

# The Sharpshooter



**Edited and Published by: Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association,  
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Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,  
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters), 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters),  
3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters), The Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry.  
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## Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

(REGISTERED CHARITY No. 803784)

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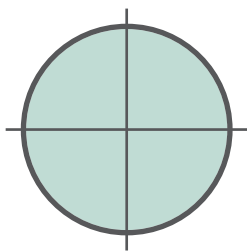
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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very warm welcome to the 2018 edition of *The Sharpshooter* journal. It's a genuine pleasure to see such great content being shared each year and to know that we are keeping the *Sharpshooter* family informed and in touch with one another through this medium.

I am fortunate to have the simple task of welcoming you to the journal and perhaps sharing one or two particular points, but otherwise the journal brings to life great stories and content without needing any additional help. This wouldn't happen without the dedicated and conscientious work of our Editor-in-Chief, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Malik, and our tireless Honorary Secretary, Tim Rayson both of who have over the last 14 years raised the standard of *The Sharpshooter* to an exceptional and consistent level.

During the year, *Sharpshooters* have been mobilised and deployed on operations. LCpls Salamut and Wright from C (KSY) Sqn RY have been deployed on Operation CABRIT, attached to the Royal Yeomanry's paired regiment, the Queen's Dragoon Guards. They fulfilled roles side by side with regular soldiers, where British troops lead a multinational battlegroup providing an "enhanced forward presence" in the Baltic States. I'm pleased to share that they are both safely back from the deployment having undertaken some fascinating and dangerous tasks.

Having *Sharpshooters* on deployment has meant that our welfare team were engaged in one of their many roles, preparing and sending welfare parcels out to our soldiers. Always well received, the carefully considered contents, and the connection with home, make a real impact to the guys on deployment who have told us how much they value receiving our parcels.

Both of our *Sharpshooter* squadrons saw their commanders come to the end of their tours of sub-Unit command during the year. Squadron Commander, Major Paul Baker of 265 (KCLY) (Sharpshooters) Support Squadron 71 SIGS, and Squadron Leader, Major Dominic Ruck-Keene of C (KSY) Squadron RY both found time to support the Association whilst managing the demands of their respective commands, and I am very grateful for their support and wish them well in their new roles. Captain David Alleyne, 2iC at 265 (KCLY) Sqn has stepped up temporarily to command the squadron, and Captain Chris Chadwick likewise at C (KSY) Sqn; Chris will be succeeded by Major Godfrey Chritien at the beginning of January 2019. I wish them all every success and offer the Association's support in the coming year.

Numerous events have taken place where *Sharpshooters* gather, many will be recounted and illustrated within. I'd just like to mention one or two, in addition to the copy that you'll read further on. First, was the C (KSY) Sqn El Alamein ball, held at



Sharpshooter House (at Mitcham Barracks) in October, which was a wonderful evening, and it was a pleasure that so many former serving soldiers (ie Association members) attended supporting the event, and for the Squadron to open up their evening to us. A great night was had by all.

Second, was the Croydon Remembrance parade. Especially poignant this year with it being the centenary of the end of the First World War. I was very honoured to command this year's parade at the invitation of C Sqn, and in the absence of the locally resident Commanding Officer from 151 Logistic Regiment who traditionally commands this particular parade. Thus for 2018's parade we had a *Sharpshooter*

### Chairman's gallery



Royal Gloucestershire Hussars guidon party.



David Sales (Junior Warden, Worshipful Company of Insurers) and Mark Hodson (Chairman, KSYA) during a lull in C (KSY) Sqn's urban warfare training in Longmoor



Tim Connell, Mark Hodson, Dave Carter, outside Badminton House.



The Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers presents Insurers' cufflinks to WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason, C (KSY) Sqn RY.

The Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers presents Insurers' cufflinks to Captain Steve Slaney, PSAO 265 (KCLY) Sqn 71 SIGS.



Mark Hodson congratulates WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason, C (KSY) Sqn RY after his presentation from the Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers.

commanding the parade, with *Sharpshooters* at the head of the parade (as usual) with the Royal Yeomanry regimental guidon being paraded too. A very special occasion.

Third, was the Bir El Gubi service hosted by His Grace, the Duke of Beaufort, at Badminton House, with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, at the end of November. As we know, the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (2 RGH to be precise) fought alongside the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> County of London (*Sharpshooters*) Yeomanry's as part of 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade in Operation CRUSADER in November 1941. The RGH and the *Sharpshooters* have remained close ever since. It was a pleasure to have members of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association (RGHYA) attend our El Gubi dinner, and it was a great pleasure to attend their service a week later. Dave Carter, Tim Connell, Emma and I represented the *Sharpshooters* at the service. It's always a pleasure to be there, and I encourage anyone who can get to Badminton on the last Sunday in November to visit, and to enjoy the service and the hospitality of the Duke and the RGHYA who lay on refreshments before the service. I think I should highlight that the new chairman of the RGHYA, Robert Wharton, is a *Sharpshooter* and a Westminster Dragoon, which gives us an even stronger link. *Sharpshooters* everywhere!

Finally, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, I hosted David Sales, Junior Warden of the Insurers at a visit to see C (KSY) Sqn undertaking urban warfare training at Longmoor Training Camp Urban Training Centre. The exercise, run by the Squadron's second-in-command, Lieutenant Rob Joles (who has also formed a cycling team that cycle with the Insurers in charity races) provided an excellent opportunity for David to see up close the type of training that reservists undertake. A thoroughly interesting day.

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* during the year. The Association simply would not function without their hard work, energy, enthusiasm and passion for our cause.

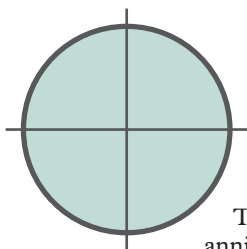
Overall, in this brief introduction, and throughout the journal, I hope you will see that the *Sharpshooters* are in extremely good heart, and I look forward to seeing many *Sharpshooters*, families and friends at the events and occasions at which we gather.

With very best wishes.

Yours aye

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hodson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends across the width of the signature.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hodson TD



## THE 71st EL GUBI DINNER

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

This year's El Gubi dinner, the 71<sup>st</sup> such dinner, marked the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi, and saw a very strong turnout of *Sharpshooters* as 69 of us dined that evening.

The Cavalry & Guards Club was the venue for the fifth year running and again proved extremely successful. The staff and chefs at the Club did us proud, and 2019 will see us return to the Club.

The Battle of Bir El Gubi took place during Operation CRUSADER and involved both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> County of London Yeomanries, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, operating as the armoured component of 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Brigade and 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, the Desert Rats. It was especially pleasing that members of the RGH Association attended the dinner (the RGH are regularly represented at our El Gubi dinner, an ongoing relationship that we very much treasure keeping alive the old rivalry between the "Swede Bashers" (2RGH) and the "Lloyds Bank Lancers" (the *Sharpshooters*)).

The whole evening was immensely enjoyable and there was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the pre-dinner drinks and the dinner itself.

Whilst it is impossible to mention everyone who attended, and it was wonderful to have so many people there, I should single out a number people who were there as it's important to recognise the scope and the links of the *Sharpshooter* family. I was delighted to welcome to the dinner the Honorary Colonel 265 (KCLY) Sqn, Colonel Paul Acda, our own Vice-Chairman; Commanding Officer Royal Yeomanry, Lieutenant Colonel Conn Macevilly; Commanding Officer 71 Signals Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Scottie Rankin; Second-in Command of the Royal Yeomanry; Major Matthew Webb; Squadron Leader C (KSY) Sqn RY, Captain Chris Chadwick; Sergeant Major C (KSY) Sqn RY, WO2 Phil Mason; friends from Germany and the Bundeswehr, Lieutenant Colonel Wolfgang Mann and his wife Susanne, and WO1 Ralph Ortmann; from the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association, Mr and Mrs Gordon Jones and Mr and Mrs John Marshall; from the Museum Trust, our President Major Guy Farage, and Chris Sutton; from the Worshipful Company of Insurers, our affiliated Livery Company, Master Terry Masters, Clerk Mrs Sarah Clark and Junior Warden David Sales and Mrs Karen Sales; the (increasing in numbers attending each year) Gillman family; recently returned from Op CABRIT, LCpl Wright; and a great number of serving *Sharpshooters* and their partners. It is very reassuring that the dinner reaches and attracts younger *Sharpshooters*.

Very sadly, Phil Moore, who had been a tank driver during the Battle of Bir El Gubi, passed away during the year. Much loved by us all, and no more so than by his devoted widow, Patricia (Pat), it was wonderful that Pat joined us for the dinner this year maintaining the tradition that Pat and Phil had set of supporting as many *Sharpshooter* events as they could.

Our President, Guy Farage, proposed the toast to Absent Friends, which we drink in silence, allowing us to remember the *Sharpshooters* to whom we have had to say goodbye, may they all Rest In Peace, and find one another on the tank-park on the other side.

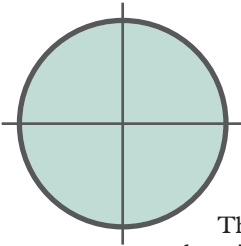


The Master Insurer, Terry Masters, kindly proposed the toast to The *Sharpshooters* at the end of the formalities. We were very grateful to the Insurers and the Master for their generosity in presenting Worshipful Company of Insurers' cufflinks to two very deserving *Sharpshooters*: to Captain Steve Slaney, PSAO of 265 (KCLY) Sqn, and to WO2 Phil Mason, Sergeant-Major of C (KSY) Sqn RY. Steve and Phil join the growing group of *Sharpshooters* recognised by the Insurers for their service and support to the *Sharpshooter* family; joining Tim Rayson, our Honorary Secretary, and Kevin Wright, our Standard Bearer, the first recipients of this recognition last year.

I am indebted to our hard-working Honorary Secretary, Tim Rayson, and hard-working Assistant Honorary Secretary, Stephen Shelley for organising the entire event; and to Kevin Wright, our Association standard-bearer for bringing our standard so that it could be in prominence at the dinner; and also to Captain Chris Chadwick and members of C(KSY) Squadron for the silver and lance-guards, all of which made a huge contribution making the dinner a true Sharpshooter event.

I look forward to seeing you at the 72<sup>nd</sup> El Gubi dinner marking the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle.

Mark Hodson



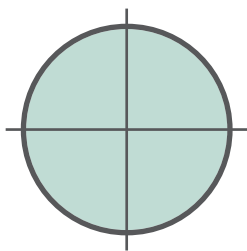
## KSYA DONATIONS 2018

The *Association* is always grateful for donations that it receives and donations were received from the following including 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), David Sinker, Patricia Moore (in memoriam Philip Moore late 4<sup>th</sup> CLY), Trevor Tew, J R Parish, David Smith, Mr G Bloom, Maurice Tomlin, Euan Watt, Robin Laurence, Ronnie Todd-Young, Carole Amitrano (in memoriam Mrs Mary Spain whose husband William served with the *Sharpshooters*), David Whitehouse, John Annett, Guy Bonser; James Macnamara, Chris Moden, Michael Donnelly, Hal Currie, Paul Acda, Kevin Wright, Mr D Smith, Phillip Harrisson (in memory of Captain Bill Harrisson), Huw Jones, Terry Bodman, Simon Jenkins, Chris Chadwick, Jaimie Barr, Roger Thompson, Hilary Wilson (in memory of Roy Cawston late 4<sup>th</sup> CLY), Anthony Gethin, Gordon Browning, Mark Hodson, Mr S Barrow, Mr D Smith, Mr J P Lee, Mike Last, Kim Hunter, Peter Crowley, Richard Hewitt, David Hannam, Mr R A Johnson, Penny and Simon Malik.

If you are donating but your name does not appear above please first check that you are donating to the *Association* account at Lloyds Bank. If you are then please let the Hon Secretary know. If you want to get your name on the list above then please send a donation of £20.00 or preferably set up a Standing Order at whatever frequency you wish for the same amount payable to the *Association* at the account shown below:

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Sort Code: 30-11-75 • Account Number: 00593399



## HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

In comparison with previous year's, 2018 has from an Association point of view been relatively quiet although my activities with the cadets have produced some challenging moments. A trip to Australia on Ex OUTBACK CADET 18 saw a joint team from Middlesex & NW London ACF and Leicester, Northants and Rutland win the International Cadet Trophy during the Australian Chief of Army's Cadet Challenge competition. A remarkable achievement as they were the first UK team to be invited to take part. This was followed by the same two ACF counties hosting cadets from Australia, New Zealand and Barbados during the remembrance period where they participated in a number of events to the public acclaim of those members of the public who saw them.

This year has also seen six *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 Philip Moore who was I believe the last remaining 4<sup>th</sup> CLY survivor to have fought at El Gubi/Sidi Rezegh and then with the Chindits in Burma. He was a tower of quiet strength, dignity and a fund of good stories most of which we captured on video for *Sharpshooters* to marvel at in the future. Philip and all of the others will be fondly remembered for the variety and depth of character that they brought to the *Sharpshooter* family and our deepest condolences go to the families.

This year's Cavalry Memorial parade went very well even if I was casevac'd off in a blue light ride to St Thomas's with what turned out to be another debilitating attack of cellulitis which resulted in a seven day stay being suffused with anti-biotics. The Cavalry Memorial Parade and others such as the Federation of London OCA Parade, the Bir El Gubi dinner and the (relocated) Remembrance Sunday service at Croydon are the framework that forms the *Association's* programme.

The mobilisation of a Royal Yeomanry contingent to support 1<sup>st</sup> Queens Dragoon Guards in Poland resulted in the *Association* swinging into action with parcels for the two *Kent and Sharpshooters* Yeomen who were deployed initially and we will support their replacements. We are and continue to be very well supported in this area by our adopted Livery Company – The Worshipful Company of Insurers and we are most grateful for the support given by them – and indeed the 10% of members who also donate – without which many things would and could not have happened.

I'm delighted to be able to report that due to the stalwart efforts of Sid and Carol Jonas together with John Adamthwaite the campaign to sort Tony Ryder out has culminated and he is now settled in appropriate and indeed spacious, modern accommodation. The work that they have all undertaken so willingly over the last year in this very difficult and time consuming arena has been much appreciated and I know that Tony is very grateful for it.

The *Association* contributes money to other *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* hardship cases acting in support of larger charities/organisations such as the ABF, SSAFA and the Yeomanry Benevolent Fund. Whilst we do not contribute very much it is true to say that every little that we can give 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.

At the end of World War 2 subscriptions to the *SYA* were £1.1s 0d per annum and they created the foundation of what we are able to do today but that income is diminishing. The year 18/19 has been a bad year with the world's markets in turmoil and the outlook for 19/20 and beyond is not that bright either – even with our cautious investments we can expect diminished returns for some time. In short we are unlikely to be able to continue to do what we do without more members contributing, which means that it is now time for all of the members of this Association to step up to the plate not just the few as at present. We need each and every one of you to contribute directly towards the *Association* preferably by Standing Order or Direct debit.

A donation by Standing Order/Direct Debit of £20 (which can be a monthly/quarterly or a single annual payment to spread the cost) will not only allow us to support *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* on deployment but also do more to help their dependants whilst they are deployed. It will also allow us to both support former *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* and guarantee the continuation of this Journal which we all enjoy and others admire. In case you are wondering a £20 per annum donation is equivalent to one pint of beer per quarter or a bottle of plonk. If you are working and paying income tax, if you gift aid your donation it means that we can claim back the tax which makes that £20 into approximately £25, it also has a positive impact on the Income tax that you pay each year as well.

To avoid any doubt there is only one charity that is registered as the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* and if you are not donating directly to the account below then any donations that you are making are simply not arriving at the *Association*.

Lloyds Bank

Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

Sort Code: 30-11-75 Account No. 00593399

### **So what is the programme for 2019?**

There will of course be the usual events throughout the year and where known dates are in the FOE. In addition the 75th Anniversary of D Day and in particular Villers Bocage will take place in June 2019. The Westminster Dragoons are already engaged with Leger Tours and are going over for the DDay week where they might well meet up with RY who will be conducting a battlefield study as part of annual camp as well as taking part in official events. If there is sufficient demand then the Touring Bus Company may well come out of retirement to organise a trip to Villers Bocage post the hustle and bustle of the main celebrations planned for 5-7<sup>th</sup> June.

### **There are potentially more events!**

In December 2019 we will be celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the raising of the Sharpshooters in December 1899 whilst in July we will be celebrating the 110th anniversary of the first Sharpshooter Brigade Association dinner will take place 26<sup>th</sup>

July 1909. How and where we cover the raising of the Sharpshooters and that first Association dinner is a matter for some debate at present but I'm hoping that by working with the serving Squadrons we can have a suitably splendid event.

## **The Future**

Last year I said that we continue to live in uncertain times and the *Association* must and will continue to review and adapt how it delivers support to the serving squadrons and importantly remain relevant to them.

We communicate information by the Journal, email and via Facebook. There are other forms but these three are enough for me as it just gets plain confusing! If you are not on Facebook or email it is not the end of the world because I can and still do write letters. However, to help us communicate to you in a timely way, an email address is of great assistance especially for events that have not been confirmed when the Journal is published. The costs of postage are high and they are a drain on our resources.

We will continue to produce this journal in hard copy in its current format for as long as you the membership want it. But we need to know that the journal is going to the right address: last year over 30 were returned as 'Not Known' or 'Gone Away' which puts a drain on *Association* funds. Chris Moden who served at C(KSY) Sqn has very kindly volunteered to take on the mantle of Membership Secretary and enclosed with this journal is a short questionnaire together with a membership form. We need EVERYONE from the newest recruit to the oldest veteran to complete both and return them to the address shown at the top of the questionnaire. The questionnaire and form will also be available to download from The Sharpshooters web site at:

[Sharpshooters.org.uk](http://Sharpshooters.org.uk)

For completion and return electronically to Chris at the following email address:

[membershipsec@ksya.org.uk](mailto:membershipsec@ksya.org.uk)

We all like the Journal, but I am sure that there are many out there who do not realise the immense effort that goes into gathering content from reluctant writers to laying out the contents in a way that flows naturally for the reader. The end result is an outstanding read that conveniently fits into the pocket and is therefore portable. It has been my pleasure to assist as co-editor and proof reader as well as contributor and I look forward to continue working with Simon Malik.

