken and have chiefly been involved working on the photographic archive

(see below). We have been approached by Kent University to see if we can offer work placement for their students. This initiative seems to be gaining momentum.

Another notable success this year has been the re-adoption into the KSY Museum of Major Jimmy Sale's photograph collection. For those of you who have not come across this collection, Major Sale was a gifted photographer tasked with initially recording the grave markers of 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY Sharpshooters lost during the Second World War and, post amalgamation in 1944 those of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> CLY. He vastly exceeded his remit, photographing all aspects of wartime life, from sports events to medal ceremonies and from Egyptian tombs to destroyed enemy vehicles. In all, his 24 albums comprise over 5,000 images. In 1975 the decision was made that, in order to properly conserve the photographs, and to make them available to as wide an audience as possible, the collection should be donated to the National Army Museum. This left us in the invidious position where, should we want to use the images in the museum, or in Regimental publications, we needed to buy back rights and a copy of the print from the NAM. The digital age has fortunately changed the playing field, and access to images so it seemed the right time to explore with NAM this anomaly. Recent appeals to the NAM have proved fruitful and they have agreed to allow us our own copies of *all* of the collection, free of cost, and with reproduction rights. To keep the workload manageable, around 200 images per month are being returned as digital scans and a small team is currently working on collating and annotating them for future use.

Spreading the history of the Regiment is also a key element of the Trust's work and I have given talks on various aspects of the Regimental history to a wide variety of organisations ranging from the Invicta Military Preservation Society, to the Royal Tank Regiment Association in Kent, and, by the time the article is published, the Westminster Dragoons. Tours of the Museum have also been hosted for the Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicles Association and FoRem (a Royal Engineers historical study group). I have also been working as a battlefield guide for three organisations and take every opportunity to promote the museum in general, and *Sharpshooter / Kent Yeomanry* battles in particular.

New acquisitions continue to be offered to the museum at a fairly prodigious rate and space unfortunately does not allow me to list them all but they do range from the recent conflict in Iraq to World War 1 artefacts via World War 2 and even Borough Councils.

Here is a selection of what we have received:

**Blood group patch on MTP panel.**

**2017-01**

**Iraqi key regime personalities booklet.**

**2017-02**

**Gift: Huw Jones**

Efforts are being made to bring the collection more up to date and Huw's donation from his service in the 1980s to 2000s helps to demonstrate that our history stretches beyond 1945. If you have items sitting at the back of a cupboard from your time with the Regiment, please remember the Museum.

**Photograph album, World War Two era**

**2017-03**

**Purchase: Guy Farage**

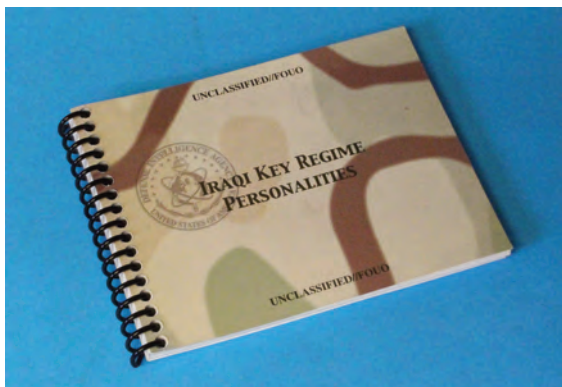
The album came to us via auction but lacked any names to identify the originator so some detective work was required to identify the owner as LCpl Nichols A Sqn, 3<sup>rd</sup>



**Binoculars and Vickers MG  
screwdriver KSYM2017-16-01b**



**Officer's Trench wrist watch  
KSYM2017-04a**



**KSYM2017-02A**

*CLY* who was commissioned post-war into the Middlesex Regiment. Helpfully written against a few of the pictures was the word 'self', and so comparison with other album sets allowed us to narrow things down. There is also a programme for the 1942 Christmas show, 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' (written by Ollie Woods) in which one of the musicians – Corporal Nichols has 'that's me' written against it.

#### **Officer's Trench wrist watch**

**2017-04**

#### **Loan: Mr & Mrs P Cosier**

Our WWI display is on the thin side so we were grateful to receive this unusual original item. It is dated 1918 and hallmarked, being of a type that was fairly ubiquitous at the time but becoming quite rare now.

**Spork****2017-05****Gift: BJ O'Connor**

Mr O'Connor has been doing odd bits of cabinet making and similar jobs for the Museum for a couple of years and came to me with an object he had been given some years before. On first inspection this appeared unremarkable and very similar to the sort of Spork (Knife, fork, spoon combination) used by the Army for years. However, looking more closely, it is dated 1943 and features an impressed eagle & swastika symbol. The story is that it had been captured during the war and passed down within the O'Connor family. An ideal little item for our 'War Booty' cabinet.

**A set of nine photographs (scans)****2017-08****Gift: Peter Arnold**

A rare set of pictures showing *Sharpshooters'* camps near Brighton c. 1906

**Silver plated cigarette case****2017-10****Archive Transfer: Newham Council Archive**

In a recent audit of their archive this cigarette case was discovered, inscribed F Baxter, 3 *CLY*, dating from 1915. As there was no clear link to their records (other than the fact that Mr Baxter likely lived in the borough at some time), they contacted me and asked if we would like it. Naturally, the answer was affirmative.

**Research Pamphlet****2017-12****Gift: Martin Stoneham**

Martin is a well known military historian and has presented us with this insightful research piece on the Tuft family. One of its members, Frank Tuft, served with the REKMR in Gallipoli, and was killed there on active service. This is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the period.

**A box of memorabilia (35 individual accessions)****2017-14****Gift: John Morrison**

Many of you will remember John Morrison from his long service with the Regiment and the Regimental Association. Imagine my delight – as a curator keen to record the *Sharpshooters* Cold War service – when John's son (also John) came to Hever to donate a box of 35 items from his time in the TA. It contains manuals on Saladin and Fox; a substantial set of NBC kit in original packaging, and even a roll of 4x2 (proper sized rifle cleaning cloth), plus many other items. An intriguing collection to remember a great *Sharpshooter*.

**Three Medal Groups c1900 – 1919****2017-19****Purchase: Spinks (via Richard Black)**

With enormous thanks to those who were able to contribute towards the purchase fund, the Museum has received these three historically significant groups of medals which include a Military Medal – our first WW1 gallantry award. Complete with rich background information, these groups of medals cover an area of the collection that is a little thin. At the same time they highlight some truly colourful characters.



**Three Medal Groups c1900 - 1919 KSYM2017-19-01**

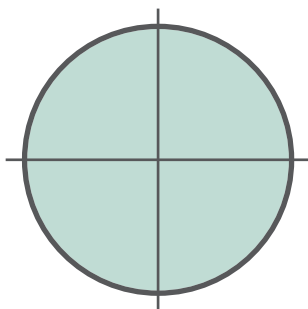
Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hard work of all our volunteers, be they manning the museum to escort visitors, keeping our gate guardians in pristine condition, or ploughing through dusty archives to unearth fresh and interesting stories we can add to our displays. They are the heartbeat of the museum and without them it could not exist.

Onward to 2018.

Dan Taylor  
30/12/2017







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

OC Sqn – Maj JP Baker TD

2IC – Capt I Mackay/Capt D Alleyne

PSAO – Capt SD Slaney

SSM – WO2 (SSM) C Springer

SPSI – SSgt G Ward

PSI (T) – Sgt N Gurung

**OC Update** – The Squadron has been very busy ensuring we made full use of the time over **Ex Phoenix Buzzard** in June and **Ex Horseshoe Hawk** in July, in order to ensure we had met our collective training objectives prior to ADE (Annual Camp) in September in Scotland and Gaerlochhead. On **Ex Phoenix Buzzard** we hosted 2 Signal Group Commander, Colonel Cooper to be briefed by the newly promoted SSgt Sutton on the success of the exercise thus far. Also in June we enjoyed a visit on a busy Drill Night by the newly appointed Regimental Colonel, Col Wilkinson who took the time to meet and discuss pertinent issues with all ranks from our recruits to the Squadron command team. He was also able to visit a 3 UK DSR leadership cadre headed up by WO2 (SSM) Shackleton and SSgt Gibson, while making use of our facilities for a study day. The evening was rounded off as usual by a superb curry cooked by LCpl Akarbil and Pte McNally who was also presented with his Drapers award for excellent Army Reserve service. SSgt Lapidge was presented with his CS OP (R) Class 2 certificate marking the culmination of a year's hard work to continue his re-training.

In July the Squadron assets were deployed across the city to a variety of Police, Fire stations and other key installations in support of the UK Operations **Ex Horseshoe Hawk**. Our Squadron Colonel, Col Paul Acda, visited us and enjoyed deploying into the field to meet our exercising troops. He was also able to take the opportunity to present Sig Stewart with her CS OP (R) Class 2 Certificate and congratulations go to Cpl Harries on being awarded the Commanding Officers coin. A further highlight of the month was the battlefield study to Normandy **Exercise Phoenix Overlord**, ably organised by 2Lt Wei (see below).



Regimental Colonel, Colonel Wilkinson presenting SSgt Lapidge with his CS OP (R) Class 2 certificate.



Cpl Harries receiving his Commanding Officers coin.



Sig Steart receiving her CS Op (R) certificate from the Squadron Colonel, Colonel Acda.



SSgt Sutton explaining the role of the Squadron to the 2 Signal Group Commander.



## **Ex PHOENIX OVERLORD 2017 (Bataille de Normandie): WE WILL REMEMBER**

As part of a 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment organised Battlefield Study Tour of Normandy over 20-23 Jul 2017, a group from the Squadron visited different locations that included Merville Battery, Pegasus Bridge, Arromanches, Longues-sur-Mer, OMAHA Beach and the British (GOLD) Beach, each providing unique perspectives of the momentous events in 1944. There were some truly inspirational stories from studying these locations and only by being here in person can one truly appreciate the sheer extent of the struggle and strength demonstrated in the face of adversity. At the end, the group gathered before the Bayeux Memorial in the Cemetery and were enlightened to its striking significance - bearing the names of all the soldiers who sacrificed themselves but have no known grave to mark their final resting place. The group then stepped onto such a pristine patch of land, tenderly maintained by the CWGC. The tranquillity was felt by all, especially those who had never been on a Battlefield Study before. Having learnt about the gravestones and inscriptions of the CWGC Cemeteries, the Ex participants were handed a remembrance cross each, and stood out one at a time to introduce an individual who they were commemorating - they had been set, the night before, to research the background and identities of 14 *SHARPSHOOTERS* who served with the *County of London Yeomanry* during WW2, our predecessors. A minute (which never seems long enough) silence was held, before a wreath was laid at the Bayeux Cross Memorial in the heart of the Cemetery - marking the end of an incredible long weekend, and more so an incredibly successful Battlefield Study.



Sig Stevens at the CWGC - Bayeux.

**Training and Parades** - After ADE (Annual Camp) our soldiers have been very busy completing trade and career courses: and we were please to recently promote Sig Emma Stewart and Pte Matt McNally to LCpl pending passing their PNCO course, Sig Billy Stevens completed his CS Op Class 3 trade course, Sgt Charlie Woo and Sig Sarah Needham-Beck were presented with their Class 2 certificates, and Cpl Porter his CS Op Class 1 course. Captain Ian Mackay has reluctantly given up his job as Squadron 2 I/C and has now moved over to RHQ into the role of QM (R) and Captain Dave Alleyne has taken over the role as the Squadron 2iC. The Squadron has been very busy providing support and soldiers in the Lord Mayors Show, Royal British Legion, Festival of Remembrance and the Bexleyheath Remembrance Sunday Parade, where over 200 Reservists, Cadets & Veterans marched out of the ARC to the Bexleyheath memorial. We were lucky to have on the parade the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley and the Bishop of Rochester. The Key Assured Training weekend in November was Exercise Phoenix Frolic where over 32 Squadron members congregated at the ARC in Bexleyheath for CT1 Comms training, central Chef and Clerk training and physical development: Whilst Cpl Craig Langley and his merry band of medics provided excellent real life medical training for members of 36 Signal Squadron.

**Lord Mayors Show** - The Lord Mayors Show took place on Saturday 11th November, when Alderman Charles Bowman was sworn in as the 690th Lord Mayor of the City of London. The parade consists of approximately 145 separate contingents, several thousand personnel, creating a parade over three miles in length; it is the largest un-rehearsed parade in the world. The marshalling of this event is undertaken almost entirely by Volunteer Reserve Officers who have been selected and invited to attend, Capt Dave Alleyne Ops Officer and Capt Ian Mackay, Sqn 2 I/C were both given the honour to attend this year.

The Squadron, within a Regimental contingent, was represented in the mounted escort to the Lord Mayor. After six weekends (Apr-Jul) of basic horse-riding training at *Brunei Stables, RMAS*, Phase 1 of rider training successfully concluded with nine members of the Regt being selected to progress onto Ph 2, in preparation for the Lord Mayor's Show, where the Regt has historically ridden in the Parade to escort the Lord Mayor. Sig Emma Stewart represented the Squadron, and from a novice at the start of the year, has certainly impressed by stepping up to one of the key roles in the parade detachment as front left marker. The big day began well before dawn and all were up at 0430 to make it to Hyde Park Barracks ready for inspection by not merely CO Household Cavalry nor the Lord Mayor, but tens of millions of people watching the famous parade at home. The parade was hugely successful, including a "Pit Stop" at Middle Temple where the Regt hosted VIPs and guests, and Sig Stewart was an excellent ambassador for the Sqn and Regt, as well as being the centre of attention alongside her horse in front of family and friends. Sig Stewart was pleasantly surprised to be awarded a Rough Riders badge in recognition of the fact that she is now part of an exclusive group who have represented the Regt by riding in the Lord Mayor's Show.

**Royal Albert Hall, Royal British Legion Remembrance Service** - The Squadron was honoured with the opportunity to participate in the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall (RAH) in front of HM The Queen. The team of one officer and nine soldiers was led by the OC Major Paul Baker, spent the preceding months drill nights undergoing kit inspections and practising drill, with the



focus on descending sets of stairs which is a skill which does not always come easy. Having passed our Regimental muster under the eagle eyed RSM we were ready to embark on a further two days of training at Wellington Barracks and the RAH for the event itself. This was completed under the expert instruction from the Garrison Sergeant Major and with the remainder of the 120 who made up the Army contingent, as well as the RAF and RN contingents.



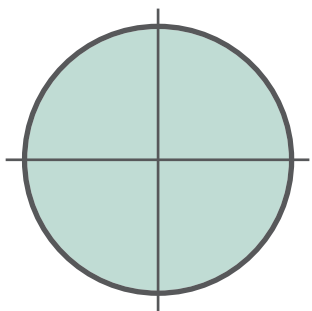
Cpl Crane, LCpl Lovett, Sig Needham-Beck, Cpl Harries, Maj Baker TD, Sgt Woo, Sgt Way, Sig Michaelson & Sig Hawes at the Royal Albert Hall, RBL Festival of Remembrance.