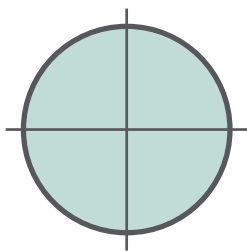
Please send all correspondence to me at the address below clearly marked for the attention of the **Hon Secretary**:

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 2019 and look forward to seeing you at any or indeed all of the events in the Forecast of Events.

Tim Rayson, Hon Secretary





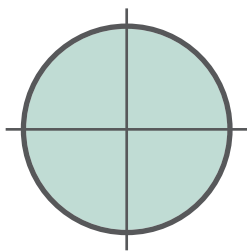
## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

I contacted Tim last summer offering my support to the association and was delighted when he asked if I would like to take on the role of membership secretary – not least, to make sure I got my copy of the *Sharpshooter* journal!

I joined C(KSY) Squadron in October 2006, transferring from Southampton UOTC at about the same time that I was accepted into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Croydon serving in the troops, behind the bar, in the RY shooting team and on operations when I was attached to the Royal Wessex Yeomanry as a Cortez Base ISTAR Operator in Afghanistan during 2010.

I hung up my boots in 2015 when my job in the Diplomatic Service took me to the British Embassy in Baghdad. In early 2019, my wife Vicki and I will be departing for another posting this time to Malta. Change is a natural part of C Sqn life, and even I've noticed the incredible change in faces during the short three years since I left. As membership secretary, I hope to support the *Sharpshooter* family network by helping you all to stay in touch through the association.

Cpl Chris Moden,  
C (KSY) Sqn, RY 2006-15



## KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

### Chairman's Report

On Monday 19 November we had our six-monthly museum trustees meeting, followed by a special dinner to dine out our retiring chairman, Guy Farage. It is an absolute honour to take over from Guy as Chairman.

Guy is continuing in his role as President of the *Association*, but has now stepped down as a trustee of the museum trust. Fortunately for the museum trust this is not a complete goodbye, we are delighted that Guy is stepping into a new role as our Honorary Advisor.

Guy has served as chairman of the museum trust since 2001, and as a trustee since the 1970s. He has worked in great partnership with two curators – the late Boris Mollo and our current curator Dan Taylor.



We are indebted to Guy for his skill and wisdom in leading the Trust. He has brought together a disparate group of trustees, and got us working together as a great team. He has been a trusted and inspiring sounding board for new ideas, for me personally and for all other trustees. He has introduced important contacts to us who have helped us on our journey and is always a very genial welcomer and guide to visitors at Hever.

Guy has always maintained a close and very knowledgeable watch on the auction market, and our museum collection has grown extensively through the judicious acquisitions that he has helped us to secure, in many cases making personal donations. The Harry Payne oil painting of the Review of The East and West Kent Yeomanry at Mote Park, which is

above the fireplace in the officer's mess at Croydon, was purchased by the museum trust with significant involvement by Guy in 1978, and Guy has been involved in many acquisitions since.

Last but not least, Guy leaves us with an excellent new museum which preserves our heritage and enables visitors of all ages to connect, explore and be inspired.

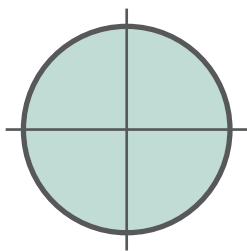
We were 15 at dinner, our largest gathering in recent years. It was very pleasing that we were joined by some new faces who bring fresh ideas and strengthen our connections with the serving squadrons.

The photo shows Guy being presented with "Troop Leader", a painting by our curator Dan Taylor depicting Guy on exercise in Cornwall in 1958, with Corporal John Pilka. Looks like the sort of location that might attract some rare butterflies, another of Guy's great passions!

Guy, we will miss your leadership enormously.

Chris

Chris Sutton,  
Chairman, Museum Trust



## KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DEFINITIONS

### **Full Member**

For those who are serving in the *Sharpshooters* or who have served in the *Sharpshooters* or one of the forebear Units / sub-Units previously. Also applies to those who were attached for any period of minimum three months. Serving members are encouraged to voluntarily donate £20.00pa towards the Journal and welfare fund.

### **Family Member**

Anyone who is closely related to a Full Member *Sharpshooter* (ie who qualifies as a *Sharpshooter*) whether alive or deceased. Applies for up to two generations from the membership of the Full Member. Family members are encouraged to make a minimal annual donation of £20.00.

### **Friend of the KSYA**

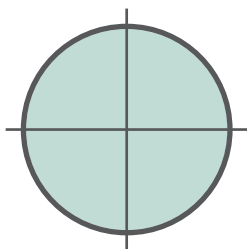
For those who wish to be involved with the *Sharpshooters* (through friends, family not covered above, historical interest etc) and who do not qualify for “Full” or “Family” membership. Subject to sponsorship by a Full member and approval by the Membership subcommittee. Friends will be encouraged to make an annual donation of £20.00 by their sponsors – and which is mandatory to receive a copy of the Journal.

### **Honorary Member**

Where, in the opinion of Members or Trustees, and subject to Trustees approval, an individual (or group of individuals) has supported the *Sharpshooters* and/or KSYA in such a way that they should become Honorary Members of the Association.

### **Vice-President**

This is awarded to Full Members (and exceptionally to other categories of Member) in recognition of service to the *Sharpshooters* and / or to the Association. May also be given to notable members (such as Honorary Colonels). VP appointments will be approved by the Trustees. VPs are expected to support the serving *Sharpshooters* and *Association* in an Ambassadorial type role and also to act as counsel, when needed, to Trustees and Committee members.



## TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2018

Using current valuations of investments the association had net assets of £75k at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 (£75k prior year). Income in the 12 months was £2k; all due to gifts of less than £100 (£9k prior year). The current year included £2.5k of dividend income from investments.

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

Income less expenditure was a surplus of £1.0k in the year.

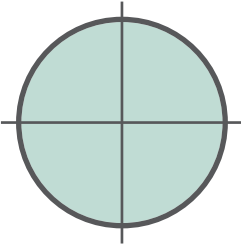
The bulk of the Association's assets date back to subscriptions made towards the end and just after WW2. Sadly many of these Sharpshooters have now passed away but their generosity lives on. There are now approximately 40 individuals paying standing orders into the KSYA and this regular income is essential to the ongoing production of the magazine.

After 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 the National Savings account was closed and the balance transferred to the Lloyds bank account due to the low rates of interest available. We are grateful for the continued support of the Worshipful Company of Insurers who donated £2,000 in April 2018; a considerable sum for our Charity.

John Gunn ACMA  
Treasurer

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2018			
Note:	Investments at cost	31st March 2018	31st March 2017
<b>B</b>	2837 Charifund Units	19,727	19,727
<b>Current Assets</b>			
	National Savings Investment Bk	22,160	21,805
	Cash at bank	14,199	10,199
	Sundry debtors	68	68
		<u>36,426</u>	<u>32,071</u>
	Less sundry creditors	936	936
	Magazine	<u>3,285</u>	
		<u>32,205</u>	<u>31,135</u>
<b>Publications</b>			
	Total Accumulated funds	<u>51,932</u>	<u>50,862</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
	Balance brought forward	50,862	52,056
	Plus/less surplus/loss	1,070	(1,195)
	<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<u>51,932</u>	<u>50,862</u>
		0	0
<b>Note:</b>			
<b>B</b>	Market value of investments at 31st March 2017		
	2837 Charifund Units	19.27 43,331	19.99 44,238
		<u>43,331</u>	<u>44,238</u>





## **EMPTY SADDLES 2018**

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

Wherever possible and when requested by family the Association will parade its Standard for funerals, cremations and memorial services.

Major J A Langford – 297 (KY) LAA Regt RA

P H Strode

Colonel A Mathieson MC – Late RTR (Honorary Sharpshooter),

Lt Colonel John Deykin – 10th Australian Light Horse

John Spencer – 297(KY) LAA Regt RA

Philip Moore – Late 4th CLY

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

# OBITUARY

## PHILIP MOORE – 4CLY

21 August 1920 – 27 June 2018

By TIMBER



Philip Moore joined the *Sharpshooters* at the age of 19 in the Spring of 1939. Like many of our former colleagues at that time, he could see that a War was coming, and Phil and his friend Max Foote decided they “wanted to ride and not walk to war”.

He was originally a member of *B Squadron 4CLY* and went to camp with them in August 1939 at Popham. There he learned to drive and maintain Lanchester and Rolls Royce Armoured Cars. He was called up at St Johns Wood just before War was declared and sent to Lord’s Cricket ground on a fatigue party. As the first sirens were sounded, they decided they should rush back to HQ and commandeered a taxi in the street outside the Ground. There were 10 of them and it must have made a fine sight to see them hurtling along with some inside, some in the parcel space and some on the roof and bumpers.

Phil transferred to *C Squadron 4CLY* and was sent with the rest of the Regiment to various locations around England. He recalled the exercising of the horses on Woolacombe Beach where they would ride across the wide sandy beach and, under Arthur Cranley’s lead, take part in mock Cavalry charges which would often result in unseated riders as they leapt across a small stream running across the sands.

As a good *Sharpshooter*, Phil always had a fondness for a pint of foaming ale. One of his early duties was to drive from the tented camp in the Gog Magog hills to the Greene King Brewery to collect the barrels of beer for the camp. The ladies in the loading bay and the brewer took to Phil and used to take him on sampling tours which made him rather the worse for wear. Arriving back in the truck at high speed he was spotted by the legendary Sergeant Major Gus Fuller who clocked that Phil had been sampling the



Phil Moore (centre) in Burma.

He was hauled before the local Lady Magistrate who had no option but to fine him half-a-crown. After the session, she sought Phil out and said, "Sorry about that... I kept the fine as low as I could... why don't you and your friends come to dinner with my family tomorrow to make up for the stupid Constable's behaviour?"

The move overseas in 1941 was not without incident on the SS Strathnaver. Food was distributed Navy style with one man being sent with a large pot to get the vittels for his chums. The queue was long and exposed to the elements. Phil was talking to the chap behind him when he saw a huge wave crashing down on to the ship. Phil jumped up onto a table as the wave washed aside all others in the queue and down into the galley wrecking the food.

As a tank driver in the desert, Phil was limited in vision to what he could see in via his forward cupola. In the fog of battle, he was forever asking 'what's happening... what's happening?' and usually getting the answer "Phil Shut up... we have no idea." A pragmatic man, he was often understated in his comments on life in a tank, describing the battle of Sidi Rezegh as "pretty alarming". He did say that through it all the comradeship of his fellows in 4 Troop and in particular in his various tanks was the best. Phil was stuck in his tank that was knocked out and the crew had bailed out... the floor was awash with fuel.... and Phil had to struggle to get from the driver's seat back into the turret as his exit was blocked. On realising Phil had not come out yet, one of his friends Laurie, who was escaping under machine gun fire... stopped and came back... just as Phil himself emerged from the turret. Brothers-in-Arms indeed.

ales. The next week he took to going with Phil to the brewery, but on arrival Phil was making urgent gestures behind Gus' back to the staff to not let on and not to give Gus a beer.

As a punishment, Gus made Phil drive him into town on a regular basis and wait with his rifle and truck and not move an inch or he would be for it. Phil got bored with this and made a deal with the local bus garage to hide his truck behind the buses in the depot thereby allowing Phil to go into town. On several occasions Gus spotted this shadowy figure in the Cambridge streets but each time he rushed back Phil was present and correct with his truck and rifle. Years later in the desert Gus asked him "Boy where did you hide that blasted truck?" When Phil told him, Gus roared with laughter and walked off muttering "...that is what edumacation does for yer."

Phil was a charmer but a real gentleman as well. When they were in Bucks Green he was arrested by an overzealous Police Constable for riding a bike between his billet and the vehicle lines without a light.... in the blackout.



Phil Moore (left) with Tim Rayson.

In all the battles Phil said that the only time he nearly lost it, was when the Brigade had been reduced from 150 tanks to only 40 tanks and the crews were all mixed up... he had an RTR commander and an RGH radio op and Phil was seconded to this tank to take over, as the driver had been killed... decapitated by a shell.... and Phil had to get into the driver's compartment immediately after they had removed the body. An experience that was as bad as it got.

After many attempts the enemy finally took a piece of Phil at the end of May 1942 at the battles of Knightsbridge. He was outside his tank and hit by shrapnel from an explosion, which cut a piece of an artery out of his leg. If it had not been for the pre-war St John Ambulance training of one of his friends who created a tourniquet with a fountain pen, Phil is sure he would not have made it to the dressing station.

Phil was operated on and sent back from the Cairo Hospital to Durban in South Africa and from there to Johannesburg for recuperation. Whilst he was there, he volunteered (as he was bored) to help with the typing in the Orderly Room. Pre-war Phil had trained to be a journalist and could touch type. Suddenly a hand was on his shoulder and a voice said, "Come with me". He found himself manning an intercept radio and work on cypher machines tracking German transmissions. So successful was he that he was sent to India and then transferred to the Brigade of Gurkhas as a Book Cypher Clerk (on which he was not trained). He loved his time with the Gurkhas and was in the thick of the fighting around Imphal and Kohima. Phil was thus one of the very few entitled to wear both the 'Africa' and 'Burma' Star medals. Certainly, the only *Sharpshooter*!

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his joining up, a message was sent saying he was to be repatriated back to UK. It was to take many weeks, but an RAF friend said that there was a plane from a nearby airfield that would have room to get him to Calcutta fast. Phil made his way, in his jungle gear – filthy dirty – the two miles to the airfield. From there he blagged his way on to the plane, by flagging it down and jumping in. There was one seat spare for this jungle apparition... the rest all taken up by red tabs on their way to a briefing.

Post War, Phil was ever present at reunions and along with Patricia his wife a firm supporter of our Bus Company Tours back to the battlefields. He wrote after one of our tours:

"The town of Sidi Barrani appeared untouched by the 21<sup>st</sup> century and many scenes were almost biblical. Likewise, Derna and Tobruk markets were untouched by time and the people were friendly, not agitating for buckshees, etc. Conversely one was amazed



at the vast housing construction along the coastal strip. When we visited battle sites, i.e. El Alamein, Sidi Rezegh, Acroma and Knightsbridge, one's mind drifted back 60 years – an uncanny feeling; surprise also at finding used and unused rounds of ammunition, shrapnel and shell cases, still lying on the desert floor. Cyrene Greek and Roman ruins were outstanding in their beauty and location. Visit to “Alex” and the Hotel Cecil, made even more memorable when the bar ran out of gin! Finally, the trip was unforgettable, moving and a wonderful experience; greatly enhanced by the company of old comrades.

An afterthought – on coming out of the Bedouin tents at dawn – believe me, birds were singing – I don't remember any bloody birds when we were there in 1941!”

As one of our longest surviving World War 2 veterans, Phil was proud to be our Plot Representative at The RBL Field of Remembrance and was also the lead “armoured chariot” rider at many a Cavalry Sunday. We will remember Phil as a model of a *Sharpshooter* – loyal, understated, brave, and compassionate. A true friend to all who met him, and we will always raise a glass of ale to him whenever *Sharpshooters* meet and reminisce. Rest easy Phil – thank you – well done Soldier.



## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

### **SGT MICK CONN**



# IN MEMORIAM

## TAMSIN WRANGHAM



I hope that many of you will recall David Turner's well written obituary for Tamsin who was brutally murdered whilst canoeing the Amazon from its source to the sea. David Meader who has worked tirelessly with Tamsin's family has produced the following report on two events including Tam's memorial service which was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 – which by chance coincided with the Battle of Sidi Rezegh in 1941.

Tamsin (Tam) Wrangham joined *C (KSY) Squadron*, The Royal Yeomanry as a 2nd Lieutenant after graduating from Sandhurst in 1999. As Troop Leader of SHQ Troop she quickly established herself as a professional and popular officer. Army policy restricted the opportunities available to women and Tam felt too constrained by this to continue her Army career. She left the Army in 2002 to follow her career as a teacher, specialising in teaching deaf children. She quickly advanced and soon became a Head Teacher, all achieved while studying for a Doctorate.

Following the death of her father and a personal health scare, Tamsin's outlook on life shifted to one of 'Never put off to tomorrow, what you can do today'. She learned to skydive and completed over 90 freefall descents. Other pursuits followed: Marathons, Triathlons, Ultra-Marathons, The Pacific Crest Trail (2,600 mile trek), cycling from John O'Groats to Lands Ends and skiing to the South Pole, twice. The first time as part



of a group and the second time solo, becoming only the 6th woman ever to ski solo to the South Pole.

Tams set out to kayak the length of the Amazon River, from its source to the sea in late June 2017. The rapids at the head of the river in Peru were completed without

mishap, and although the next section was to be technically easier, it would see long hours spent paddling daily. For security Tams camped most nights on a sandbank in the middle of the river but despite this Tams was brutally attacked and killed on 13th September 2017 and sadly, her body has never been found. After just over a year and much pressure from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) the Brazilian Authorities finally issued a death certificate in October 2018. In the meantime however and in consultation with Tam's family, friends and colleagues within the *Association* donated the money to cover the cost of a memorial Plaque for the Museum at Hever. This was mounted on the wall by David Meader on Monday 14th May 2018.

With the issuing of the death certificate Tams family decided to proceed with a memorial to Tams and hold a Celebration of her life.

The author was asked to co-ordinate a presence of friends from the Squadron and on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 19 veterans and serving members from *C(KSY) Sqn* attended the memorial which was held at the Woodlands Park Hotel, Cobham, Surrey. The event was guided by Secular Minister and Celebrant Emma Curtis, who brought together the many threads of Tams life in an exceptional way.