LCpl Lovett, Cpl Harries, Cpl Crane, Sgt Woo and LCpl Liscoe.

**Remembrance Sunday Parade, Bexleyheath** - The Sunday morning after the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance saw the Squadron on duty once again for 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 and Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, Councillors and representatives from the Borough Police and Fire Brigade departments. All the local cadet units take part in the parade, ranging from contingents of the 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 contingent of extremely well turned out veterans who enjoyed a glass or two of Vintage Port with the PSAO Capt Steve Slaney. Additionally former members of the Squadron and families were in abundance enjoying a quality time and curry served expertly as ever by LCpl Sylvia Akabil.





## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS) ‘NEVER SAY NEVER’

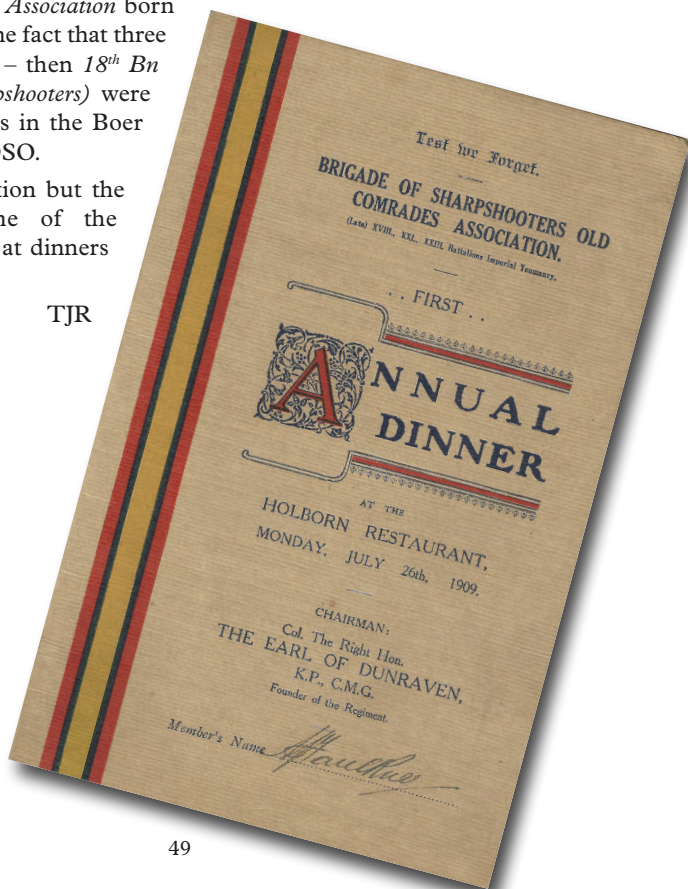
In last year's Journal writing about the formation of the *Association* I said:

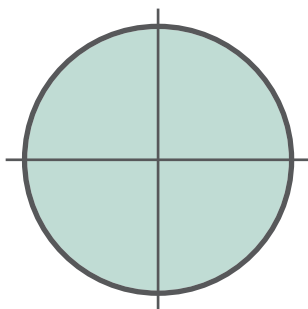
‘So an *Association* born out of the comradeship of WW1 certainly did exist with its roots quite possibly in the Boer War battalions of Imperial Yeomanry but what did they do? This is the hardest part and is unlikely ever to be satisfactorily answered although one thing about owning the archives is that you never know quite what is in there!’

My comment could hardly have been more prophetic as (again by chance) I stumbled on evidence of a 3<sup>rd</sup> *CLY Association* born out of the Boer War and the fact that three members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> *CLY* – then 18<sup>th</sup> *Bn Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)* were awarded gallantry medals in the Boer War – 2 DCM and one DSO.

More in the 2019 edition but the evidence supports some of the traditions that we follow at dinners today originated then.

TJR





## C (KSY) SQUADRON RY

### **Sqn Overview** – *Maj D Ruck Keene*

2017 has been a very full and successful year for the *Sharpshooters*. The highlight for many was the final parade of the *KSY* Guidon through *Sharpshooters* followed by a moving service at Croydon Minster and the laying up of the guidon at Sharpshooter House. There was fantastic turn out from the *Association* and tremendous pride at the long history of the *Sharpshooters* represented by our Guidon, but a recognition that the *Sharpshooters* have a safe and valued future as part of the Royal Yeomanry. The day was topped off with an epic summer ball at Sharpshooter House where the money earned from leasing the parade square to the fire engines for many months was put to very good use. Cpl Richard Dunning and SSgt Mason were instrumental in making the ball a huge success, and Capt Adam Westwood as PSAO played a huge role in organising the whole day, in particular due to the absence of the entire C Sqn SHQ on Wessex Storm until just before the day.

Otherwise, *C Sqn* formed the core of the *RY Sqn* on Wessex Storm and meant that I had a dependable skeleton on which to build together a composite sqn with members from all five of the other *RY Sqn*s. We were the largest contingent and all acquitted themselves with distinction. After a number of years spent on the somewhat painful process of converting to *RWMIK*, it was very good to finally see a formed *RY*, properly mounted, trained and equipped – able to play alongside all the other Regular sub units on the exercise. The build up weekends for Wessex Storm were the high focus for the first part of the year, and although it was good to work with and see the rest of the regiment, it has been something of a ‘coming home’ to be able to have a number of Sqn only weekends in the second half of the year – including an enjoyable Sqn range package down at Lydd organised and run by Cpl Oscar Searle, and a demanding urban OP and urban house clearance exercise at Longmoor.

I hand over *C Sqn* at the end of this year – just over six years since I first transferred from the *QDG*. It has been an immense privilege to have been a Troop Leader, Squadron 2ic, and finally OC of the *Sharpshooters*. The Sqn welcomed me, forgave me for being ‘another ex-Regular captain’ and has been a home from home. The spirit of professionalism, tempered with a zest for life and making the most of all the Army has to offer, lives on at *C Sqn*. I have been incredibly lucky to be in command for the opening of the Museum, the *RY* Guidon Parade and our own Guidon Parade – all key milestones for the Sqn. I will miss it, but will always be proud to be a *Sharpshooter*.

## **Wessex Storm** – by Lt H Pollock

This year the Royal Yeomanry was asked to provide a formed squadron to partake in Exercise Wessex Storm with the Royal Anglian. Exercise Wessex Storm was a unique chance for the RY to exercise as squadron on a Battle Group exercise under the watchful eye of the Field Training Unit and 7x Commander.

Major Dom Ruck Keene was asked to step up as the Squadron leader of the newly formed Imperial Squadron – a composite Sqn with members of every RY Sqn. A large contingent of *C Squadron* followed Dom into Salisbury Plain and formed the core of Imperial Sqn – OC, 2ic, Battle Captain (Capt Jules Moore), SSM (W02 Ian Fearnley) and two Tp Sgts (Sgt Brennan O'Hare and SSgt Rand Faytaren). It started with a herculean effort from the RY QM depart and Capt Chris Chadwick (*C Sqn* and MTO, as well as Imperial Sqn 2ic) getting 20 Vehicles from around the RY and the country to Salisbury Plain. To add to the pre deployment dramas Dom's wife Harry gave birth six days before the Sqn deployed and very kindly allows him to deploy.

The first week was Battle Exercises, where the Squadron was tested on the core skills it would be expected to conduct in the main phase. In this phase the Sqn conducted advance to find, clearance, CTR and raid. The week culminated in a CTR and stay behind OP (on the only day of rain, which lead to a couple of very soggy soldiers) in order to set up a Squadron raid with Preliminary fires coordinated by the Light Dragoon's FOO.

The second week saw the squadron come under both 7x and Royal Anglian, which lead to a verity of tasks ranging from securing the bridge head for the battle Group's advance across the river Avon, defending a convoy from an ambush by the Irregular forces, to setting an OP matrix to set the warn the battle group who were setting a defensive position.

Although some moments of the exercise was frantic seeing SHQ plan and execute in very tight timelines, and others have inactivity for nearly 48hrs. It was a great opportunity for *C Sqn* to flex its military muscles, and on all accounts the RY and particularly *C Sqn* excelled themselves. Setting up workable comms in some of dark spots in Salisbury Plain and providing critical information to the BG commander. The two weeks ended with the Squadron getting sign off for Squadron activities when the Army Reserve currently are only mandated to train to troop level.

## **3PYR 2017** – by Lt A Shaw

Two members of *C Sqn*, Lt Shaw and Tpr Egleton, led the pan-RAC entry into the 3 Peaks Yacht Race 2017, backed up by a brilliant shore crew that included our medic, Pte Watson. The race involves 389nm of sailing and rowing through the most difficult British waters, and 89 miles of running and cycling, scaling the three highest peaks in Wales, England, and Scotland. It is the original, and most challenging annual adventure race in the UK.

At the start, it's the land legs that seem the most daunting aspect of the race, but they were not. We were lucky with the weather and cracked on, up and down a few hills.

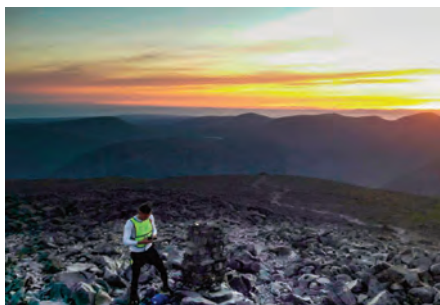




Dream Team; Inset: top left, the start; bottom right, the finish.

It was the sailing that was difficult. With a largely novice crew, and sailing shorthanded, managing five days of sleep deprivation while conditions vacillated between flat calm (meaning we had to row...), and breezy was not easy. We also grounded for two hours on Caernarfon Bar and faced an electrical storm in the Hebrides – quite unpleasant prospects for the experienced sailors, let alone the novices!

Despite this, we were the first boat to finish having put everyone up a hill, and we therefore achieved our aim of winning the blue ribband of the race: the Tilman Cup. We also won the Light Infantry Bugle as the first services boat, and the Colin Prescott Walker Trophy for the youngest team to finish. We could not have done it without the help provided by the RY Association: many thanks to the committee for agreeing to support us.



Left: Top of Snowdon; right: Top of Scafell.



**EX YEOMAN WATCHER** represented the first opportunity in 2017 for *C Squadron* to exercise independently, following a season of regimental exercises building up to Imperial Squadron's deployment on EX WESSEX STORM. We seized the moment.

In Maj Ruck Keene's absence on Friday and Saturday morning, the 2ic, Capt Moore, took command of the Squadron's three Troops. They hit the ground running, and after a safety brief and swiftly delivered sets of orders they deployed to conduct CTRs of LONGMOOR village, in order to later establish OPs at last light on Saturday night.

After a short hold up trying to break through the perimeter fence of the village, all three troops managed to get eyes on the target, and recce possible OP locations. Patrol reports were sent up to SHQ, and after spending what little was left of the night in troop hides, the exercise moved into a non-tactical phase for Saturday's daylight hours. This was led by E Sqn's SSM, WO2 Churchward, who had kindly come down from Leicester to instruct, and our own PSIMT. They delivered an excellent morning of OBUA lessons, with dry drills eventually giving way to 'loud' building clearance, followed by a lesson on the theory of OPs and techniques for building drops properly, which made the most of CoH Bond's operational recce experience with the HCR.

Under direction of the Troop Sergeants, the troops then built model pits for O Groups at 1500. To no one's surprise, a set of OP orders followed; all had eyes on the target - a well-defended building - by 1700. Having so many hours of darkness meant the troops could get into proper routine for nearly 12 hours, something of a luxury on a short exercise. The downside, of course, was that it was bitterly cold, somewhat



exacerbated by having to observe and report on the OPFOR (kindly provided by London OTC) warming their hands on a stove throughout the night.

The OPs were successfully collapsed, and orders were given for a dawn attack on the target, and adjoining buildings. H-hour was at 0630, and after crossing the LOD the Squadron spent the next two hours putting their newly honed OBUA skills into practice, clearing through mouse holes, roof spaces and tunnels. WO2 Churchward's liberal use of fake blood added a surprisingly shocking level of realism, especially for some of the newer troopers, and the medics, co-located with the SSM, were busy with casualties throughout.

EX YEOMAN WATCHER was fast-paced and cold, physically and mentally challenging, and allowed our soldiers both to learn and practice new skills. It has set us up well for a winter season of Squadron-level exercises building up to the Hunt Trophy (regimental troop tests) in April next year: the *Sharpshooters* (specifically 1 Troop) did well when they were last run 2016, only narrowly pipped to the win by B Sqn. We must keep keep the pressure on to ensure a decent performance in 2018.

### **A view of the year** – *Cpl Rich Dunning*

It's been a busy year for the sqn with a lot of fresh blood to learn about the cavalry and more importantly the *Sharpshooter* way. The first half of the year was focussed on training for the build-up for Ex Wessex Storm 2017. There were four build-up weekends which resulted in a sqn's worth of vehicles deploying on the exercise. This was the first time in a good few years having that many vehicles, even for the old sweats and it was



a good shake out with lots of new guys learning the new role working off of vehicles for the first time. I was presented with my VRSM medal by Major General Brookes-Ward moments after breaking my RWMIK on the shake out phase of the exercise.

CPL Smith received his VRSM later in the year.

The exercise went well and we made a great impression on the regular soldiers taking part. Some of the new guys found the fast paced action tough including 12Clown (sorry 12C) who got lost for four hours apparently on the GPS map and was last seen going down towards Tidworth before finally linking up with the sqn.

The busy year continued with the laying up of the Guidon and the summer sqn ball. For the first time ever, all the existing *Sharpshooter* and Kent Yeomanry Guidon's and drum banners were together and the sun came out for that moment when they were all lined up.

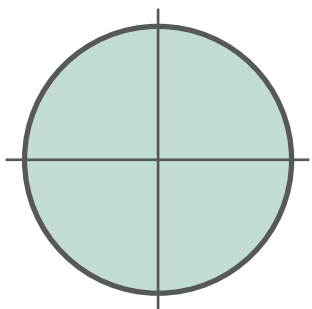
The busy period continued with annual camp, followed by several more exercises where many of the new lads completed courses to become qualified crewmen and drivers. The year ended with a bang as we undertook a FIBUA weekend with Urban op's. This included a very tough assault on the complex attacking through the sewers and with realistic casualties including myself with again the new chaps learnt loads from.

All in all a tough fast paced year with many new chaps just starting their journey as *Sharpshooters*, with the old and the bold showing them the way.