Tams was honoured by the presence of the *Sharpshooters Banner* carried by Kevin Wright, the *Association* Standard Bearer. The Commanding Officer of The Royal Yeomanry and The Royal Yeomanry Band Master also facilitated the presence of Trumpeter Sgt Richard Llewelyn to play the Last Post and Reveille. Both men performed excellently. A social event followed the formal Celebration, where further stories of Tams' many adventures were recounted. Much laughter was heard through the hotel corridors. Some diehards managed to continue the celebration until late in the night, ensuring a true *Sharpshooter* send off to an incredible lady.



## Tpr Glyn Samuel

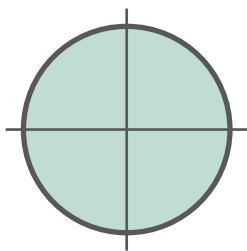
### Presentation of medals by Tim Rayson, Hon Secretary

On Wednesday I had the honour of presenting to Captain Chris Chadwick OC C (KSY) Sqn the medals awarded to Tpr Glyn Samuel for his service during WW2.

Glyn served with the 3rd and then 3rd/4th County of London from 1939 through to 1946 in the desert, Sicily, Italy and then Normandy and North West Europe. Glyn died on Christmas Day 2015 whilst on a cruise and his widow Doreen having no surviving family to pass the medals to asked a neighbour to find a 'home' for them. The neighbour approached me and in the circumstances it only seemed right and proper for Glynn to be with his other 'family' – the *Sharpshooters*. Having received the medals and got them cleaned and mounted they have been hung on the wall of the sports bar in time for his 100th birthday which if he was still with was falls on 16th December. Copies of the photographs have been sent to Doreen together with a letter and flowers.

Welcome home Glyn.





## **KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST**

### **An update and report on recent acquisitions, 2018**

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

Curatorial posts held as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary: Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

The Trust is blessed by the hard work of its volunteers. Whilst the Trustees are listed here, they are but the tip of the iceberg of dedicated and enthusiastic people who turn out again and again to make the museum tick, and I am inordinately grateful for their efforts.

As with my time in the TA, the most rewarding memories come when the bodily waste hits the rotating mechanism, and just such an occasion happened to kick off 2018. The museum store at Hever had (perhaps a little cheekily) unofficially expanded into an adjoining room where we kept around eighty uniforms, each waiting their opportunity for exposure in our displays. Unexpectedly, though not unfairly, the management at Hever decided that they would rather like to include this room in a new and exclusive tour they wanted to run. They asked very nicely whether we would mind awfully vacating the room so that they could have it set up for tours to commence when the castle reopened for the Spring season. No hurry, you can have two months to make arrangements. Hands up, we were not legitimate occupants of the room in question, and two months for a full-time business setup may seem like an eternity, but let me assure you that, for an organisation reliant on arranging volunteers for any task, this is but a moment.

This notice was given in November 2017 and, with the Christmas break fast approaching, the prospect of finding somewhere to place eighty uniforms really was a challenge. To get it into perspective, this represents around twenty-five feet of rail hanging and occupies twenty cubic metres. Nobody had a bedroom going free (I know, I asked), the ARCs were full to brimming with Army kit, over which, it appears, we would not get preference. The result was that we were seriously looking at self storage options which would likely drain the Trust's coffers quicker than a parliamentarian could retract an unkind observation about a female colleague. After two weeks of begging and pleading I had nothing, nada, zip, zilch, diddly squat. Then there was a

chink of light. The National Army Museum suggested that they just might just possibly be able to get them into their secret storage facility, at Stevenage, just off the A1, next to the Premier Inn. Better than that, if it could be arranged, the uniforms would have to spend two weeks in their deep freeze to eradicate any bugs that may be loitering within them (having spent years in a fifteenth century castle and so the possibility was admittedly quite high). Taking a deep breath, I cautiously asked. 'How much might that cost?' The fear in my voice was undisguisable. Astonishingly the reply came back, 'We wouldn't charge you for that sort of thing.' I'd have been prepared to offer them a kidney. Maybe not one of mine, but a working kidney, none-the-less.

The run up to Christmas was somewhat marred by the wait for a decision. No other options were suggesting themselves and so I was in the desperate situation of not having a plan B.

Salvation, when it came, had a caveat which I barely noticed in the elation of the moment. Green light said yes, that was all that really mattered. Over Christmas I had a few moments to relax and read through the small print and it quickly dawned on me that this salvation had a few strings attached. The stipulation was that the uniforms needed to be individually wrapped in Tyvek (a breathable plastic cover that stops bugs and helps prevent mildew etc), further that they have a plastic cover over that (to protect them whilst in the deep freeze), and that each has a clear tag identifying the garment. We had fortunately started a process of improving labelling and providing Tyvek covers the previous summer with our student volunteers, but this was a process designed to take three or four summers of activity at museum pace. How could we possibly do that with no employed staff and at the drop of a hat? Hever were sympathetic but their own plans meant they were limited on the amount of flexibility they could offer. Their plans were afoot and tantalising brochures covering the projected new tour were warm off the presses. Generously they offered an extension to the end of January to complete the task. That was it, H-hour drew near. Despite best efforts, it looked as if my first crisis as curator was doomed to end in catastrophe.

But then came the miracle (to get a little Dunkirky). My plea for help was answered. You'll have noticed there are a lot of 'I's in the previous paragraphs, where the problems were being internalised. Running a museum is a team effort, and the team, it would appear, had been looking for an opportunity to kick into action. This was their moment. Towards the end of January we traditionally have a tidy-up day in the museum – cleaning and improving the displays. Normally we might struggle to get half a dozen to turn out, but cometh the hour, cometh the men and women of our volunteer corps. We were able to arrange for eleven volunteers to spend the entire day on the task (plus a day in advance when Hever suddenly announced that they had a party in the castle on the day in question, so all the uniforms needed to be removed to the museum prior to the event).

The exercise the previous summer had revealed a number of ambiguities in our listings plus a few items which appeared to have been overlooked at the recording stage over the years. Fortunately, the summer activity had meant that we already had a lot of (but not all) the Tyvek bags we would need, plus some padded hangers. David Whitehouse deserves special mention because he managed to produce our shortfall in Tyvek bagging and padded hangers in short order – whilst manipulating the database



so that we could present a clear list of the items to be moved from a slightly chaotic assemblage of accessioned and un-accessioned items. The team were magnificent. Inspired only by flapjacks and sandwiches from the pub, a veritable production line tagged, hangered, bagged, (outer-bagged) and rehung the collection. Remember that this had been an exercise planned to take place at a gentle speed over perhaps ten days, across three balmy summers. Instead the team accomplished the lot in under seven hours on a chilly day in January. The accompanying photograph gives fitting testimony to the tired yet happy band that accomplished the impossible.



The team that made the uniform move possible. L to R, (standing): Chris Batt, Emily Budgen, David Pullinger, Graham Halliday-Saddler, Neil Hubbard, Chris Sutton, Peter Crowley, Will Wright, Dan Taylor. (seated): David Whitehouse, Michael Achow.

Graham Halliday-Saddler generously provided his van to transport the collection to Stevenage the following Monday where it remains in anticipation of access to some space that has been tentatively offered at Mitcham. Let's ignore the fact that we have somewhat overrun the original six months offered by the NAM. The point is that the collection is in a good, safe place of storage, and will be restored to us in the coming months.

That was January, what has been happening for the rest of the year? We have now collated over 2,000 photographs from the Jimmy Sale collection (out of 5,000) and absorbed them into the KSY Museum digital collection. Additionally, around 800 photographs covering the inter-war years have been scanned and are now being annotated. This is becoming a valuable resource and the next step is to open our facilities for researchers to ensure a wide dissemination of this historic collection.

There are a few interesting projects being worked on by volunteers – Chris Batt is collating information on the Sicilian campaign with a view to later publication; David Pullinger is translating John Cloudsley Thompson's personal diaries; Neil Hubbard has been researching locations in the UK used as billets by the Regiment during the war; and I'm working on the Inter-war period. There are plenty of other topics should anyone have a burning desire to collate and expand any part of the museum's archive. We've helped a

research project by the Museum of London looking into the formation of regimental museums and various researchers looking at subjects as diverse as the formation of Rhodesia to the specifications of Kent Yeomanry uniform buttons. Never a dull moment.

Battlefield touring went in fits and starts this year, chiefly around WWI anniversaries. Normandy has been resting itself in anticipation of 2019's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, which is shaping up to be a spectacular event. We are currently trying to coordinate five contemporaneous tours over the fortnight from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, with elements running from D-Day to Op Epsom, Ops Goodwood to Charnwood, and culminating in a series of events around Villers-Bocage. The highlight should be the Battlefield Tour of Villers-Bocage on 10<sup>th</sup> June where it is rumoured that we will have a number of vehicle types present at the battle, including a recently restored Cromwell tank. A more formal commemoration with the town is planned for the 13<sup>th</sup>. There are two major commemorations in Belgium and Holland set for the Autumn – The 'Great Swan' (commemorating the quickest advance of WWII from Normandy to Antwerp) running from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, immediately followed by 'Garden 75' from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, which follows the route of the ground forces in Operation Market Garden (the attempted relief of Arnhem). Over 100 restored vehicles are set to take part. A couple of our museum types will likely be representing the Sharpshooters on one of the tanks. If you would like to hear more about how to get involved in any of these events, contact [curator@ksymuseum.org.uk](mailto:curator@ksymuseum.org.uk).

There follows a summary of the items acquired by the museum over the last year. As ever, we are indebted to those who are able to embellish and enrich the collection. A nice feature of the last couple of years is that we have received items which illustrate the Cold War, a period which had hitherto been a little neglected. It is important to remember that our role is to record the activities of our servicemen, no matter how recent, and that history did not stop in 1945. If you have odd bits of kit, photographs or records hiding in the back of a cupboard – or better still, a story to tell – the Museum would be happy to hear from you. I am pleased to note that accessions relating to the Kent Yeomanry have the ascendancy this year as a bias towards the Sharpshooters had been creeping into the collection.

### ***Marshall's War* by Neil Hubbard**

2017-20

#### **Gift: Neil Hubbard**

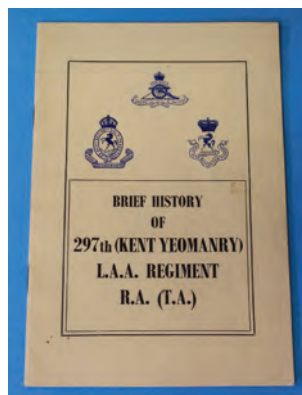
Marshall Hubbard served with 4 CLY and then 3/4 CLY from the Spring of 1944 through to demob in 1946. His son, Neil, has created a well researched and fascinating family history document detailing his father's service and has kindly shared a copy with the Museum

### **Collection of ephemera concerning 297 KY LAA**

2018-01

#### **Gift: Martin Carter**

A collection of photographs, newspaper articles and a short history, usefully covering the post-war, pre amalgamation phase of the Kent Yeomanry.



The exercise to document the museum's uniform collection, prior to storage at the NAM revealed several items which had previously escaped formal entry onto the books. We are currently attempting to reconcile provenance on these items.

<b>Service Dress Jacket, trousers and Mess Jacket – SSM</b>	<b>2018-02</b>
<b>Smock, 1960 pattern</b>	<b>2018-03</b>
<b>Battledress, 1940 pattern</b>	<b>2018-04</b>
<b>Officer's Mess Dress c1961-86 KCLY</b>	<b>2018-05</b>
<b>SSM's Mess Dress Jacket</b>	<b>2018-06</b>
<b>Officer's Warm</b>	<b>2018-07</b>
<b>OR's Battledress Blouse &amp; Trousers</b>	<b>2018-08</b>
<b>Officer's Service Dress Jacket &amp; Trousers</b>	<b>2018-09</b>
<b>Officer's Service Dress Jacket &amp; Trousers</b>	<b>2018-10</b>
<b>Officer's Full Dress Waistcoat REKMR</b>	<b>2018-11</b>
<b>Officer's Mess Dress Jacket 23LAC c1930</b>	<b>2018-12</b>

**Medal Set, Gas Mask, Cap Badges, and Iron Cross** **2018-13**

**Gift: Neil Hubbard**

To compliment Neil's account of his father's service, we received his medals and badges plus souvenirs that his father had collected, along with the stories of how they had come into his possession.

***Rolls-Royce Armoured Car, 1915-44* by Fletcher, David** **2018-14**  
**Gift: Dan Taylor**



## Ephemera relating to Sgt Percy Walters c 1910 – 1918

2018-15

### Gift: Martin Carter

A set of photographs, cuttings and service documents plus a book on the West Kent Yeomanry during the World War I.



## WWI (Somme) Commemorative Coin

2018-16

### Gift: NZ High Commission

For much of their service overseas during World War I, both the Kent Yeomanry and the Sharpshooters served alongside New Zealand forces and so it seems fitting that we are able to acknowledge that association in the collection. (see image next page)



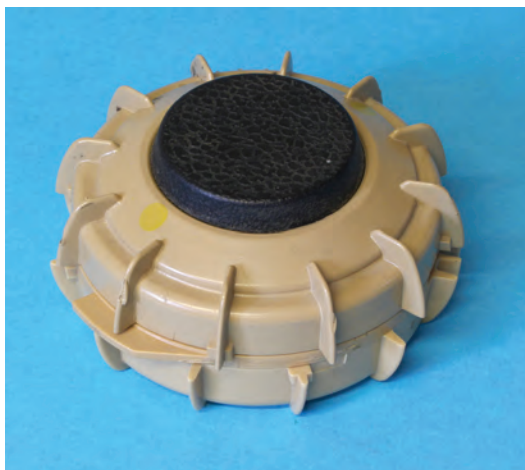


### **Anti-Personnel Mine, VS50**

2018-17

#### **Gift: Huw Jones**

A poignant reminder of more recent conflict, this device was used in both Iraq and Afghanistan.



### **Bandolier, Leather, 1903 Pattern**

2018-18

#### **Gift: Mark Pitt**

Slightly embarrassingly, a mannequin showing Sharpshooter dress in the Edwardian period had an incorrect pattern of bandolier. We are grateful to Mark for helping us correct this error.

### **Collection of Medals and badges**

2018-19

#### **Gift: Paul Acda**

An assorted collection of 28 medals, all relating to personnel who served with both the Kent Yeomanry and the Sharpshooters in the Twentieth Century (see above).

**Standing Orders Pamphlet 23LACC, May 1939****2018-20****Purchase: e-bay**

On behalf of the museum, David Hannam managed to secure this helpful document. Our collection of Standing Orders for the 1930s is now fairly extensive, but those for the 1920s are very thin on the ground. Information leading to any from the period would be appreciated.

**Cigarette Silks and TRF badges****2018-21****Will Wright**

At two ends of the time spectrum, Will has gifted a pair of 3 CLY related 'cigarette silk' collectables dating from World War I, plus a pair of current issue tactical recognition flashes in use by the Royal Yeomanry.

**Uniform Collection c1980 – 1995****2018-22****Gift: Brenda Traylen**

Responding to my request for uniform items relating to the Cold War, Brenda has generously donated nine items from her time of service. They include various styles of DPM and even the ubiquitous (though oddly difficult to find) woolly-pully.

**Set of Negatives, 385 Bty KY****2018-23****Gift: Cyril Smith****St Valery Accounts collected by Neil Campbell****2018-24****Gift: Gerald Campbell**

The successful withdrawal from St Valery in the dark days of 1940 is justly commemorated by the Regiment. This set of personal accounts brings that episode to life and warrants detailed study.



## **Collection of uniform, SOPs, posters**

**2018-25**

### **Gift: Dan Shead**

Another handy response to the request for Cold War information, Dan has provided a number of items including his No 2 uniform, an S10 gas mask and is even undertaking the task of scanning his extensive photograph collection for our records.

## **Set of four TRFs**

**2018-26**

### **Gift: Will Wright**

Highlighting his service in Poland in 2018, Will has kindly provided this set of tactical recognition flashes used during his deployment. A handy demonstration that our history includes activity that might otherwise be considered 'current affairs'.



## **Cock Troop Badge c1910**

**2018-27**

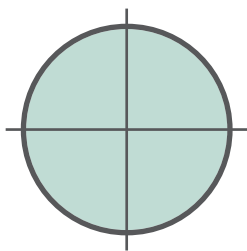
### **Gift: Tim Rayson**

A beautiful and intricate silver badge awarded to the best performing Troop during the Edwardian period. In different guises this award continued into the 1980s.



Looking forward to discovering more about the past in 2019

Dan Taylor



## 265 (KCLY) SUPPORT SQUADRON 2018

### OCs Update

The Squadron has been busy ensuring we made full use of the time over the Phoenix Buzzard exercise in June and Horseshoe Hawk in July, to ensure we had met our collective training objectives prior to ACT in September at Longmoor. On Horseshoe Hawk we hosted a final visit from the 2 Group Commander, Colonel Cooper who visited the Leadership and Development training which had been organised by the SPSI SSgt Ward. In June, the Corps Colonel Reserves, Colonel Debbie Douglas, came to visit a drill night where she was impressed with the level of commitment, professionalism and buoyant personalities within our team.



Col Douglas (R Signals Corps Colonel), met by OC and SSM at the start of her visit to the Sqn

### **Exercise Phoenix Warrior – 18-20 May 2018 SSgt Ward**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 71 Y Sig Regt paraded at their respective Sqn locations wary of the forthcoming exercise weekend. The weekend is the only one in the calendar dedicated to the development and revision of individual battle skills. The Regt were going back to basics, and at every opportunity, the soldiers were briefed that there would be no

surprises and that the exercise would be progressive. Nobody in their right mind ever believes this when deploying on exercise, and soldiers were on tender hooks, expecting the unexpected.

Sqns deployed to Bramley Training Area and were greeted upon their arrival by their SPSIs. The usual NSPs, kit issue and administration was carried out before the troops were shown to their 4-star accommodation. Beyond military standards, these were the skeleton of an old rocket hangars, with no doors, no lights, and in fact, with absolutely nothing. Sleep time was clearly going to be limited over the weekend, so everyone was in their sleeping bag sharp.

Ambushes, platoon harbours and section attacks were all on the agenda for a packed day – with some quality teaching from the instructors really helping to build a foundational knowledge for the weekend ahead.

From Saturday afternoon, the dry phase ended and all sections began to put into practice the theory they had learnt so far – with sweat drenched clothes, hundreds of empty ammunition boxes and numerous tired (yet smiling) faces all acting as testament to the rewarding nature of the serials completed!



Sig Needham-Beck, LCpl Stewart and LCpl Liscoe on Phoenix Warrior 18

The night ahead showed no respite – with establishing a fully functional harbour, receiving orders at 04.15 and conducting a dawn ambush all to come. However, every single member of the platoon rose to the occasion – and each of the objectives we had been set were emphatically achieved.



On the final morning there were final confirmatory battle exercises including section attacks and casualty extractions. Adrenalin was high and everyone applied themselves to the best of their abilities. With this sort of exercise also comes aggression. This was displayed in abundance by all, particularly by Sig Liu, who, when assaulting a position, lost his footing and decided to headbutt his rifle. This resulted in a trip to hospital to get checked out, and thankfully the results were that he (and his rifle) were both fine.

All that was left to do was the obligatory Platoon photo, award presentations and the seemingly endless exercise turnaround.



Participants on Ex Phoenix Warrior 18.

### **Ex HORSESHOE WARRIOR 24-28 May 2018 – 2Lt Wei**

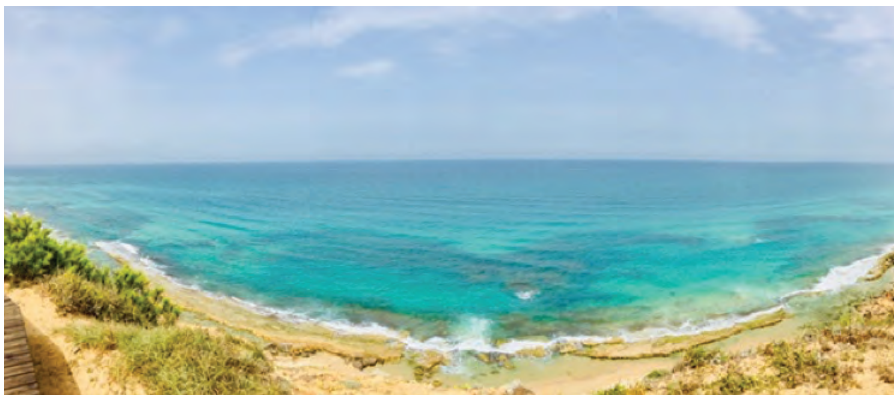
With the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel being celebrated, **Exercise HORSESHOE WARRIOR 2018**, the 2 Sig Gp Battlefield Study to Israel, where we were going to study the Battles of Megiddo (1918, The Great War) and the Golan Heights (1973, The Yom Kippur War).

The group of 30 DE Junior Officers from across 2 Sig Gp, Regulars and Reserves alike, were more than relieved to be reassured that the Study was going ahead, amongst all the news of rising tension – the perfect preface to dig in deep into the roots of the ever-lasting conflict in the area.

Following a full day in transit from an early flight to Tel Aviv, we arrived at our accommodation just before sunset.



On the first day, we retraced the **Battles of Meggido**, where a comprehensive offensive strategy saw the cavalry exploit a successful plan to advance up the **Sharon Coast**, in almost unimaginable record time – 130km in just 36hrs.



Following the same advance, we travelled Northward to the **Sea of Galilee**, which included a stop at the holy waters of **Yardenit, Baptismal Site on the Jordan River**.



Ever-nearing the Northern Border, we paid a visit to the IDF Memorial in the **Valley of Tears**, where we heard from “Wilf”, a former Tank Trooper in the **Israel Defence Forces**.

Our stop for the night was **Kibbutz Ortal**, a pristinely-maintained small resort where we found it was peacefully cohabited by locals (of different nationalities and religions) who live and work off the thriving wineries – and the richness of the land certainly tasted its worth.

Even in such beautiful settings, it was disappointing that the scheduled visit to the border (the “frontline”) was cancelled.

Instead, the morning was spent in the Kibbutz, which was the perfect environment to learn about *Defensive Operations*. As if the **Golan Heights** were not already hard enough for the Syrians to attack, the likelihood of success was further reduced when the IDF quickly rallied their Reserve forces for a counter attack. **Lt Rainsford** (71 Y Sig Regt) craftily utilised the greenery to encourage all the officers to get on all fours and participate in a practical demonstration of defending without retaliation.

We heard from **Col Haim Danon**, an IDF Reserves Tank Commander who took part in the action back in 1973. He recalled how he had to effectively self-mobilise and proactively seek to join the defence against surprise artillery bombardments by the Syrians, and helped form a whole Brigade of Reservists in just a couple of days. They immediately advanced to win back vital ground and solely held onto critical objectives which would have swung the war if they had lost the likes of their GHQ to the Syrians

We finally received permission to visit this frontline (within touching distance of the Syrian border) and jumped onto the bus. Standing on the exact grounds which, even today, are controversially disputed, overlooking the Syrian border and appreciating the difficult terrain, struck us as to how important a Battlefield Study can be to supplement the conceptual studies.



En route back from the **Golan Heights**, we attended a lecture delivered by **Gen Gideon Avidor**, who shared his experience from coordinating the IDF HQ in the **Sinai Desert** during the 1973 War.





After two very busy days visiting stands spanning the country and fitting in incredibly rare opportunities to hear first-hand accounts from truly inspirational leaders, we visited the IDF Signals Heritage Centre – the first time that the British Army has visited and laid a wreath to remember the fallen Signals servicemen and women.

After an authentic Mediterranean meal by the most welcoming hosts, we travelled to the Holy City of Jerusalem to visit **St Andrew's Church** to take a chance to catch up with our thoughts and hold a Service of Remembrance for our soldiers past and present. A touching session of hymns and prayers to conclude an intense few days of thought-provoking discussion.



## M25 ROW / CYCLE EVENT – AUGUST 2018

With the forecast of over 30°C for last Saturday sympathy was for the soldiers from 265 Support Squadron who had set themselves the target of cycling and rowing the equivalent of two laps of the M25, by the clock tower in Bexleyheath town centre, in aid of the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the British Army Association (Bexleyheath Branch) and Corporal Terry Cyrille, who is currently undergoing cancer treatment).

The challenge to complete two full laps of the M25 in eight hours, was organised by Sergeants Crane and Gurung. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Rankin started the challenge at 09:00 hours and the soldiers, on two static cycle machines and two rowing machines, took turns clocking up the miles over the day. After a few hours, they had managed to cover the 117 miles for the first lap and the challenge was on to complete the second lap, in the hope that a third lap could be achieved by the finish time of 17:00 hours. Through the heat of the day, the soldiers continued to make excellent progress and completed a second lap, the possibility of a third lap had become a reality. As the finish time approached and the arrival of their Commanding Officer to finish the challenge, the Squadron members made a last-ditch effort to cover the final few miles and managed to successfully complete just over three laps of the M25. Our congratulations to them all.

Their appreciation goes to all those who supported them on the day, especially to the members of public who gave so generously and Starbucks who provided a tray of ice-cold latte shots! As if morale could be boosted any higher, the caffeine boost certainly helped. A truly glorious day, shared with their special guests, the Veterans from the Bexleyheath British Army Association, who kindly braved the sun to help and most importantly the local community, who further enhanced our close relationship with the local borough of Bexleyheath, the home of the Squadron.



Members of the Squadron on it straight away.



The team photo with the Commanding Officer.



The team with Members of the British Army Association Veterans and Commanding Officer.



**OTHER MILITARY EXERCISES**



**ADVENTURE TRAINING**



Recent hiking expedition in Nepal.



Regimental skiing / snowboarding

## REMEMBRANCE PARADE



Lt Ranny Wei, 2Lt Ian Dawes and OCdt Louise Tunnickliff at the Squadron Sunday Remembrance Parade.

## EX PHOENIX MARKET GARDEN 2018

### Executive Summary

The squadron took part in **Exercise PHOENIX MARKET GARDEN (Ex PMG 18)** was the 71<sup>st</sup> Yeomanry Signal Regiment Battlefield Study (BS) to Arnhem, Netherlands, conducted over the period 26–29 Jul 2018, where we focussed on the airborne operations of Sep 1944.

OC 265 Sp Sqn addressed all participants prior to the act of remembrance at the Oosterbeek CWGC Cemetery. He summarised all the key learning points and highlighted the importance of understanding historical campaigns and their direct application on current doctrine to develop as individuals and junior leaders. OC specifically reminded the participants of the importance of C3 and the role of the Signals.

Several squadron members recounted their reflections from the exercise and below is a sample of these:

### Sig Puri

I found it highly fascinating to learn about Market Garden, and especially to begin to understand what kind of thinking a good commander needs to have to plan for a successful operation, especially one involving so many different and dynamic parts with so many unknowns. The exercise certainly highlighted to me the importance of good

logistics and especially good communications with military formations which has brought home how important signals is within the context of operations. Overall, it was inspiring to hear how soldiers on the ground, nearly 75 years ago, conducted themselves with such courage and ingenuity.

### **Sgt Crane**

As GOC 1st Airborne Division, Major General Urquhart fought an unsupported action at Arnhem against 11 SS Panzer Division, withdrawing on 25 September 1944. We learnt that he had never been an Airborne Commander, which may have been the reason he accepted the DZ from the RAF. Furthermore, due to a lack of communication, he decided to go forward to confirm for himself the actual situation on the ground, which resulted in him going into hiding for 36 hours. He was clearly a person liked by his men, a hands-on character and a risk taker.

### **Lcpl Lovett**

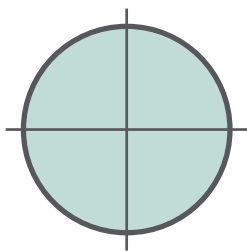
One of the main efforts of Operation Market Garden was to capture the Arnhem ridge spanning the Rhine. On 17th September 1944, the 2nd Parachute Battalion of the 1st Airborne Division, under the command of Lt Col John Frost, managed to occupy the northern end of Arnhem bridge, as planned. The expectation that the rest of the 1st Airborne Division would join them, secure a bridgehead and await XXX Corps ground force to link up after they themselves had also linked up with other Airborne units that had secured several bridges. After capturing the northern end, attempts were made to seize the southern end, but failed. Attacks by the Germans from the southern end were met with a barrage from the British. The Germans surround the British and begin trying to enclose on them to secure the bridge. Individual stories of bravery included a VC winner Lt Grayburn, who though wounded, led numerous attacks to stave off the Germans, but was eventually killed.

### **Cpl Harries (265 KCLY SP SQN)**

My only understanding of Arnhem was really from the famous film “**A Bridge Too Far**” though always thought the glamour of Hollywood overshadowed the real events so I felt very lucky to have been granted a space on the recent battlefield tour to Arnhem which for me was an experience I will never forget and really brings to life the bravery and human sacrifices made by British and Polish forces.







## **C(KSY) SQN OC REPORT**

OC – Capt Chris Chadwick  
2IC – Lt Rob Joles  
SSM – WO2 Phil Mason  
PSAO – Capt Adam Westwood  
Trg Offr – Lt Harry Pollock  
1<sup>st</sup> Tp Ldr- Capt Victoria Earl / 2Lt Lydia Badge  
1<sup>st</sup> Tp Sgt – Cpl Richard Dunning  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tp Ldr – Lt Richard Darlington  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tp Sgt - Sgt Mark Thomson  
4<sup>th</sup> Tp Ldr – Lt Andy McDowall RWxY  
4<sup>th</sup> Tp Sgt – Cpl Chris Smith  
SQMS (FTRS) CoH Robert Goodwin

### **OC's Report – Capt Chris Chadwick**

As I sit back and reflect on the events of 2018, I am particularly proud of the achievements that C Squadron has delivered as 2017/18 proved to be another challenging year for the Squadron. The report last year saw the highlighted many events including Ex WESSEX STORM and the laying up of the KSY Guidon at a splendid ceremony in Croydon and I am pleased to say great work continues to be done.

It was in the first week of January 2018 that I assumed command from Major Dom Ruck-Keene and what an honour it has been to command the Squadron, 26 years after I first walked through those gates as a fresh-faced Trooper.

Prior to the Christmas closedown the Squadron said goodbye to WO2 (SSM) Ian Fearnley who was posted to RHQ as RQMS (T) and Senior Yeoman and we wished him every success. His shoes were filled by the equally able WO2 Phil Mason who continues to bring the Sharpshooter esprit de corps to the front at every opportunity. We unfortunately lost L/Cpl Burton as he opted to return to the Queens Royal Hussars in Germany – our loss was very much their gain.

On occasion, during the first few weeks after Christmas leave, we can all require a little prodding to get us all switching into the military mind-set once again – how wrong we could be. The Squadron comprehensively embraced the new year by embarking on an extensive training programme based on the Soldier First Syllabus (SFS) and Battle Craft Syllabus (BCS), working towards Troop Tests in April.



Cpl Searle instructing Section Battle Drills – ALDERSHOT  
Jan 18

In order to prepare ourselves for Regimental Troop Tests, our training programme focussed on both mounted and dismounted tactical training as a Lt Cavalry soldier must be equally polished with their dismounted close combat skills as they are with operating on our R-WMIK platforms and I was extremely pleased to see our JNCO's taking the lead on organising and delivering a comprehensive drill night programme which provided such a solid base for our exercises.

With three preparation field training exercises behind us we hit the ground running on STANTA on a very wet weekend in April where we fielded an R-WMIK Troop and Dismounted Tp into a series of challenging high



Hunt Trophy returns to Croydon – STANTA Apr 18



Crew's get to grips with the new JACKAL Platform at Lulworth. Benefits over our existing R-WMIKs include increased armour protection and enhanced communications systems

tempo scenarios competing against the rest of the Regt. According to Tpr Greenwood they found the work up exercises particularly demanding so by the time they got to Tp Tests they were well practised, well skilled and confident. They scored well throughout achieving best dismounted Tp and second place in the mounted Tp category, first place overall, thus the Hunt Trophy made a welcome return to C Squadron.

In July we said goodbye to Capt Jules Moore after three glorious years as 2IC as he moved up to RHQ to assume the post of Operations Officer, his shoes being filled by Lt Rob Joles after he graciously relinquished command of 1<sup>st</sup> Tp to Lt Victoria Earl.

Annual Camp in 2018 was a fragmented, but essential trade



PWO Night Firing – LULWORTH Sep 18.

training package conducted at various locations across the country including LULWORTH, BOVINGTON, CATTERICK & WOOLWICH where our soldiers began their conversion training from R-WMIK onto JACKAL platforms. This presents an excellent opportunity for closer co-operation and integration with our sister regular regiment the Queens Dragoon Guards. Key highlights included completing specific driver, commander and Platform Weapon Operator (PWO) live firing packages with HMG and GPMG. All of which will allow us to get to grips with the new vehicles throughout 2019.



OC Leads the way on CFT - HYTHE Oct 2018.

Our final exercise of the year followed a tried and trusted format of deploying to LONGMOOR Urban Training Complex (UTC) to hone our OBUA skills. Under the ever-watchful gaze of WO2 Dave Churchward (E (LDY) Sqn), the Sqn was put through its paces, practicing low and high-level entry, room clearance, CASEVAC and tunnel operations. This made a welcome change from the recent focus on R-WMIK and JACKAL and reminded everyone that an ability to be high proficient in the dismounted role remains a key skill we should never lose.

In December we bid a fond farewell to Capt Victoria Earl who assumed a three-year FTRS post as a cultural advisor in the Middle East and to LCpl Rawlinson who loved the green machine so much, he transferred across to the HCR. It is fair to say churn is constant within the Sharpshooters and that much of our growth is from transfers within the Army Reserve from individuals who crave a demanding and fulfilling role in Light Cavalry.





SHARPSHOOTERS Contingent London Remembers Parade – RH Chelsea 2018.



L/Cpl's Clark & Rawlinson lead their sections during room clearance drills at LONGMOOR Urban Training Complex (UTC)



C Sqn – LONGMOOR UTC Nov 18.

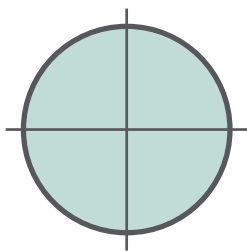
### **Regimental Shooting Team – Lt Rich Darlington**

Throughout 2018, C Squadron led the Regimental Shooting Team under the watchful gaze of Lt Rich Darlington and S/Sgt Nichols (B Sqn). The Team took part in both 7 Bde and the Army Reserve Pistol competitions placing highly on both occasions with Lt Rich Darlington achieving best shot across the Bde – a rare accolade indeed. They finished off the year by attending a Polish led NATO Reserve Forces shooting competition in Poznan. Special mention should be made of Tpr Thatcher achieving best shot with a Draganov sniper rifle, a weapon system he had only picked up a matter of a few hours beforehand.



Tpr Thatcher (l); L/Cpl Clark (r) Poznan Poland 18.





## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE: 2018

The Field of Remembrance 2018 was held at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 8th November. This year marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War and the lawn of St. Margaret's Church was laid out with 380 plots in the names of military associations and other organisations. The Poppy Factory, which organises the Field of Remembrance, is based in Richmond upon Thames and currently produces in excess of 7.5 million poppies, 138,000 wreaths and nearly one million crosses and symbols. It also operates as a national charity and is the country's leading employability charity for veterans with physical and mental health conditions.



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.