Cpl Rich Dunning being presented with his VRSM in the field.





## THE LAYING UP OF THE KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY GUIDON

**Saturday 5th August 2017**

The laying up of the *Sharpshooters* guidon was a proud occasion. The event was undertaken with great dignity and respect for the guidon all that it represents.

A packed day in all. I imagine for the officers and soldiers concerned, it must have been a long and busy weekend. All credit to Squadron Leader, Major Dominic Ruck-Keene, PSAO, Captain Adam Westwood, and WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason and all members of the Squadron and permanent staff who contributed to the preparation and execution of the day and made it such a success.

During the course of the day, there was much talk from the soldiers and members of the *Association* about where the guidon had been, who had carried it, guarded it, lead it, marched with it and so on. Many memories came forth.

Generous hospitality was evident throughout; starting with refreshments being offered to *Association* members, families and friends when we started to arrive. Initially, a VIP group moved up to the Mayor's Parlour, where the Mayor, Councillor Toni Letts, a long time friend and supporter of the *Sharpshooters*, held a pre-parade gathering. In the meantime, the Squadron and the Band of the Royal Yeomanry marched smartly up to Croydon High Street along with *Association* members who followed on.

Arriving ahead of schedule in the centre of Croydon, there was plenty of time for reminiscing. Entertainment was provided by the Band, who, as ever, played extremely well. A large contingent of *Association* members gathered to march up to the Town Hall with the Squadron, where more *Association* members were able to join the parade.

The Mayor, accompanied by another long-time friend of the *Sharpshooters*, the Representative DL for Croydon Colonel Ian McRobie QVRM TD OBE DL, and Lieutenant Colonel Ben Tottenham (first Commanding Officer of the *Kent & County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)*), and Lieutenant Colonel Simon Mcmenemy, Secretary of the RY Regimental Association (and former CO RY and OC C(KSY) Sqn) inspected the Squadron and the Band. Colonel Simon also inspected the *Association*. Inspections completed, the parade marched down to Croydon Minister for the service and blessing of the guidon. The Royal Yeomanry's Padre, Mark Chester CF, conducted a very sensitive and thought provoking service about symbolism and we filed out of the church feeling that the *Sharpshooter* guidon had been duly celebrated and received a respectful tribute.

From Croydon Minister, there was the short march back to Army Reserve Centre / Sharpshooter House. Our *Association* Padre, Mike Shaw, and his wife Jenny, arrived to take











the service at the memorial in front of Sharpshooter House for the final handing over of the guidon. Colonel Ben spoke during the service and recalled the parade in 1963 when the guidon was first presented by HRH Princess Alexandra, which he had had the honour to receive on the *Sharpshooters* behalf. He also shared the contents of a letter that he had received from a Guards General who had been present at the parade congratulating the Regiment on conducting such a successful guidon parade. Colonel Ben handed over to Major Dominic Ruck-Keene his original *KCLY* pennant which was gratefully received. Colonel Ben also reflected on the *Sharpshooter* ethos and traditions from our predecessors, the 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry, the 4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry, the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry and the *Kent Yeomanry*, which live on today.

Ceremonies completed, an excellent and generous lunch was provided by the Squadron in the Parachute Regiment drill hall. Fortunately, the weather had held off until this point, it was only as everyone moved in to find a well-earned drink and enjoy lunch that the heavens opened. The rain was short-lived, and LCpl Wright, and others, brought out a display of all the historic *Sharpshooter* banners for all to enjoy. It was wonderful to see history before us in such a way.

Our Assistant Hon Sec, Steve Shelley, was busy throughout taking photos of all that took place.

Once lunch broke up, there was no peace for the Squadron as they completed final preparations in Sharpshooter House for the Squadron Ball.

The Squadron Ball was an excellent evening, with super food and entertainment and was well attended by the Squadron and *Association* alike. The *Association* really appreciates being involved in events like the Ball, and it's a great pleasure to attend.





The Band played throughout the day and at the Ball and provided top class music throughout.

At the Ball, it was the first time that I have seen the Squadron capbaze as an ice sculpture and it was impressive to see. The Squadron Leader kindly asked me to say a few words during the dinner, which I was honoured to do, and congratulated Dominic and his team on a very successful parade, maintaining the traditions of the *Sharpshooters*, and providing such generous hospitality throughout the day; noting that all of this was done during an extremely demanding exercise period for the squadron. I also wrote to Dominic afterwards to express the thanks from the *Association* to him and all concerned for all they had done and for a brilliant day.

The guidon now resides safely in the care of the Museum at Sharpshooter House.

## WELL DONE THE SHARPSHOOTERS

Mark Hodson



### Guidon

The Sharpshooters' Guidon was presented by HRH Princess Alexandra on 13th July 1963. Although the Kent Yeomanry had Guidons in the early 19th century, Yeomanry Regiments in the Light Cavalry role had not carried them since then and this was the first Guidon carried by the Sharpshooters.

The Guidon bears 25 of the 54 battle honours awarded to the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry, one of the most highly decorated Regiments in the British Army. The Guidon includes, on the obverse side, First World War honours gained by the Kent Yeomanry. As Royal Artillery, the Kent Yeomanry were not awarded battle honours for the Second World War. The Sharpshooters were awarded 42 battle honours from most of the main theatres of the Second World War, including North Africa, Italy and France.

The word "Guidon" is derived from the French "Guythomme", or "Guide-man" and was the banner carried by the leader of a body of cavalry. In the Middle Ages it was a variation of the pennon, which was a purely personal flag and, hereditarily speaking, inferior to the Standard. It first appears in the British Army in 1661, when the Household Cavalry carried both Standards and Guidons. In 1685, as a result of the ill-fated Monmouth rebellion, seven Regiments of Horse, now known as Dragoon Guards, were raised, and these Regiments carried Standards. At the same time a number of Regiments of Dragoons were either raised or augmented from troops raised earlier. At this time Dragoons were not considered as Cavalry only, but as a flexible arm which could operate mounted or dismounted. They were therefore considered junior to the Regiments of Horse, who by reason of their body armour and cumbersome equipment, were unable to fight dismounted. It is probable, therefore, that initially Dragoons were given Guidons so that on the battlefield the commander could easily distinguish them from Regiments of Horse.

When Yeomanry Regiments were raised in the 1790s, they also adopted Guidons, and a Guidon of the West Kent Yeomanry dating from before 1800 is still in possession of the Regiment.

During the Napoleonic Wars the Regiments of Light Cavalry, by reason of their role, tended to carry the Guidons less and less until, in 1834, it was ordered that Hussar and Lancer Regiments should no longer carry Guidons. In the Yeomanry the choice was more arbitrary, but at the end of the nineteenth century the only Yeomanry Regiments still carrying Guidons were those uniformed as Dragoons.

In 1956 the War Office authorised Guidons for the Hussar, Lancer and Yeomanry Regiments as a means of displaying battle honours and distinctions.



## 5 AUGUST 2017 - SERVICE FOR THE KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY

Padre "We gathered today to celebrate the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry. This Guildon is a symbol of the service of those who, throughout the years, have done their duty as citizens and Yeoman. The Guildon will later be held up at Sharpshooters House, and it is fitting that we are gathered here today to remember those Yeoman who serve and have served, as well as those who have fallen."