The service opened with the arrival at the Field of His Royal Highness, The Duke of Sussex. Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend John Hall and The Reverend Jane







Sinclair, Rector of St. Margaret's Church. His Royal Highness was then 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. Having had to ascend the balcony of St. Margaret's Church (via a somewhat wobbly looking ladder whilst dressed in her bearskin, greatcoat and carrying her instrument), The Last Post was sounded by a Trumpeter from the Band of the Scots Guards.

The 'Exhortation to Remembrance' was given by Mrs. Sara Jones, President of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory; the two-minute silence was then observed, followed by 'Reveille'. After the Service His Royal Highness undertook a review of the plots.

Guy Farage, the *Association President*, was our plot representative.

The following members of the *Association* and families also attended: Nathan Adams, Terry and Pam Bodman, Barrie and Carol Corfield, Chris Eley, Nikki Fairman and Brian Clark, David and Marian Hannam, Bill Lovell, Phil Mason, Craig McColville, Tim Rayson, Steve Shelley, Philip and Hilary Wilson, Keith Wrate and Kevin Wright.

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

On a final point, after the Service the following communication was noted from Craig McColville to our *Honorary Secretary*:

*Good to see you at Westminster, albeit fleetingly. Just before seeing you I spied two New Zealand ACF adults and putting two and two together asked:*

*"Been with Tim Rayson?"*

*"Yes."*

*"Good visit? Brilliant organisation? Brilliant welcome?"*

*"Brilliant."*

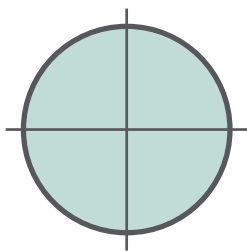
*"Tim still sane?"*

*"Was he ever?"*

*Not making it up!*

Reassuring to know the future of the young people who follow us is in safe hands.





## WENT THE DAY WELL... OR NOT SO WELL

### THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2018

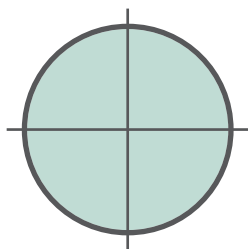
Unfortunately this year's show never happened for us *Sharpshooters* the dreaded Gremlins had been at work again this year. We received an email from Rex Cadman our provider of the low-loader and the tank to tell us that it is with much regret and disappointment that they have to pull out of this year's Lord Mayors Show: "We have today identified an issue with our trailer, which will need resolving before we can transport a tank, and unfortunately don't have time to do this due to our workload. We're very sorry to have to do this, but unfortunately it is unavoidable".

Such is life, so a NO Duff email was sent out to all those attending that it was off for this year, plus some phone calls to double check that everyone had got the message. My thanks to our Chairman Mark, for trying to arrange for a Low-loader via some of his contacts but time and practicalities were against us. Thanks also to Helen at the Pageantmaster's office for her help. Hopefully we will be back to normal next year.

Those who would have been attending this year were, our President Guy Farage, David Hewer, Mike Swan, Mick Hall, Alan Davey, Keven Wright (Standard Bearer), Mike Abbott, Nathan Adams. As for the weather, after the overnight rain it turned out to be a glorious dry sunny day. Here's to next year.

Meanwhile, here's a group photo from yesteryear!

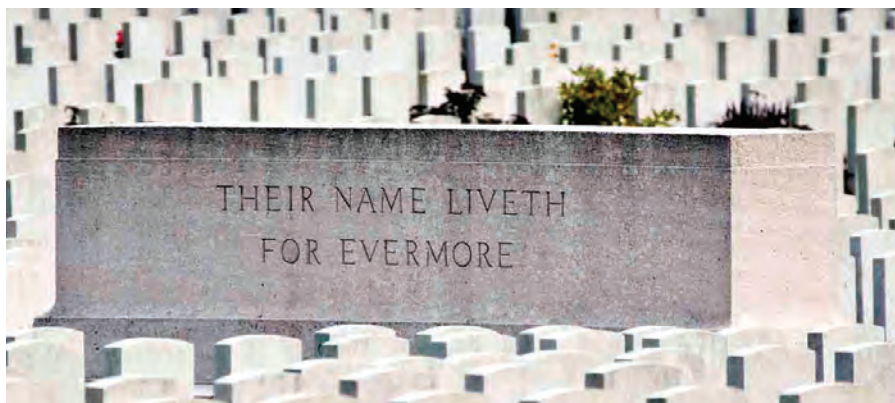




# SHARPSHOOTERS

## WW1 ROLL OF HONOUR

– CENTENARY –



Rank	Surname	Forename	Date of death	Country
Private	ADAMS	EC	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	ANSELL	H	26/12/17	Egypt
Private	BARBER	JAMES CLEMENTS	12/3/16	United Kingdom
Private	BARWICK	ROBERT JOSEPH	24/6/18	France
Private	BEAUMONT	CHARLES EDWARD	29/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BROADHEAD	LV	7/9/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Serjeant	BROWN	EDGAR JOHN	14/10/15	United Kingdom
Private	BROWN	ALEXANDER MOYES	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	BURLACE	HE	21/4/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Second Lieutenant	BURT	CHARLES HERBERT	27/10/18	United Kingdom
Private	CHILD	FREDERICK NORMAN HEALD	4/9/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	CLARKE	BENJAMIN	22/4/16	United Kingdom
Private	COCKERTON	ERNEST EDWARD	28/11/15	United Kingdom
Corporal	COLSON	F	9/2/15	United Kingdom
Lieutenant	COMBE	STANLEY GREATREX	11/10/18	Egypt
Private	CRITCHELL	CHARLES ARTHUR	20/12/17	Egypt
Lance Corporal	CROZIER	WESLEY JOHNSON	29/9/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	DANSIE	SEPTIMUS CROWN VASS	4/8/16	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	DUNN	FREDERICK	29/5/16	Egypt





Mounted Sharpshooter 1916.



'A' SQ. 3RD. CLY. WIMBLEDON COMMON JAN. 1915

Rank	Surname	Forename	Date of death	Country
Private	DYER	A	17/7/17	Belgium
Private	ELISHA	VIVIAN JAMES	23/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	EMERY	BERTIE	12/3/17	Greece
Private	FARQUHARSON	H R	8/6/15	United Kingdom
Private	FERGUSON	JOHN MORTIMER	25/8/15	Greece
Private	FUHRBERG	HORACE JOHN WILLIAM	21/1/15	United Kingdom
Private	GERRETT	GEORGE ALBERT EDWARD	1/9/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	GOULD	L L	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Major	GREGORY MC	FLEMING CLEMENT	29/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	HARDY	FREDERICK PERCY	9/3/16	United Kingdom
Second Lieutenant	HARRIS	HAROLD MALTHY	16/6/17	Belgium
Corporal	HASLOP	JOHN ANDREWS JONES	23/8/15	Greece
Second Lieutenant	HERIOT	GEORGE EDWARD	13/12/15	Egypt
Private	HIGHAM	CLEMENT	22/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	HOLDEN	SAMUEL CHARLES	30/12/17	Ireland, Republic of
Private	HORNER	ALFRED RAY	10/10/18	Ireland, Republic of
Shoeing Smith	HOUSDEN	GEORGE HENRY	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	HOWELL	LEONARD ALFRED	22/11/14	United Kingdom
Private	HURST	AUGUSTUS STUART	6/8/15	United Kingdom
Serjeant	LANG-GIEVE	PELHAM LOUIS	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	LAWS	FREDERICK WILLIAM	10/10/18	Ireland, Republic of
Private	LOKANDER	E	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	MORSE	ROBERT WILLIAM	8/8/16	Egypt
Lance Corporal	MORTIMER	GEORGE PEARCE	26/9/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	MURRELL	GEORGE EDWARD	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	McGLASHAN	WILLIAM SINCLAIR	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	NICHOLLS	ERNEST FREDERIC	21/4/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Corporal	PALMER	ALBERT WILLIAM	1/10/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Lance Corporal	PANTARD	HENRY PERCY	7/6/15	United Kingdom
Private	PARSONS	GEOFFREY HAROLD	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	PAXTON	GEORGE EDWARD	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Lance Corporal	PEARSON	L T	4/8/16	United Kingdom
Private	PEGGIE	A	21/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Private	PICKERING	C	13/4/15	United Kingdom
Private	PRIME	HAROLD WILLIAM	22/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	REED	A J	15/8/16	Egypt
Corporal	ROBINSON	CHARLES POULTON	21/8/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	SHARMAN	J C	14/4/16	United Kingdom
Private	TREW	F	7/6/15	Egypt
Private	WELLS	WILLIAM HENRY	26/5/17	United Kingdom



Unknown Sharpshooter with family.



Sidney Knowles 3rd CLY 1914



Unknown REKMR.



Unknown WKY with brother.

Rank	Surname	Forename	Date of death	Country
Private	WILSON	C M	8/8/16	Egypt
Lance Corporal	WOOD	ROBERT GRAYDON	19/11/17	Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)
Serjeant Major	WRIGHT	JAMES EDWARD	20/1/18	United Kingdom
Private	WRIGHTON	FRANK HENRY NORMAN	2/11/17	United Kingdom

#### West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own)

Private	ATKINS	G B	7/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BACON	FRANCIS GEOFFREY EVERARD JAMES	13/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BAKER	BERTIE ALFRED	31/8/16	France
Private	BATES	WILLIAM JOHN	14/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BEAL	JAMES ARTHUR	25/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BOORER	W J	8/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BOORMAN	CYRIL ADLINGTON	3/3/15	United Kingdom
Private	CHAPMAN	MAURICE	15/8/16	United Kingdom
Private	CHICK	F E	31/8/16	France
Private	COULTER	ARTHUR J.	31/8/16	France
Private	DARBY	THOMAS	31/8/16	France
Private	DAVIES	H A	7/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	DOWLING	GEOFFREY FRANK	31/8/16	France
Private	ELLIS	ALBERT	31/8/16	France
Private	FAGG	JOHN RICHARD	31/3/16	United Kingdom
Private	FERMOR	ARTHUR EDMUND	31/8/16	France
Private	GILBERT	CHARLES	31/8/16	France
Private	GLASS	E G	27/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	HOLMES	R	8/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	HOPKINS	THOMAS WILLIAM	31/8/16	France
Private	INGRAM	SIDNEY CHARLES	31/8/16	France
Private	JOPSON	ALFRED HENRY	31/8/16	France
Private	LEARY	J	31/8/16	France
Private	LONG	WILLIAM VICTOR	31/8/16	France
Private	LUCK	ALBERT EDWARD	5/9/16	Egypt
Private	MAIER	O F	31/8/16	France
Private	MANN	H	30/11/16	United Kingdom
Private	McMURRAY	REGINALD GORDON	11/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	NICOLLS	HARRY GORDON	31/8/16	France
Private	NOAKES	HARRY	31/8/16	France
Private	SMITH	F L	31/8/16	France
Captain	STEWART	BERTRAND	12/9/14	France
Private	TAUNT	HERBERT JAMES	31/8/16	France
Private	TAYLOR	H	31/8/16	France
Private	THEOBALD	C C	8/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)





Claydon, Ernest, Arthur, Owens 3 CLY



Unknown 3 CLY



Unknown 3 CLY 1915

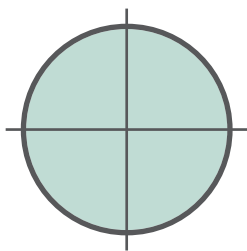


Unknown 3 CLY



Rank	Surname	Forename	Date of death	Country
Private	THOMAS	L C E	10/5/16	Egypt
Private	TURNER	J S	5/9/16	France
<b>Royal East Kent Yeomanry</b>				
Lieutenant	ADAM	W	3/11/18	United Kingdom
Serjeant	ANNING	HUBERT PERCY	28/11/15	Malta
Serjeant	BODY	ARTHUR JUDGE	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BUFTON	BERTIE	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	BUTTON	JACK HERBERT	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	CASTLE	FREDERICK FRANK	28/2/16	United Kingdom
Private	CHURCH	O	30/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	COLLINS	CYRIL HENRY	12/12/15	Egypt
Serjeant	DALTON	MALCOLM PHILIP	9/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	DANIELS	ALBERT GEORGE	30/8/16	Egypt
Private	DAVIES	R W	15/2/19	United Kingdom
Shoeing Smith	EDDEN	H	31/10/15	Egypt
Private	ELDRIDGE	T T S	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	EVERETT	JOHN ERIC MURRAY	12/10/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	FEAKINS	J E	30/11/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Lance Corporal	GEORGE	ERNEST EDWIN	22/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Second Lieutenant	GUNTHER MC	NORMAN OTTO FREDERICK	12/7/17	France
Lance Corporal	HAMMOND	JOHN CHARLES	10/10/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Shoeing Smith	HOLNESS	O W	13/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	MARTIN	CYRIL ARTHUR	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	MORTON	EDGAR DOUGLAS	22/2/15	United Kingdom
Private	NEWMAN	R G	15/6/16	Egypt
Private	SEAGER	FRANCIS HENRY	30/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Captain	SEBAG-MONTEFIORE	ROBERT MONTEFIORE	19/11/15	Egypt
Farrier Serjeant	SUTTON	CHARLEY GEORGE	7/4/19	France
Private	TROTMAN	H M	26/11/15	United Kingdom
Second Lieutenant	TUFF	F N	5/11/15	Malta
Private	VIDLER	P A	8/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	WARREN	REGINALD DOUGLAS	7/12/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Private	WENHAM	W S	11/2/15	United Kingdom
Second Lieutenant	WILLIAMS	S R T A M	25/10/15	Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Shoeing Smith Corporal	WILMOT	A	26/5/16	United Kingdom





## **SHARPSHOOTERS STYLE**

**Uniforms and insignia of the 23rd  
(London) Armoured Car Company**

**1920 – 1939**

**by Dan Taylor**

As a foretaste of a forthcoming book on the British Armoured Cars of the Inter War Years, there follows an excerpt from the book's section on uniforms. There has clearly been a tradition within the Regiment that Army Regulation gave some interesting suggestions about what individuals may choose to wear, and how it might be worn. Therefore, the intention of this article is to show the development of during the period, and how official diktat was interpreted by the individuals of the unit.

At first glance the period seems to show a state of relative stability. Troops were provided with 1907 pattern Service Dress including one jacket, one pair of breeches, one pair of trousers, and soft peaked cap. For equipment they were issued with 1908 pattern webbing which, for armoured troops, comprised a belt, shoulder straps, small pack, leather holster, and leather ammunition pouch. Footwear was a pair of ammunition boots with long puttees. For the men of the Sharpshooters, this provided a starting point to allow them to stand out from the crowd. As further items were introduced be they berets or boiler suits, the opportunities to develop personal flair expanded.

### **1 - Other Ranks Service Dress Uniform, Marching Order c 1924.**



This Private is dressed strikingly similarly to the Army's concept of the uniform for vehicle-borne troops of the period. The Sharpshooters had converted to armoured cars in 1920, initially forming as the 5th London Armoured Car Company, so became part of the Royal Tank Corps. In terms of insignia this meant that they were originally issued with a brass version of the Royal Tank Corps cap badge, plus the stylised tank 'lozenge' on the right arm. Puttees are rolled from the ankle, upwards, in this case, but examples of the cavalry preference for winding from the calf, downwards, can be found. The standard firearm was the Webley .455 Service Revolver.

Before a 5th LACC badge could be struck, the Regular Army decided they wanted to take the 'senior' company numbers, and so the eight Yeomanry armoured car companies found themselves renumbered, the Sharpshooters being renamed 23rd (London) Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters). A 23rd LACC badge was struck from 1923 though it seems to have taken some time before everyone was issued with the new badge and this soldier still wears the brass RTC badge a year later.



A – Brass Royal Tank Corps Cap Badge 1920 to 1923.

B – Cap Badge of the 23rd London Armoured Car Company 1923 to 1931 in brass with silver XXIII.

C – Cloth Royal Tank Corps Arm Patch 1920 to 1939.



## 2 - Senior NCO's Service Dress Uniform, Walking Out Dress c 1924

Staff Sergeant Jacobs has clearly decided to embrace the individualistic traits of Sharpshooter apparel. He has chosen to invest in a gaberдинe Service Dress Jacket with closed collar, Bedford cord breeches and brown leather laced boots. This is embellished with 1903 pattern leather belt with cross strap and he appears to have the small, bronzed collar-dog version of the badge for his cap, with silver 'XXIII' motif (see fig. D).

## 3 - Other Ranks Service Dress Uniform, Walking Out Dress c1924

Private AP Grafftey-Smith is more conventionally dressed in the 1907 pattern Service Dress with 1908 wide webbing belt, puttees and 'Ammunition' ankle boots. For individuality, he has a cane swagger stick tucked under his arm, a white lanyard worn on the left shoulder, and his cap badge jauntily worn over his Service Cap's chin strap.

## 4 - Other Ranks Service Dress Uniform, Walking Out Dress c 1924

Lance Corporal John Castle, proudly sporting his rank stripe on both arms, has sought to embellish his 1907 pattern Service Dress with a 1903 pattern cross belt and white lanyard. Each of the trio wears the 1907 pattern Other Ranks Service Dress cap.

This illustration is taken from a photograph of an outing to Bournemouth during the summer camp of 1924.



Officer's uniforms were purchased privately by individual officers which goes some way to explain the variation in details evident in the record. Their uniform was made of a greener shade of khaki gaberdine wool whilst, being cavalry based, breeches were worn rather than trousers. Shirts and ties are evident in a variety of shades too.

### 5 - Officers Service Dress Uniform c 1925

Captain P Shaw (shortly before becoming Company Commander) has combined Bedford cord breeches and tall, brown leather boots with stirrups. His insignia comprises the brass RTC cap badge and bronzed version of the 23rd LACC collar dogs. He has the RTC tank lozenge on his right arm and the Dunraven ribbon on his shoulder boards - underneath his rank stars. He wears a pair of issue binoculars round his neck and their case over his shoulder.

### 6 - Officers Service Dress Uniform c 1925

Lieutenant Terrence Green developed his own very distinctive style. Whilst at the same event, and dressed to the same regulations as Captain Shaw, he has taken a noticeably different course. Green has removed the stiffener from his service cap, opted for a dark shirt and tie combination, cavalry twill breeches and has a more modern 'cut' to his jacket. He wears the 23rd LACC cap badge, matched with the bronzed collar dogs and has Dunraven ribbon on his shoulder boards. His binoculars are not standard issue for the period. A swagger stick can be seen, clasped between his hands, and a whistle lanyard is threaded around his left shoulder. His most distinctive feature, though, is his monocle.

D - Bronzed Officer's Collar Dog, 23rd London Armoured Car Company, 1923 to 1931. This was sometimes worn as a cap badge and was also worn by NCOs.

E - The silver cap of a cane swagger stick with engraved 23rd LACC badge. This was a popular uniform adornment and can often be seen in photographs when members of the unit were out in public.





A number of minor changes were made to the uniform specification between 1925 and 1931. The first, and most obvious, was the introduction of the black beret. Photographs show officers wearing the beret from the Autumn of 1925 and by Easter 1926 they had been adopted by all ranks. In order to retain the connection with the RTC, the cloth tank lozenge was retained and other ranks began wearing silver RTC collar dogs from 1927. In 1931 there was a detail change to the cap badge where the 'XXIII' motif was removed and 'CLY' put in its place. It would appear that a small proportion of the company's members continued to wear the XXIII version of the badge for some time after this change, particularly NCOs. Officers continued to wear the bronzed version of the XXIII badge as collar dogs.



Sgt Len Gaywood displaying CLY cap badge and RTC collar dogs, c 1933

KSYM-GWD-169

## 7 - Officers Service Dress Uniform, Parade Dress c 1931

Lieutenant JEG Moriarty at the start of the thirties, and the most apparent change is clearly the new headgear here worn with the CLY version of the cap badge. The collar badge is the bronzed 'XXIII' version of the 23 LACC badge and, surprisingly in this instance, these two officers are shown both wearing the authorised pattern. The rest of the uniform is relatively unchanged. A sword is standard for this form of dress and was worn quite frequently according to the photographic archive.

## 8 - Officers Service Dress Uniform c 1925

A newly commissioned Second Lieutenant RW Godson mirrors the dress of his companion (if you are willing to ignore the variety in shade of their shirts and ties). They have even conspired to be wearing similarly styled boots. Cavalry twill breeches complete the ensemble and Godson had a pair of brown leather gloves.



F - The revised pattern 23 LACC badge in brass with silver 'CLY'





### 9 - Other Ranks Service Dress Uniform, Marching Order c 1938

Dressed to the same regulations as fig. 1, this private shows most of the changes exhibited from the mid 1920s: Worthy of note is the pale 'sock' used to cover the securing tapes on the puttees when wound from the top in cavalry fashion.



9

### 10 - Other Ranks Service Dress Uniform, Drill Order c 1938

For drill instruction and sentry duties soldiers were issued with a No 1 Short Magazine Lee-Enfield Rifle though they retained the small leather revolver ammunition pouch rather than one designed for rifle ammunition.

This two privates neatly show the manner of dress as it appeared over the final couple of years before war was declared, marking the period of dramatic period of expansion back to regimental status.



10

The second line regiment – first called 2/3, then 4th County of London Yeomanry were dressed, from their inception during the Spring of 1939, in Battledress and will be covered in a future volume.

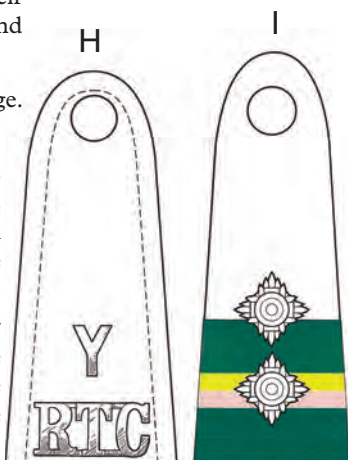
G - Woven wire version of the XXIII style cap badge. As worn on the collar of the mess dress jacket.



G

H - Brass Royal Tank Corps Shoulder Title 1925 to 1938. Worn by Other Ranks, shown as worn on the epaulette. The 'Y' denotes Yeomanry.

I - Dunraven Ribbon. Worn by Officers, shown as worn on the epaulette of a Lieutenant. The ribbon was 2-inches wide (51mm)



## Working Clothing

An often overlooked area of uniform study is the overalls worn to protect against the dirt and grime inherent with working on military vehicles. The style and variety of overall evolved in the inter-war period, the first iteration for the period being a two-piece suit, surprisingly provided in white. As can be seen in the image to the right, the colour was impractical for the role and must have given any sergeant with views on cleanliness a headache.



The vehicle crew of Peerless Armoured Car, suitably adorned with the 23rd Armoured Car Company badge, pose in their 'white' two piece overalls whilst on exercise in 1922. Note that they are wearing their Service Dress uniforms underneath.

KSYM-GWD-060



From 1924 'boiler suits' were introduced and, according to various accounts, many members of the unit seem to have bought their own set. This is borne out by the variety of detail and shades visible in the photographic record. It was only in 1937 that some standardisation was imposed – officers' overalls were to be black, though there was no stipulation for a particular hue for other ranks. A message in Standing Orders the following year asked non commissioned officers to stop purchasing black overalls, though it did permit their use if already acquired. It was only in the final year of peace that stocks of standardised overalls started to become available.

### 11 - Other Ranks Overalls, Working Dress c 1928

Although white overalls had been superseded by boiler suits four years before this image was captured, their use continued to a lesser extent well into the 1930s, especially for cookhouse duties. Some leniency was allowed in working dress and this Private has chosen to make himself more comfortable with civilian shirt and pullover. The trousers are secured with a leather belt and he wears civilian shoes.



12

### 12 - Other Ranks 'Boiler Suit', Working Dress c1930

Lance Corporal Ray is wearing a well soiled and faded faun boiler suit. The beret was usually worn whilst on duty and it would appear that, rather unusually, that he is wearing a pair of pre-Great War boots, without toe caps. Rank stripes were only worn on the right arm. Examples of boiler suits with collars and flapped pockets were also common in a variety of shades during this period

### 13 - Officers Overalls, Working Dress c 1938

Second Lieutenant Neil Tatton holding a map board whilst on a major exercise in Budleigh Salterton. Black overalls slowly became the norm for officers through the 1930s. They were of better quality than the OR's boiler suits, having folded collars, epaulettes, and two breast pockets with flaps. Officers wore shirt and tie plus brown leather shoes and the standard black beret. For the purposes of the exercise each of the three figures have gas masks in the 'ready' position. This style of overall can be seen in use by officers from the mid 1930s and into the first year of the War.

### 14 - Other Ranks Overalls c1938

Several accounts mention the use of a 'bottle green' overall being worn during the 1930s. There is no proof that the monochrome image from which this illustration was taken is an example, but the heavy contrast is consistent with it being the case. Note the Newbold tinted goggles around his neck.

### 15 - Other Ranks Overalls, Working Dress c 1938

Another pattern of faun boiler suit, this time with flapped pocket being worn by a vehicle commander during the exercise. Other details mirror those in figures 13 and 14.



13

14

15

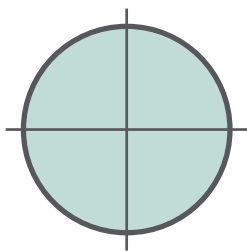
## 16 - Other Ranks Overalls c 1939

After the Munich Crisis in September 1938 it became increasingly likely that there would be war with Germany and the Sharpshooters, like many other units at the time, began a dramatic expansion to Regimental strength. At the same time the Company reverted to cavalry nomenclature, so the new cadre were recruited as Troopers rather than Private soldiers. The upturn in momentum also meant that uniform producers began to increase supply of clothing for the military and a new cotton khaki drab overall became standard issue. This trooper is carrying a pair of one gallon fuel cans and was pictured at Popham Camp in August 1939.

As mentioned, this is only a portion of a chapter about uniforms in a book chiefly concerned with Armoured Cars used by the Sharpshooters. The chapter also includes sections on Patrols, Mess Dress, Cold Weather Clothing and Rugby kit. There will be a detailed look at the activities of the unit during the period, including a number of innovative technical activities undertaken at the time. We are fortunate to have access to an extensive collection of photographs in the Museum Trust archive with work will be illustrated.







## 1918 – THE LAST 100 DAYS OF WAR

by Dave Whitehouse

Early August 1918 saw both the Kent Yeomanry (KY) and 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry (3CLY) not only in a different theatre of war but also in different roles to that of three years ago when the regiments left the UK to go overseas.

3CLY and KY had moved from Palestine to the Western Front in May-June 1918, having both seeing action towards the end of the Gallipoli campaign.

The West Kent (Queens Own) Yeomanry and Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles had already been amalgamated and converted in infantry as the 10<sup>th</sup> (Royal East & West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) back in February 1917.

In May 1918, 3CLY were amalgamated with the City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders) to form 103<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. They had to start from scratch and spent the first couple of months in France training for the new role.

Both Regiments saw little action for the first three months on the Western Front. The Kent Yeomanry first went into the line in early August, the Sharpshooters in late August. Both were then involved in the final offensive from then until the armistice on 11 November. Their experiences were however very different.

The role of the Machine Gun Battalion was essentially defensive. The Battalion had a strength of some 750 all ranks. They were issued with 64 Vickers machine guns and motor transport to the tune of 22 3-ton lorries, five 15cwt Crossley box cars, six touring cars, 18 solo cycles and 20 sidecar combinations. This motorised element was there essentially to move the machine guns rapidly from one part of the front to another as and when needed. They were then expected to set up a ‘machine gun barrage’.

Since allied operations at this time were predominantly offensive, this meant that the Sharpshooters had little to do in the final stages of the war other than occupy trenches in the Arras – Douai area where they suffered a limited number of casualties from enemy shelling.

The Kent Yeomanry on the other hand saw much more action and suffered far greater casualties. For most of August they were in the Merville area, north of Bethune and during one period of attack, they lost 24 killed and 52 wounded.

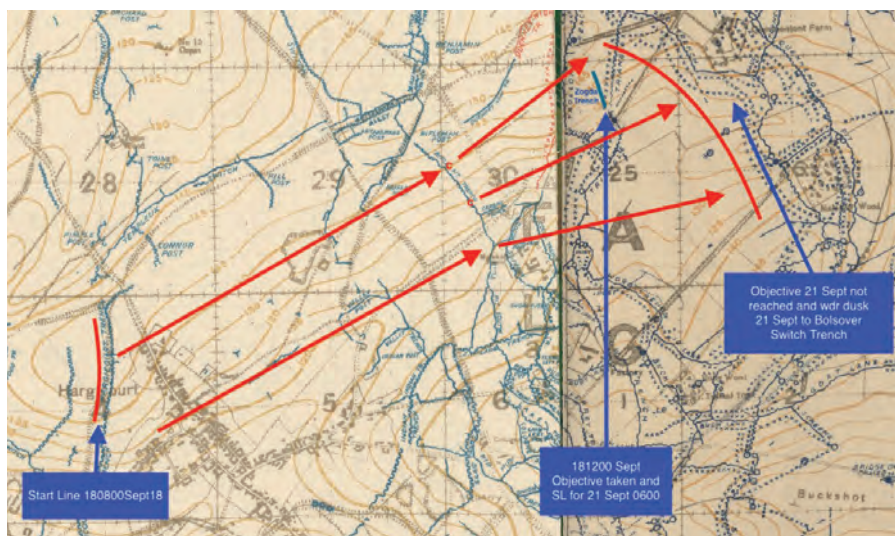
As Colonel Ponsonby remarked in his regimental history “*We now entered on a new type of existence, perhaps less strenuous than our life in Palestine, but certainly more unpleasant, the whole characterized by irregularity. For nearly six months our lives had been comparatively regular. Now, we ate when we could, we slept if possible, we only washed occasionally. We advanced as fast as the Germans or our arrangements allowed, and when we expected to be*

*relieved and to enjoy a short rest we advanced again. And throughout the whole period we were shelled, sometimes intensely, sometimes only intermittently, and always with a pretty mixture of gas, HE, and shrapnel, with a little, aerial bombing to brighten the night and the distasteful music of machine guns to enliven the day, whenever we came to close quarters with the enemy."*

In September they took part in the advance on the Hindenburg Line north of St Quentin and were involved in a number of actions which are recalled below.

On September 18th at dawn, in pouring rain, began the attack on the outpost positions of the Hindenburg Line. Few of us had ever heard a din so great as that made by our Artillery and machine-gun barrage, but all agreed that the result was all that could be desired. The enemy soon had enough, and began to surrender. Even the famous quarries at Templeux le Gerrard, where pits and refuse heaps, holes and caves formed ideal ground for defence, were given up. The Sussex and Suffolks, with the Buffs and Somersets (229th Brigade) closely in support, moved on through the quarries to Hargicourt Trench, the first objective, which was captured at 8 a.m. After an hour's halt the barrage started to creep forward again. This time we were in front, and our objective was Zogda Trench and Rifle Pit Trench, between 1500 and 2000 yards away. From the jumping off place the ground sloped away into a slight depression and then rose again towards the objective, but the barrage was perfect, and gave us great confidence, and, though held up for a time by machine-gun fire, we captured the trenches soon after midday, and, later on, pushed on for a further 300 yards towards the 'Exploitation Line'.

*"In the meanwhile, events had not been going so well on our left. The 18th Division were held up by some strong positions round Ep  hy and Ronsoy, and this kept back the 231st Brigade, who were on the left of the 74th Division. We had to stop, as also the Australians on our right. About 5 p.m. Very lights went up on the left, showing that a counter-attack was threatened there, and the Artillery immediately put down a barrage along the line of the second objective. As we were 300 yards in advance of this, we were involved in the barrage, and had*



Marked up trench map.

*to come back to Zogda and Rifle Pit Trenches. Here we rested as best we could for the night. Except for the last hour or two, the day had again demonstrated the possibility of almost enjoying a battle, when the organization was good, and everything went according to prearranged plan.*

*For the next two days we remained in Rifle Pit Trench and Zogda Trench, and at times received our share of heavy shelling, while the activity of the enemy's snipers made it difficult to keep up communication between front line and Battalion Headquarters. In the meantime a further advance was planned for September 21st, the objective being the high ground round Quennemont Farm, about 1200 yards from Zogda Trench. A bare slope without protection of any kind rose towards the farm, and our short residence in the locality had proved to us that the whole ridge on which the farm stood was well provided with machine gun positions, and well protected with wire.*

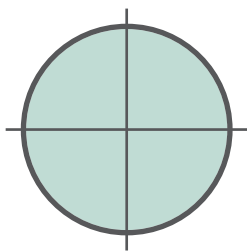
*We started to advance before daybreak behind a barrage. All went well at first. Then, as soon as it was light, we ran into thick belts of wire near Zoo Trench. A few got through, but by this time the barrage was a long way ahead and finally stopped, the enemy emerged from his dugouts, and we found ourselves involved in an inferno of shells and machine-gun bullets. The attacking troops (C and D Companies) could do nothing but shelter in shell-holes and await developments. The support Company (A) were similarly situated in Triangle Trench, tied to the ground by machine gun fire and absence of cover. The situation became worse owing to the retirement of the troops on our left, in face of a determined counter attack by the enemy, who thus threatened the rear of our advance and support Companies. Then passed a day unparalleled as yet in our annals. Any one who tried to move from one shell-hole to another was shot at once; one or two runners with the greatest gallantry got through wounded, with reports from the front line, but none from Headquarters ever reached the two forward Companies.*

*The Brigade and Battalion on our left had taken up a new line parallel with Zogda Trench, and as it grew dark the remnants of the Companies got back in small parties to this trench, and, later on, being relieved by the 15th Suffolks and the 229th Brigade, we took up new positions in reserve in Bolsover Switch and, completely exhausted, fell asleep”.*

The actions from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September cost the battalion 58 killed and 210 wounded/missing reducing their effective strength on 22 September to seven Officers and 160 men – less than one third of the battalion that started out from Peronne a month earlier with 10 Officers and 334 ORs.

By early October they had been moved back north to take part in the final offensive which led to the collapse of the German Army. Starting north of Bethune they advanced south of Lille where they had gone beyond the trench lines and found themselves in open country where they were greeted as liberators by the local French population. Finally, they reached Tournai where, on 11 November, the news arrived that an armistice had been signed. In this final stage, a further 20 were killed.





## ALLENBY'S PALESTINE CAMPAIGN, 1917

by Daniel Taylor

1917 was a tumultuous year for Britain. In March the Russians sued for peace as revolution swept the country allowing the Germans to bring two million troops back from the Eastern Front. In April America joined the war on the Allied side, though they would be able to provide little practical assistance until a year later. In July, on the Western Front, the third battle of Ypres commenced – later to be called the battle of Passchendaele – creating a synonym for the most heinous kind of trench warfare, as relentless rain turned the battlefield into a quagmire that contributed to Britain suffering a quarter of a million casualties. This offensive paled next to the even fouler chanel house that was Verdun.

As the War progressed, it was becoming increasingly apparent that the old world order, made up of large empires controlling a vast mass of different peoples, was becoming untenable. Various ethnic groups started to explore the possibility that the eventual peace may offer them an opportunity at a self-governed homeland. This was true of the Poles, the Czechs, Indians and, significantly, for various Jewish communities spread globally<sup>1</sup>. From the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Zionism developed with the ideal that the Jewish peoples should be able to re-establish a homeland in the historic land of Israel which was then part of the Ottoman Empire. By 1914, after four hundred years of Ottoman rule, Jews made up less than 10% of the population of Palestine, though worldwide there were up to ten million Jews in communities in Russia, Europe and in the United States. When the war started many Jews were keen to contribute towards their respective country's war efforts, joining the military or helping in other capacities. One such was Chaim Weizmann, a Scientist and chemist who had become naturalised British in 1910, and who had come to prominence in the field of munitions. Charismatic and charming, he was able to use his position to promote his Zionist views and garner help from the British government in order to further the cause. This resulted in an agreement written by Lord Balfour to Lord Rothschild stating that the British government were in favour of the establishment of a Jewish homeland within Palestine. It was ambiguously worded so that it did not quite clarify whether this homeland would be a state in its own right, or how the indigenous Arab population were to be treated.