Let us pray:

Officer Commanding, The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry,  
Maj Dominic Rack Keene

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve: to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; in labour and not to seek for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. *Amen.*

SSM, The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry,  
WO2 (SSM) Ian Fearley

Almighty God, our heavenly Father: Guide, we beseech you, the nation of the world into the way of justice and truth; and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness; that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

2Lt, The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry,  
Capt Julian Moore  
The Collet of the Royal Yeomanry

Almighty God, King of Kings, in whose Royal Service we are both Citizens and Soldiers, we ask that we, your servants of the Royal Yeomanry, may be eager to do your will, with courage and steadfast faith, united in your service, and finally by your mercy, may attain everlasting glory through Jesus son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Squadron Collet of The Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry  
Father of all  
We come before you today as Yeomen, Trustful citizens living in peace  
But prepared and willing to defend our way of life

We ask your blessing on our Regiment  
To our families and those whom we love  
Give us courage and discipline to live our daily lives as would please you  
Grant your guidance and love to our Regiment  
In time of peace and war, comfort and fear, good and bad

Father, make us worthy of your name  
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeoman  
In your honour and glory  
*Amen*

Bible Reading: Hebrews 12, v1-24: Col Simon McMenamy  
Secretary The Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association  
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Padre - Address  
Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

## Order of Service

Welcome - Padre Mark Chester CF RV

We have come together in the presence of God, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear his holy word, to bring before the words of the world, and to give thanks for the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry, that through his son Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service. *Amen*

Hymn - Onward Christian Soldiers.

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before,  
Christ, the royal martyr,  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
For the banner's sake,  
See his banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and fall,  
But the church of Jesus  
Constant will remain;  
Gates of hell can never  
Against that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.

Onward, then, ye faithful,  
Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song:  
Glorious, loud, and hearty,  
Sing, O ye King's sons,  
This through soundless ages,  
Men and angels sing.

Hymn - Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient times  
Walk upon England's mountain green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark, satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my spear; O clouds of smoke!  
Bring me my chariots of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand;  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

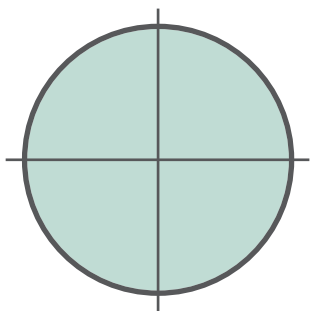
National Anthem - Band

God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. *Amen.*





## **THE GUIDON DISPLAY**

### **by Cpl Will Wright, C(KSY) Sqn RY**

As the saying goes, most good stories start with a beer; and this is no exception.

It was Cavalry Memorial Day when this idea was conceived, whilst enjoying a cold pint in the sun, outside the Grenadier pub with Kevin Wright.

At Christmas I had joined the team of volunteers at Hever Castle to man the Sharpshooter Museum. I was telling Kevin the tremendous sense of pride I had felt at the previous year's Guidon Parade at Buckingham Palace, which had spurred me to sign up to the Museum as a volunteer. You see it was at this parade that I felt the pang that got me thinking about how our Regiment and Squadron has evolved over the years. I was lucky enough to have had a front-rank view of the events inside the Palace. I witnessed the Guidon blessing, WO2 David Tomlin kneeling in front of HRH Princess Alexandra, and the thousands of people, families, service men, women, and bewildered tourists all looking in awe at our turn out and professionalism as we marched down The Mall. As I stood there, rigid and to attention I could not keep my eyes off that fluttering piece of cloth, steeped in history displaying years of campaigns and comrades' blood, sweat and tears that we were all now rallied around. I watched that fleeting moment as the *KSY* Guidon about turned and was overtaken by the Royal Yeomanry Guidon, with that quick exposure consigning the *KSY* Guidon to past history. And with it, the tides of change and advancement like many other Guidon's before it. It was then I said to Kevin, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could bring them all together'.

From that day and for the next three months I was obsessed. As far as I could tell this had never been done before for our Regiment let alone the British Army. I had spent hours in the museum in the run up to Cav Mem looking at the Guidon's, and kicked myself that I hadn't thought of it sooner.

The date for the laying up of the 'old' *KSY* Guidon had been set for the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Plans started on the Wednesday after Cav Mem. I wrote a rather lengthy email to Dan Taylor detailing my intentions and plans. Dan, inevitably, wrote a rather lengthy one back but I was thrilled when the Committee and he green lighted my plans. The main points I had to consider were, first of all: How on earth was I going to get these things from Hever to Croydon intact? Then, how on earth was I to get them back?

I put forward a plan to have specialist frames made for the two Guidon's at Hever and the Kent Yeomanry Drum Banners. I met with Dan, Tim Rayson and Huw Jones one Saturday to go over the logistics and I also spent a good few hours taking my best



*guesstimations* as to the sizes of the frames. They were going to be huge. But, perfectly doable.

By June the Committee had fully approved my plans and I had secured the East and West Kent Yeomanry Guidon's, dating 1797 and 1793 respectively. I also had the Drum Banners. I was adamant that the current *Association* banner (Guidon shaped) would also be present and Kevin was instrumental in providing both the current and its predecessor banner. There was I found out an additional 18<sup>th</sup> Century Kent Yeomanry guidon languishing at Bulford not on display to anyone despite being loaned for that purpose. It was swiftly recalled by the Committee and only arrived in Bexleyheath a week before the 5th! Many thanks to the OC of 265 (*KCLY*) Squadron who retrieved and drove it up. The only Guidon now outstanding, was the 'new' RY Guidon which was currently awaiting a decision to appear from RHQ.

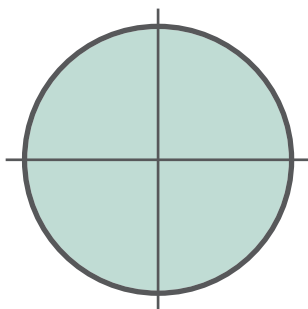
Come the 4<sup>th</sup> August, H Hour was upon us. I managed to borrow a large Transit van from the Squadron to get down to Hever to pick them up with the help of L/Cpl Taz Salmut. The frames, although measured to the best of my ability, had never actually had the Guidon's in them. Not even as a trial run. We just couldn't risk damaging them or man handling them at all. It was therefore an absolute relief taking them out of the glass exhibitions and having them slide perfectly into the frames we had made. The banners had hooks installed in – situ to hang them, exactly how they were intended – a very tense moment and eventually everything squeezed in perfectly.

Now having got them to Croydon a thought crossed my mind that I hadn't actually mentioned what I was doing to the actual organisers of the event that day. So, therefore,

no official time had been set aside for the Guidon's to be unveiled. An opportunity did present itself shortly after we had taken a Squadron photo of our very smart turn out in Blues. This was it. The usual bomb burst after the picture was inevitable. I seized my moment and upon the last click of the camera I raced to the front of the party to plead, cajole, blackmail and threaten every man and woman in rank and file to stay exactly where they were. Some junior Troopers provided the muscle to handle the frames and within minutes we had it. All seven of our Squadron Guidon's and standards with the two drum banners from the Kent Yeomanry with every member of the Serving Squadron, and a healthy amount of *Association* members, in one place for the first, and most likely last time.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to everyone I have mentioned in this note, many of whom helped me on the day and in particular the Museum Trust Committee. Without all of you, each playing your individual part we simply couldn't have pulled this off, and I am glad to say that the results spoke for themselves.





## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE: 2017

by Marian Hannam

Remembrance is part of modern British life, culture and heritage. It becomes a particular feature of the nation's calendar each year when public, private, formal and informal Remembrance events take place throughout the UK.