One problem with Balfour's Declaration was that it did not fit with some of the other treaties and agreements that had been promised in order to secure help in winning the War. David Lloyd George had become Prime Minister at the end of 1916. Although he was a principled man, and former preacher, his single minded desire to conclude the war in Britain's favour meant that he became increasingly duplicitous in order to achieve that goal. The 1916 Hussein-McMahon agreement and then the Sykes-Picot agreement each promised slightly different outcomes offered to the French, Arabs and Russians

<sup>1</sup> Jewish uprisings in 70AD and 132AD had led the Romans to expel most of Judea's Jewish population, banning them from living in Jerusalem and so, from this Jewish viewpoint, they had been without a homeland for nearly two thousand years.



in order to divide lands or to garner support. The Balfour declaration similarly offered support in exchange for, in this instance, the guarantee of financial backing for the continued war effort.

At the same time, Lloyd George had become increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress in France and Flanders. He scathingly described the tactics as ‘mud crawling’ and was keen to exploit the soft underbelly of Europe – the crumbling Ottoman Empire. Despite the disastrous campaign in Gallipoli in 1915, he believed that a decisive campaign in Palestine and Greater Syria may knock Turkey out of the war. To this end, he dispatched General Sir Edmund Allenby to Egypt to command a new offensive in the Levant. Allenby’s instruction was simple: to capture Jerusalem by Christmas.

Allenby assumed command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) at the end of June 1917. A thorough and meticulous commander, he set about a review of the resources to hand and rigorously re-energised his new command so that it might be able to fulfil his goal. His review was swift. Having consulted commanders on the front between Egypt and Palestine, in the second week of July he submitted a detailed appreciation of the forces available to him, the issues to be overcome and the latest intelligence about the enemy forces arrayed against him.

*The Turkish Army in Southern Palestine held a strong position extending from the sea at Gaza, roughly along the main Gaza – Beersheba road to Beersheba. Gaza had been made into a strong modern fortress, heavily entrenched and wired, offering every facility for protracted defence. The remainder of the enemy’s line consisted of a series of strong localities, viz.: the Sihan group of works, the Atewineh group, the Baha group, the Abu Hareira-Arab el Teeaha trench system, and, finally, the works covering Beersheba. These groups were generally from 1,500 to 2,000 yards apart except that the distance from the Hareira group to Beersheba was about four and a half miles.*<sup>2</sup>

The EEF clearly had a good understanding of the structure of the Turkish force they were to face and Allenby’s assessment included some acute observations about the difficulties he faced.

Perhaps the most pressing issue, over and above the relative strengths of the armies facing one another, was water. Deploying a force of the size proposed required a huge quantity of drinking water, plus that for washing, maintenance and, in particular, water for the cavalry’s horses detailed for the offensive. Water would either have to be carried from the Delta, or found locally. Without it, no advance could be contemplated, and this was to have a bearing on the selection of the location of the opening thrust of the campaign.

To this point, the British had been in contact with the Turks only in the area of the coastal plain, where the railheads at Dier el Beleh and the landing station (dock would have been too strong a word) at Rafa could maintain supplies. Clearly, the stronger defences here made a frontal attack unattractive. Allenby was attracted by the foothills around Beersheba where the defences were less formidable and the Turkish line was less coherent. The town and its defences were manned by the mainly Arab 27<sup>th</sup> Division – whose morale was questionable, though bolstered by battalions from the Turkish 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Divisions. The prospect of taking one end of the Turkish line could unlock the whole front. More particularly, if Beersheba were to be taken quickly, it offered the potential to exploit around twenty wells.

<sup>2</sup> Para 2, Dispatch from General Allenby to the Secretary of State for War, dated 16<sup>th</sup> December 1917.

For the Beersheba operation to work, it was vital that the Turks believe that the British had no interest in that area of the line. The officer in charge of Intelligence was Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen who had a colourful reputation. After leaving school, he had joined his family's banking firm in London but, finding the work stifling he had joined the Hampshire Yeomanry for some weekend excitement with the Territorial Militia. Army life appealed to him, so he quit his job and in 1899 joined the Regular Army, serving across the Empire. When the War started, he was on the Intelligence Staff in India before transferring to East Africa, finally pitching up in Egypt in 1917. He credited himself with devising a series of ploys that led the Turks to believe that the British intended to attack Gaza, with the real British attack disguised as the decoy. One persistent story from this operation describes him riding close to the Turkish lines, tempting the Turks to take pot shots at him. He pretended to be hit, dropping to the ground and limping away, leaving a blood-spattered haversack. The haversack contained maps showing Turkish defensive positions at Gaza as well as a private letter in which an officer had written to his sweetheart in London about getting ready to move against Gaza.<sup>3</sup>

From the German/Turkish point of view the strategic goals were quite different. Their chief ambition through the summer of 1917 had been to retake Baghdad, and much effort had been devoted to establishing a force for the task. It was only recognised late in September that, in order to make that offensive successful, it would have been essential to remove resources from the Sinai command defending Palestine. This then would have made Palestine, and then Syria vulnerable to a British advance which would, in any event, compromise whatever success may be gained in an offensive in Iraq. Consequently, the redeployment of forces from the abandoned Baghdad offensive was still under way when the British offensive started. The German command had accurately estimated the date of the British attack. However, they were convinced that the attack would be a third assault on Gaza thus most resources, and all reserves, were situated to counter this move, to the detriment of the actual target, Beersheba.

The commander of Army Group F, General Erich von Falkenhayn, proposed his own attack on Allenby's forces in order to push the British back into the desert. This attack was originally planned for late October to precede and forestall the British offensive, but was hampered by political opposition by the governor of Syria, Ahmed Jemal Pasha, plus some indecision and procrastination in execution. Another factor hampering their preparations was a reorganisation of the Yıldırım Army Group into Seventh and Eighth Armies, which was largely complete, but structurally untested. The Eighth Army headquarters, on the coastal front, had been moved back to Huleikat to make more room for reserve formations whilst the Seventh Army headquarters was about to be moved forward from Hebron to Beersheba. Von Falkenhayn was at Aleppo, en-route for Jerusalem.

As noted in the accompanying organisational tables, the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry were well represented in the following action: 74<sup>th</sup> (Yeomanry) Division comprised a number of unhorsed Yeomanry units acting as infantry. Among them, the West Kent Yeomanry and East Kent Mounted Rifles had been amalgamated to form 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the East Kent Regiment (the Buffs), with 230<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

<sup>3</sup> All very 'Boys Own', though recent commentators have questioned the authenticity of some of the stories and whether he personally took part in the actions described. Information from Meinertzhagen's *Army Diary, 1899–1926*; and Garfield, *The Meinertzhagen Mystery*.



As a continuation of the efforts to mislead the Turks as to the location of the attack, a strong artillery bombardment was rained on Gaza from 27<sup>th</sup> October with naval gunfire added from 30<sup>th</sup> October. XXI Corps made every effort to look as if they were preparing an all-out attack.

Using this distraction, the main attack force moved East, keeping away from Turkish lines, until they faced Beersheba to the South and East. This force comprised the massed cavalry of the Desert Mounted Corps plus XX Corps. The overnight approach on 30<sup>th</sup> October was difficult, not only because of the distance (up to 32 miles – 40km) and terrain, but also the heat and dust which exacerbated the minimal water ration available to the troops. The line of advance took them fifteen miles to the south of Beersheba. They were painfully aware that they were unlikely to receive further water supplies and so the only way to quench their thirst was by quickly overcoming the Turkish defences and capturing their wells intact.

A bright moon helped the attackers move to their designated start positions. By dawn on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October the two Corps were ready to attack.

The plan was for a concentric attack from the West and South of the town whilst the Anzac Mounted Division probed Beersheba from the East, thereby preventing access by reinforcements from the direction of Hebron. XX Corps' attack went in first with 74<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> Divisions pushing between the Wadi el Saba and the Khalasa road, masked by 53<sup>rd</sup> Division holding the left flank. They pushed forward under the heavy bombardment of 100 guns, commencing at 0555-hrs and a forward redoubt at point 1070 was captured by 181 Infantry Brigade within ten minutes. The main attack started at 1215-hrs and this too proved successful. By 1330-hrs the Turkish defences in the southeast sector of the town were in British hands.

Meanwhile, the Desert Mounted Corps had taken up line facing the Southern defences, opposite Khamsin Zanna. The last five miles of advance would take them over a flat plain towards the town commanded by rising ground to the north around the Tel el Saba. This feature was taken by elements of the New Zealand Mounted Brigade and the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade only by mid afternoon and so the pace needed to be increased if the town were to be taken by the end of the day.

Under continued heavy assault, the Turks began to buckle. To the west of the town an attack by 74<sup>th</sup> Division made swift progress after the defenders abandoned their positions during a preliminary bombardment. The envelopment by the Australian and New Zealand mounted troop to the east of the town proved even more decisive, culminating in a full cavalry charge by the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade – one of the last in the annals of British military history – as described here by one of its participants:

*“we got mounted, cantered about a quarter of a mile up a bit of a rise, lined up along the brow of a hill, paused a moment, and then went ‘atem, the ground was none too smooth, which caused our line to get twisted a bit . . . Captain Davies let out a yell at the top of his voice . . . that started them all we spurred our horses . . . the bullets got thicker...three or four horses came down, others with no riders on kept going, the saddles splashed with blood, here and there a man running toward a dead horse for cover, the Turk’s trenches were about fifty yards on my right, I could see the Turk’s heads over the edge of the trenches squinting along their rifles, a lot of the fellows dismounted at that point thinking we were to take the trenches, but most of us kept straight on. Where I was there was a clear track with trenches on the right and a redoubt on the left, some of the*



*chaps jumped clear over the trenches in places, some fell into them, although about a hundred and fifty men got through and raced for the town, they went up the street yelling like madmen.”*<sup>4</sup>

Allenby had achieved the surprise he sought. The operation resulted in the capture of 2,000 prisoners and 13 guns. Around 500 of the Turkish force were killed. Most of the wells were captured intact and so the town could serve as a useful staging post for the continuance of the advance. The water supply was, however, not adequate for demand and so was only a partial solution. The Germans were livid about the collapse of Beersheba – one attached German staff officer penning a scathing note:

*“The battle control of the IIIrd [Turkish] Corps appeared deplorable: even before the commencement of the decisive infantry attack, all reserves had been thrown in.”*<sup>5</sup>

In the two days following the capture of Beersheba the Turkish retreat never quite became a rout, despite the best efforts of the British. A small mobile force comprising a few Sudanese Arab scouts armed with machine guns, under the command of Colonel SF Newcombe, set off to cover the route from Beersheba to Hebron. As the Anzacs had cut the road further south, they were unable to spread panic among Turkish troops, trying to head north, but they were able to intercept transport and supplies trying to head south from Hebron. Their effect was well out of proportion to the size of the force as the Turks sent six battalions to dislodge them – which was only accomplished by 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## **Phase 2 – Gaza and the coastal plain, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November**

After the success of the Beersheba operation, attention was switched to the coastal plain around Gaza. Pressure there would further unbalance the Turkish line and keep them from reinforcing the eastern sector, thereby making it easier for the advance to continue. The artillery and naval bombardment of Gaza had continued and the British decided to flex their muscles to see what reaction could be provoked. A night attack on 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November allowed 156 Brigade to capture Umbrella Hill, just 2,000 yards southwest of the town. Follow-up attacks by 161 and 162 Brigades managed to take the Turkish front line between there and the coast, but soon after began to run into trouble. Pressure was renewed during the day, supported by six tanks and, in the afternoon, the Turks made three counter-attacks. Each was repulsed, chiefly by artillery fire, causing heavy casualties.

Though the attack on Gaza was making slow progress, it was helping the overall strategic aims. To further distract Turkish forces north of Beersheba, 53<sup>rd</sup> (Welsh) Division had been temporarily transferred to the DMC from XX Corps and was attracting strong attention as the Turks believed that Allenby's aim was to outflank their line. The cavalry also came into play as the New Zealand Mounted Rifles and Imperial Camel Brigades repulsed determined counter-attacks around Dhaheriya.

Allenby's actual main effort switched to Sharia, in the middle of the Turkish front as XX Corps rolled up the line, heading towards Gaza. At dawn on 6<sup>th</sup> November XX Corps next push took place. 10<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions, with the Yeomanry Mounted Division covering the right flank, attacked the Kauwukah positions, which were strongly held by the Turkish VII Army. Despite the initial obstinate opposition, resistance melted away and the advance was largely successful. As 60<sup>th</sup> Division reached

<sup>4</sup> [www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/the-charge-of-the-4th-light-horse-brigade-at-beersheba](http://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/the-charge-of-the-4th-light-horse-brigade-at-beersheba)

<sup>5</sup> Captured intelligence report c. November 1917 cited in *The Advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force*



revetments – or simply as firewood. The storage of ammunition in the town was vulnerable to the British bombardment and a great deal of damage had been wrought by hits on these stores. Though the town offered no benefit to its captors, the absence of its civilian population meant that the British did not have the responsibility of feeding and housing them.

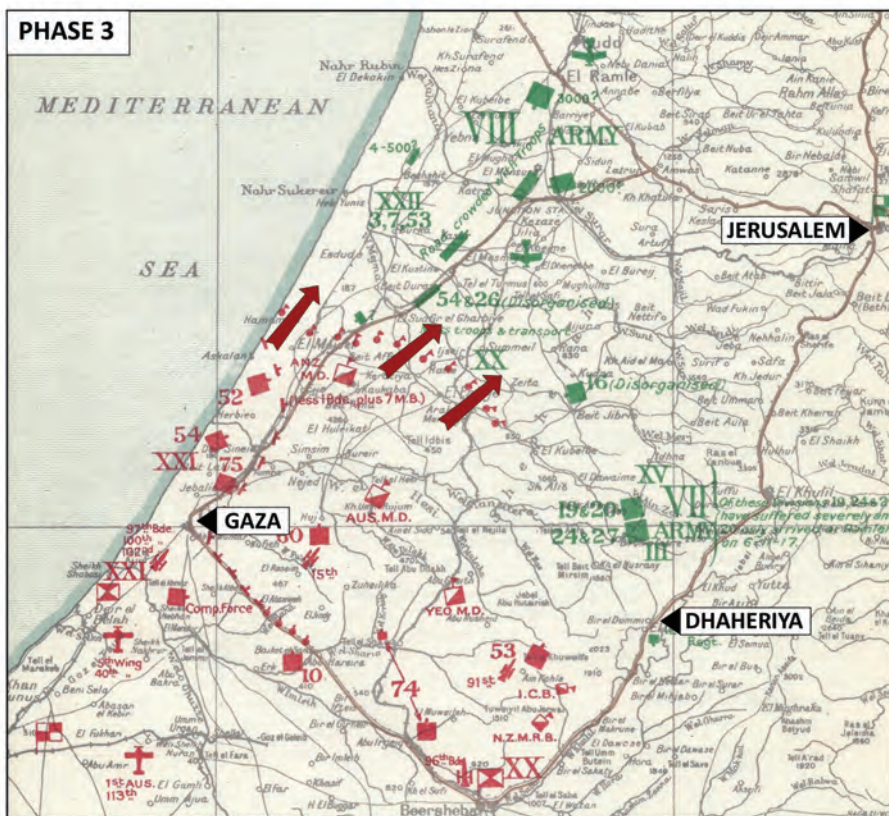
By the end of the day there was further good news for the British as 10<sup>th</sup> Division, the left flank of XX Corps' advance, reached Wadi el Baha, creating a junction with the right flank of XXI Corps. Meanwhile, 60<sup>th</sup> Division and the Desert Mounted Corps managed to force through the increasingly frantic Turkish resistance at Tel es Sheria, allowing the cavalry to roam freely in the Turk's rear. The Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division fell on the Turkish rearguard, harrying them as the main force sought sanctuary. Nightfall halted the pursuit and concerns about the water supply hampered plans for further exploitation.

With the DMC stalled, the gap between them and XXI Corps allowed much of the Turkish 26<sup>th</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> Divisions to escape overnight and the following morning. The Turks were also able to put up a spirited resistance in order to affect this withdrawal. Through the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> November the ANZ Mounted Division managed to renew their push and was rewarded with the capture of a well at Jemmameh. Into the afternoon 60<sup>th</sup> Division also made good progress through a series of holding positions, advancing ten miles to Huj. Supporting this move, squadrons of the Worcester Yeomanry charged the Turkish rearguard, capturing twelve guns and broke what had been a stubborn resistance.

Turkish morale had clearly taken a pounding and, by the evening, the whole British line was advancing. Aerial reconnaissance showed that many Turkish units were in disarray, intent on removing themselves from the front, and order had clearly been lost as fleeing troops crowded the roads heading north towards Ramla. However, issues of supply – particularly of water – again hampered the pace at which the British could snap at the heels of the Turks. The DMC's three mounted divisions struggled to find enough water to sustain both the troops and their mounts. This gave the rabble that was the Turkish retreat an opportunity to consolidate and rest as they approached their own source of supply. The impetus of the advance was lost. To complete this phase of operations a *khamisin* (sandstorm) blew in on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> November, lasting two days, and halting any possibility of offensive action.