The Royal British Legion is also asking the nation to *Rethink Remembrance* by recognizing the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community, past and present. By wearing a poppy, we are not just remembering the fallen: we are supporting a new generation of veterans and Service personnel that need support. Using the hashtag *#RethinkRemembrance* on social media, The Legion is encouraging people to consider the meaning of the poppy as both a symbol of Remembrance and hope.

The Field of Remembrance 2017, which is organised annually by the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory as part of the Poppy Appeal commemorations, was held at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 9 November. The factory employs veterans and dependents with disabilities in the production of Remembrance items and in recent years has grown to assist veterans into employment throughout England and Wales. The service has helped over 800 wounded, injured or sick veterans into meaningful employment.

This year the lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster was laid out with 380 plots representing military associations and other organisations. The *Association* plot contained a large named cross – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanry (*Sharpshooters*) and three further crosses representing the *KSY*, the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *CLY* (*Sharpshooters*). Additionally, a number of small crosses were placed commemorating *Association* members who had passed since the last Field of Remembrance, together with individual family crosses and the photograph of the War Memorial at Croydon recognising the 381 *Sharpshooters* who fell during the Second World War.

The service opened with the arrival at the Field of HRH Prince Harry of Wales. Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend John Hall and the Reverend Jane Sinclair.





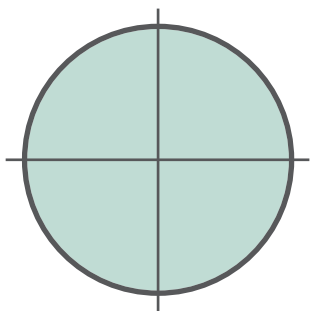


His Royal Highness was invited to lay a personal Cross of Remembrance in front of two wooden crosses from the graves of unknown British soldiers from the First and Second World Wars. The Last Post was then sounded by a Trumpeter from the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company. The ‘Exhortation to Remembrance’ was given by Mrs. Sara Jones, President of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, after which a two-minute silence was observed, followed by ‘Reveille’. His Royal Highness then undertook a review of the plots. Tim Rayson, the *Association* Honorary Secretary, was our plot representative.

The following members of the *Association* and families also attended: Terry Bodman, Ian Cavilla, Barrie Corfield, Carol Corfield, Chris Eley, Jack Eley, Nikki Fairman-Smith, Guy Farage, David Hannam, Marian Hannam, Tony Jewell, David Meader, Alison Meader, Ben Steel (in memoriam Vic Dickens), Chris Sutton, Harriet Kelty, Giles Wrangham, Nicola Wrangham, Piers Wrangham (In memoriam Tamson Kelty), Keith Wrate and Kevin Wright.

**“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”**





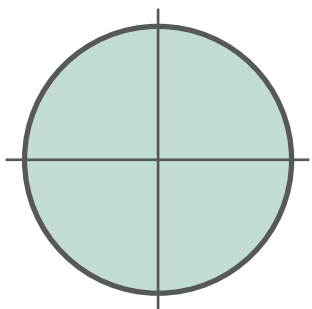
## **MY DAY BEING AWARDED THE LEGION D'HONNEUR**

**Lt Colonel Ben Tottenham**

I finally received my invitation from the French Embassy to a ceremony for the award by the Republic of France of the Order of a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in October 2016. The ceremony was to take place at the Residence of the French Ambassador, Madame Sylvie Bermann in Palace Gardens Terrace, Kensington.



I was allowed three guests and took my son Hugh, my daughter Fanny and granddaughter Charlotte. The Residence is in a private road next door to the Russian Embassy. It is a most imposing building and we were shown in to a long salon with tapestries and a superb carpet. The 15 recipients sat facing their family guests. At 11am the Ambassador emerged and we were disappointed having expected a chic paragon of French elegance. The Ambassador spoke well and after she had attached my medal I thanked her in French. This drew a ripple of applause, and then we mingled with the Ambassador and Military Attache over champagne and canapes. My sister married a Frenchman so when needed I can manage in French!



## WENT THE DAY WELL THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2017

Yes very well, after the early rain had stopped we had a dry run round for the rest of the day. The parade started off after a two minutes silence for Remembrance Day and then we moved off behind WMIK Land Rover, Saracen and a patrol from *C Sqn Royal Yeomanry*. Following us was the band of the Royal Yeomanry who gave a splendid rendition of the *Farmers Boy* as we moved towards the Mansion House and the new Lord Mayor. After last year's splendid TV coverage, this year it was zero. As we came into view at the Mansion House the picture changed to somebody holding a dog in their arms? That was the last we saw of us. Then on down Fleet Street past the Royal Courts of Justice and St Clements Danes and into Arundel Street for the halfway halt and lunch.

We collected our lunch packs and after an hour being feed and watered we remounted and moved off on the return leg back along the Embankment and Blackfriars past the Mansion House to London Wall where we debussed, took a few photos and said our goodbye's and headed off home.

Our thanks as always to Rex Cadman and his team from the War & Peace Collection for providing the low-loader with the M10 tank destroyer, the drivers Richard Lloyd, Ken Ditchfield, Rory Fenton, and the re-enactors Bradley Cooper, Steve Cooper, Mrs Cooper, Luke Harris, Cullum Cornell, and Dan Bennett.

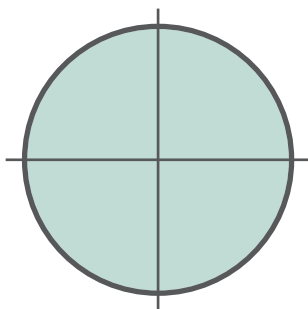


Our thanks to S/Sgt Rowe and his team from *C Sqn* and the Royal Yeomanry for their help and assistance, and last but not least, Helen and the Pageantmaster for all their assistance in getting the show on the road.

Those *Sharpshooters* attending were our President Guy Farage, Kevin Wright our Standard Bearer, David Hewer, Mike Swan, Alan Davey, Mike Abbott, Nathan Adams and myself. We also had a few members of the Federation of London OCA (Foloca) under the command of Col Richard Burford, with four standards, Robin T'ung S/B 600 Sqn RAF, F/O Fern Needham 600 Sqn Association, Mr Downey S/B Merchant Navy Association, Mr D. Candy S/B RAMC, Roy Hicks and Linda Veryard.



Terry Bodman for KSYA



## **NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION GARDEN PARTY**

**Buckingham Palace  
Tuesday, 30th May, 2017**

“A Great Experience” by Vic Dickens late 4<sup>th</sup> CLY (aged 100!)

I was very fortunate to be invited to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 30th May. This was through the auspices of the Not Forgotten and the *Sharpshooters Association*.

Also invited was my grandson, Ben (Benjamin) as my minder with Prince Harry hosting the event, being his first garden party to preside over.

A great benefit was having a Blue Badge for parking as Ben was able to take me to the Palace in his car and we were able to park inside the gates at the front of the Palace.



The tourists must have been wondering who we were and were taking lots of photographs!

We arrived slightly later than planned due to the London traffic but in the event it was perfect timing, we were in place just behind a party of Yeoman of the Guard in their colourful and historic uniforms. They had been marched out from the Palace to be placed by their Commander at various places along the route that Prince Harry walked.

Punctually at two pm Prince Harry came down the steps of the Palace and began his tour of duty. There were veterans young and old from all services which made it a very special occasion indeed.

It has taken me 100 years to make it into the Palace grounds and I have to say the sandwiches are delicious!

**Secretary's Note.** Vic Dickens wrote this article before very sadly passing away at the end of 2017 – one month short of his 101st birthday'



What did we expect to happen on this auspicious occasion, held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace? Lots of music, perhaps and needless to say, we were not disappointed. The Bands of the Corps of the Royal Engineers played with gusto throughout the afternoon; bagpipes were played by a member of the Scots Guards Association, as well as the Irish Guards; both giving a stirring performance.

‘Beating the Retreat’ performed by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, gave a rousing performance, acting as a precursor to the salute, taken by his Royal Highness, Prince Henry of Wales.

Fingers were crossed for good weather and despite ominous dark clouds occasionally gathering, fine weather prevailed. Refreshments exceeded expectations and helped to sustain our energy whilst wheelchairs, where needed, were in abundance, as well as a golf buggy, facilitating circulating. Assistance was gratefully received from Serving Men and Women Helpers from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force, St. John Ambulance and Ampersand, who all deserved our grateful thanks.



When Phillip met Harry.

The expectations of meeting H.R.H. was, I believe, the highlight of the afternoon. Phillip was one of the lucky ones to be presented to him, enjoying the encounter very much and the Prince is to be congratulated for ‘a job well done.’

Our congratulations and thanks are also deserved by the copious number of representatives from the Royal Navy Marine Charity, the Army Benevolent Fund the Soldier Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. Last, but by no means, of course was the ‘Not Forgotten Association who organised the whole event and the Hon Secretary who arranged the invitation.

Finally, were our expectations fulfilled? Indeed they were and the memory of such an exhilarating and heart warming afternoon will remain forever.

Pat and Philip Moore







**KENT &  
SHARPSHOOTERS  
YEOMANRY  
MUSEUM**

Connect Explore Inspire

## **THE 2017 APPEAL FOR SHARPSHOOTER WW1 MEDALS**

*Dear Sharpsshooters,*

I would like to thank you for your most generous donations towards the purchase last year of three World War 1 medal groups by our Museum Trust.

These medals will significantly enhance our World War 1 physical collection, and the stories of the yeomen who were awarded these medals will be displayed on our touchscreens both at the Museum and at Squadron locations and on the Museum website.

It is most heartening to see that generous donations continue to be made, even after the end of our mammoth fund-raising effort to build the new museum. We are a vibrant and living museum, with a great and often surprising heritage that continually inspires and fascinates. With our wonderful base of committed supporters and volunteers, we are able with your support to hold our heads high as one of the best small army museums in the country.

Thank you again for making the purchase of these wonderful World War 1 medals possible.

With very best wishes

Chris Sutton

Trustee and Chief Executive

Kent and Sharpsshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust  
Registered charity number 273329





The following members of the *Association* very kindly contributed towards the cost of purchasing the three groups of *Sharpshooter* World War 1 medals:

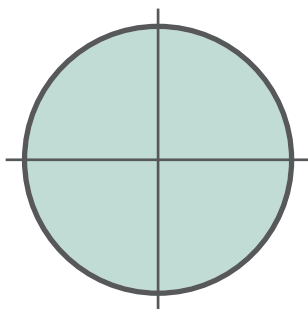
Guy Farage, Tim Rayson, Chris Sutton, Stuart Pritchard, Ivan Collins, Tim Lawson-Cruttenden, Richard Hewett, Ben Tottenham, Cate Hawkins, Kevin Wright, Paul Acda, Peter Arnold, Terry Bodman, Kim Hunter, Derek Fransham, Keith Wrate, Phillip Moore, Arthur Gooch, Steve Russell, Penny and Simon Malik.

It would appear from the London Gazette of 1901 that there were three *Sharpshooters* from the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion who were awarded gallantry awards as follows:

Colonel Roger Parke	CB
Lt Charles Langford	DSO
SSMT Jackson	DCM
SSM A Giles	DCM

If anyone sees or hears of their medals coming on the market then please let the Hon Secretary know because very much like the *Sharpshooter* MM that you have helped to acquire we have absolutely none from the Boer War in the collection. To acquire them would require a similar funding effort but it would be worthwhile!





## **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.



Jack Lovell (101 soon to be 102) with David Hannam, Tim Rayson and Brenda Traylen after being interviewed – and a drop of scotch!

# AGIUS DIGITAL CATALOGUE 2018

## DIGITAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PRICES – Valid to December 2017






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.

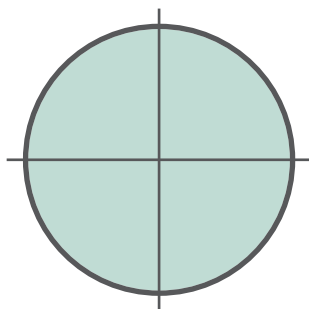
**Cheques payable to:** D. Hannam

**Order and Cheque to:** 21 Red Cedars Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0BX

Payment via PayPal for all products is also available. Contact David Hannam for details at [thetigger@mac.com](mailto:thetigger@mac.com)

<b><i>Before I Forget</i></b> by Roy Cawston (updated version)		PDF	£10
<b><i>Carpique 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 2018**

### **Dec 2017**

31st *118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899*

### **2018**

#### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War 1**

### **February**

1st 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the amalgamation of the West Kent Yeo (Queens Own) with the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (Duke of Connaught's Own) to form the 10<sup>th</sup> (Royal East and West Kent Yeomanry) Bn. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

### **April**

1st 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Air Force.  
7th 100th Anniversary of the amalgamation of 3rd CLY (Sharpshooters) and City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders) to form 'E' Bn Machine Gun Corps subsequently re-titled 103<sup>rd</sup> Bn MGC in August 1918.  
21st HM The Queen's Birthday

### **May**

13th Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park followed by lunch (tbc) at The Atheneum. Please contact the Hon Secretary on 15th March for further details.

### **June**

3rd Federation of London OCA Parade and Service. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.  
13th 74th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage (4<sup>th</sup> CLY) in 1944

### **July**

10th 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the invasion of Sicily (3<sup>rd</sup> CLY) in 1943  
23rd ***Founders Day. 117<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY being gazetted in 1901.***

## August

30th 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Alam El Halfa (1<sup>st</sup> Alamein) (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> CLY) in 1942

## September

22nd 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY landing in Italy at Taranto in 1943  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 4<sup>th</sup> CLY landing at Salerno in 1943

## October

22nd(tbc) Combined Cavalry Church Service and lunch RH Chelsea. All are welcome. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details.  
23rd 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of El Alamein (2<sup>nd</sup> Alamein) (4<sup>th</sup> CLY) in 1942

## November

8th Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in July. Early booking essential.  
10th The Lord Mayors Show.  
11th Remembrance Sunday. Armistice Day 1918  
17th The 71st All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner. To be held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly. See flyer for further details.  
19th 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> CLY) in 1941.  
25th 2 RGH Bir El Gubi service at Badminton. Please contact Dave Carter in October if you are going.

## December

**Inputs for the 2018 Journal are required by the end Dec.**

12th (tbc) RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.  
20th 117<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Tafel Kop, South Africa (18<sup>th</sup> Bn Imperial Yeomanry – the original Sharpshooters) in 1901.  
31st *119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.*





# EXTINGUISHED!



This cartoon dates to 1916 when the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles together with the Queens Own West Kent Yeomanry formed 10th (V) Bn The Buffs and were therefore 'extinguished' from the Army ORBAT.

Feb 1907

By kind permission of the KSY Museum Trust