### **Phase 3 – The advance to Jaffa, 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Whilst it disrupted the advance, the *khamisin* did at least offer the opportunity to pull some formations back so that they could rest and replenish after the first week and a half of offensive action. By 12<sup>th</sup> November a rough line had formed from the coast at Nahr Sukeri to El Faluje. The Turks tried to stage a distracting counter-attack in the hills on the Eastern flank using the forces that had retreated towards Hebron, but their disarray meant that they did not represent a significant threat. Therefore, the coastal plain remained the main thrust, with the objective of splitting the Turkish forces by taking Junction Station. As the *khamisin* began to abate, the British were able to bring up enough stores and find enough water for the push to be renewed on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Yeomanry Mounted Division had pushed along the Nahr Sukereir, seizing Tel el Murreh on the northern bank to form a bridgehead for the attack the following day. Simultaneously, to their right, the Australian mounted troops had advanced on a wide



front, securing the right flank, despite strong counter-attacks. British forces began their new advance across the open, rolling countryside, dotted with small mud-built villages. The infantry concentrated on the ridge line between Katrah and El Mughar whilst the mounted troops galloped across the plain, under heavy fire, turning the Turkish flank and attacking the line from the rear.

Turkish spirit had suffered another reverse and so resistance across the line faltered as they began another disorganised withdrawal. Maps of the period show unit numbers but, in reality, they describe a coherence which was not necessarily present on the ground.

On the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> November Junction Station was occupied and the Turkish forces were effectively split into those retiring towards Jerusalem, and those headed north along the coastal plain. The momentum of the advance gave impetus to its success, the Australian, New Zealand and Yeomanry mounted troops being able to out-manoeuvre hastily constructed stop lines. Given the reverses suffered, the tenacity of the Turkish rearguard was very creditable but clearly undermined by the general loss of control. By the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> British forces were threatening Jaffa and had occupied Ramleh and Ludd.

In a little over two weeks of operations the British had advanced over seventy miles in places, taking around 9,000 prisoners and capturing over 100 guns plus stores and



ammunition. However, resupply was becoming more difficult due to the distance advanced and the poor quality of the roads heading north. It was essential to extend the rail line to ease logistical support. A temporary halt was called for the Infantry as reserves were moved up to the front and tired units rotated out.

Despite the halt imposed on the infantry, the mounted troops continued to explore the terrain in advance of the front line, looking for weak spots. The Yeomanry Mounted Division infiltrated as far as Tahta by the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> November though the Turks had been spoiling wells as they retreated, so opportunities to replenish water were few.

#### **Phase four – the Judean Hills, 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November**

By 19<sup>th</sup> November Turkish forces were preparing a potential evacuation of Jerusalem. 75<sup>th</sup> Division reconnoitred the hills to the west of the city but encountered stiff opposition. The country better suited defence as the roads and paths leading towards Jerusalem tended to pass through narrow defiles, flanked by commanding heights. In response, Ghurkha and Indian frontier troops proved key in winking out Turkish outposts. Another difficulty came in deploying artillery far enough forward to assist any advance and this situation was exacerbated as the weather took a sudden turn.

In the Judean hills, winter unleashed a heavy and persistent downpour which swiftly turned the tracks, along which the British were trying to advance, into glutinous bogs. The temperature dropped suddenly compounding the misery of the troops who only had cotton summer uniforms, with no greatcoats or blankets. This change assisted the defence restoring Turkish morale. 75<sup>th</sup> Division had one piece of good fortune as, during the morning, a thick fog rolled in over the hills, covering their approach and masking them from Turkish machine-gun posts. They were able to sustain their advance, despite the conditions, and occupied the key position at Samwil just before midnight of the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Turks appreciated the importance of the town as they staged three successive counter-attacks over the following days in an attempt to dislodge the British. However, they could make little progress in the conditions and offensive actions were temporarily curtailed, the two sides content to bombard one another.

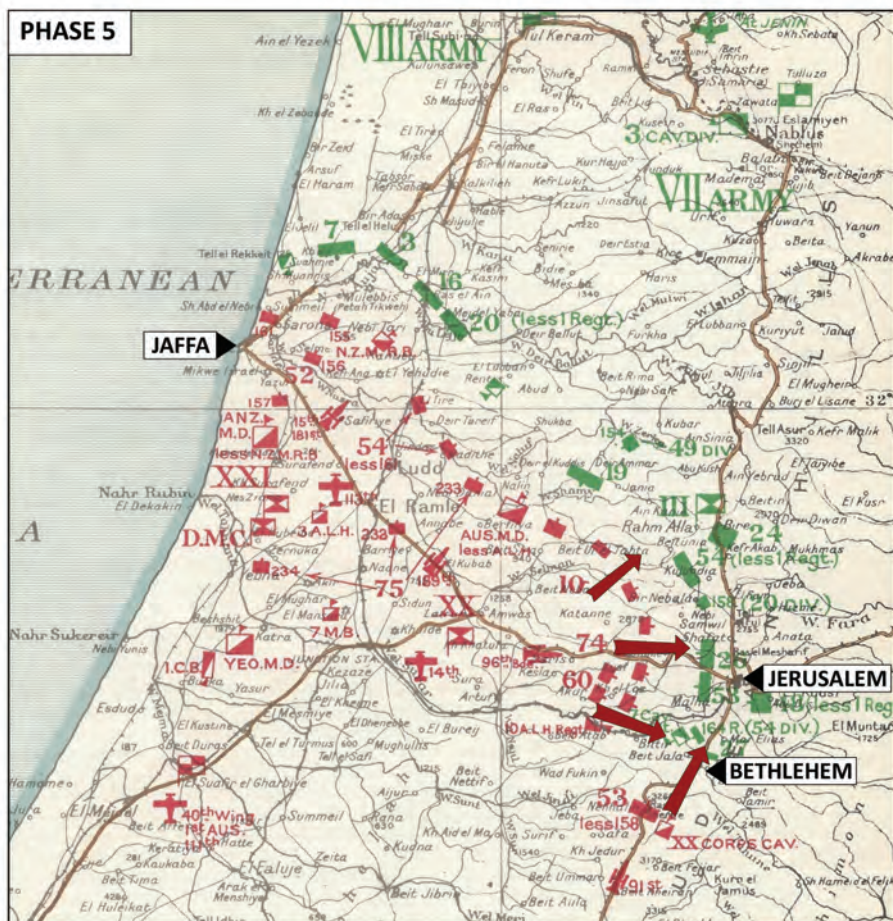
The Yeomanry Mounted Division to their left also struggled with the weather and an increasingly tenacious Turkish defence whose artillery were able to shoot down from their positions, outranging counter-battery fire. The British were forced back to rethink.

In the north, the Australian & New Zealand Mounted Division had managed to pass beyond Jaffa and reached the Nehr el Auja water course. The Turkish response was swift and the Anzacs were forced back south of the river in some disarray, suffering heavy casualties. However, the Turks seemed content with having dislodged the Anzacs from the North side of the river and did not press their advantage. Over the following few days the respective fronts were consolidated. The pause was an advantage for the British as their better logistics structure allowed them to bring up supplies and rest some units.

#### **The final phase – Jerusalem, 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Back on the Beersheba – Hebron road the Westminster Dragoons had been acting as cover against a number of battalions of Turkish troops supported by cavalry in the rocky, hillsides around Dhaheriya. Through early November the WDs had to contend with the arid, rocky terrain, the air heavy with the scent of bougainvillea. When the weather deteriorated there were spells of rain which turned the passes into a mass of slippery





disrupt the opposing forces. However, this skirmishing had given the British time to amass fresh troops for a decisive attack. By 6<sup>th</sup> December 53<sup>rd</sup> Division, with the Westminster Dragoons acting as a forward picket, had progressed far enough north to form a junction with 60<sup>th</sup> Division so that a coherent front ran round Jerusalem to the northwest to the south. Early on 7<sup>th</sup> December the British were able to insert forces in commanding positions around the city as the Turks continued to abandon their outposts.

The weather was miserable. For Allenby's force, still wearing lightweight cotton uniforms, miserable night was spent, cold and wet-through negotiating a quagmire of mud. Sleep was near impossible and they shivered in the biting wind

Supported by heavy artillery the British began their final assault in driving rain on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The going was hard, but a steady advance was maintained, and in difficult fighting the defensive redoubts were eventually forced, allowing 60<sup>th</sup> Division to overcome the major position at Deir Yesin. Struggling on through frequent downpours



and Turkish machine-gun fire, the division continued pushing men up the gullies, dislodging the enemy positions. The weather conditions meant that 53<sup>rd</sup> Division had difficulty conducting a reconnaissance and were consequently late getting to their start line. They were initially, therefore, unable to provide flank protection, slowing progress.

In the northern sector of the attack, 74<sup>th</sup> Division ran into stout resistance after making initial gains. By dusk on the 8<sup>th</sup> the British were still short of controlling the high ground along the front, but they were close.

Within Jerusalem on the 8<sup>th</sup> the Turkish authorities were clearly aware that the end was in sight. They ordered the compulsory eviction of a large group from the population who, when transport could not be found, were threatened with the prospect of a forced march north. Fortunately for them, poor communications and growing confusion meant that the order was not carried out. As dusk approached, rumours started to filter back that the British were within two miles of the city and panic set in among the Turkish officials. To reinforce their doubts, a transport column galloped back from the Jaffa road, warning of imminent collapse, which frightened the troops along the way – some abandoned their positions and their weapons, to stagger away from the front through the mud and chaos. Rumours began to spread throughout Jerusalem that the Turks were fleeing, though Turkish artillery persuaded the population to stay indoors. The governor was last to leave in a horse-cart ‘borrowed’ from an American businessman. He had left a letter of surrender with the mayor.

As dawn approached on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December the mayor, escorted by a small group of frightened policemen, set off in the hope of finding someone to whom he could surrender. The party, holding white flags came across two cooks from 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Buffs – which had been formed from the West Kent Yeomanry and the East Kent Mounted Rifles – who had been scrounging for some water. They called for help and a procession of NCOs, then officers arrived, each feeling that they were of insufficient rank to accept the surrender.

Eventually, Brigadier CF Watson, officer commanding 180 Brigade, came across the City’s mayor and transmitted the offer of surrender to Lieutenant General Sir Philip Chetwode, the commander of XX Corps. Watson then rode forward to Jerusalem with the mayor and a mounted escort reassure the populace<sup>6</sup>.

General Allenby’s arrival in Jerusalem the following day was carefully managed. Rather than use the entrance made for Kaiser Wilhelm in his ill-judged triumphal horseback entry to the city in 1898, Allenby entered on foot through the Jaffa gate. The delighted inhabitants, who had hitherto been banned from gatherings of more than three people, thronged the square. For the three communities, each saw a good portent: for the Arabs, Allenby was a reincarnation of the prophet Al-Nebi, come to remove the hated Ottomans; for the Jews, their deliverance had fallen on Hanukah – the anniversary of the recapture of the Temple in 165 BC; whilst for the Christians, the symbolism of a liberator entering the city on foot would not have been missed.

With the conquest of Jerusalem complete, the offensive was by no means over. However, the emphasis and pace changed as the gains were consolidated and the infrastructure improved to facilitate the logistics of sustaining an advance. Into 1918 the Egyptian Expeditionary Force continued to advance further into Ottoman territory, though the German Spring offensive on the Western Front meant that many of Allenby’s most experienced troops, including the Kent Yeomen and the Sharpshooters, were

<sup>6</sup> Major General Shae, officer commanding 60<sup>th</sup> Division, shortly arrived to formally accept the surrender.



redeployed to France and Flanders. Lloyd George had achieved his prize and would appear to have lost interest in the continuation of the offensive compared to the more pressing issues across the Channel.

Post war, the Middle East was carved up to suit the political and business interests of the victors. In effect France took over Syria and Lebanon, whilst the British controlled the coastal Arab states, Mesopotamia and the Gulf. Palestine was theoretically internationally governed but, in fact, was a British protectorate until 1948. It is easy to argue that the Middle East is still in suffering the reverberations of the machinations surrounding this oft neglected British offensive in the winter of 1917.



Thanks to the official history of the campaign, a detailed understanding of the organisation of the British and Empire forces can be made. The Turkish/German forces, however, have been more challenging to establish and it would be very difficult to drill down to brigade or unit level for any but a few of the divisions deployed. VII and VIII Armies were also in a state of transition and there were numerous re-allocations of units through the course of the campaign. These organisation tables are, therefore, a snapshot of how the units were organised as of 31st October 1917. Not shown are garrison units stationed in Palestine which had a bearing on operations, or the supply columns used to keep these fighting units in the field.

Another area of useful study would be an analysis of the composition of the different 'Turkish' divisions, as Ottoman

forces could be drawn from across the empire and include German units. Air assets have also been excluded, though they had a notable bearing as the campaign progressed, particularly in reconnaissance.

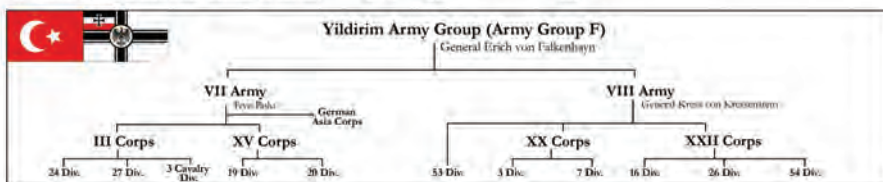
Our KSY lineage was well represented in the campaign - West Kent Yeo and East Kent Mounted Rifles had been amalgamated as infantry to form 10th Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs), part of 230 Brigade, 74th Division. 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) were part of 8th Mounted Brigade, the Yeomanry Mounted Division.

In total, the opposing forces were:

British	Turkish
Rifles: 60,000	45,000
Cavalry: 12,000	1,500
Guns: 450	300

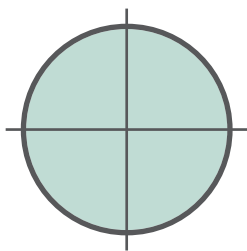
#### Glossary

ALH	Australian Light Horse
NZ Mtd. Rgt.	New Zealand Mounted Rifles
Div	Division
BDE	Brigade
INF BDE	Infantry Brigade
Mtd (or Mtd.)	Mounted
Rgt.	Rifle
ICC	Imperial Camel Corps
Yeo	Yeomanry



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## DEFENDING HEVER IN 1940

by Huw Jones

This essay is based on a presentation given to visitors to Hever as part of the KSY Museum Trust's support to Hever Castle's war and peace weekend in June 2016. It is included here because it discusses the role that our regiments might have played in the event of an invasion and in the hope that it will encourage readers to undertake the two mile Hever pillbox walk and see the remaining defences for themselves.

### Background

The German invasion of the Low Countries and France in May-June 1940 is well-known, as is the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and allies from the Channel ports. Most, including most of 97 (KY) Field Regiment left via Dunkirk, whilst the detached 385 Battery were caught with 51 Highland Division at St Valery en Caux, escaping due to the leadership of the Battery Commander Maj Derek Mullins. The KY's second line regiment, 143 Field Regiment, and the two Sharpshooters Regiments took no direct part in the campaign, but would have been heavily-involved in repelling any German attempt to invade the United Kingdom. The ancestors of 265 Squadron's former troop in Brighton, then the Sussex Coastal Artillery, would have manned the coastal defences at Newhaven.

The German plan was for a landing over beaches spread from Dover to Brighton, supported by parachute and glider landings across the Straits of Dover. The plan was codenamed Seelöwe (Sealion). Its planners expected a disorganised and weak resistance. Even so, the operation, would have been fraught with problems. In particular the requirement for Germany to acquire air and maritime supremacy in the Channel during the attack and the need to assemble a viable cross Channel amphibious force together in weeks, despite a lack of suitable craft, training or staff experience. The coastline was a mix of cliffs, beaches and marsh, only suitable for landing a light assault force without specialist equipment. Success would have depended on seizing at least one of the three ports in the invasion zone (Folkestone, Dover and Newhaven) intact to enable heavier forces to arrive.

The essentials of the defence plan would not have been unfamiliar to our Regency ancestors. A crust on the coast to block raids and to identify and delay larger forces. Then give ground breaking up attacking force while denying useful facilities and resources.

Few forces were assigned to home defence at the start so using a mix of what there was, forces drawn from training and recovered from France and Low Countries. A lot of bluff involved (4CLY and 143 Fd). Units wrecked in the withdrawal from Europe were sent to quieter areas – 97Fd to West Wales.

Loss of trained personnel, mobility and firepower in aftermath of Dunkirk forced Gen Ironside (UK commander until Auckinleck took over in August) to make best of what he had and to look to fixed defences “Stop lines” to at least slow and channel an attack, hoping that it would be weakened enough for a counter-attack force to prevail.

A key element was the LDV (HG from 31 July 1940). Drawn from local communities employing men who were not available for regular service due to age, medical or work. Initially poorly equipped and lacking organisation or training but 50% were WW1 veterans (40-50 years old). Ideally a HG lived and worked within 2-3 miles of his fighting post although this caused problems in Kent, especially getting to more rural locations after work and where many, officers in particular, worked away from the area.

Three local battalions, affiliated to the RWK – 21 (Tonbridge) 22 Tunbridge Wells and 24 (Malling) defended this stop line.

To start weapons would have been a problem but units in Kent and Sussex would have had priority, albeit almost entirely these would have been rifles with a few LMGs such as Bren or Lewis and a lot of local initiative such as Molotov cocktails.

Some, especially near coast had guerrilla role but inland aim was to use to man fixed defences near homes, preserving better-trained regulars for counter-attacks.

Inland, defence lines designed by Royal Engineers to make best use of ground. Principal line was known as the GHQ line, which was designed to block attacks on London and industrial base of the Midlands.

The stop lines were based along rivers. Here we have part of the subsidiary “Ironside Line” which ran along the line of the Rivers Eden and then Medway, covering a line from roughly where Clacketts Lane services now stand, West to the confluence at Penshurst and then via Tonbridge, Maidstone and Rochester to the sea.

These rivers are not wide, but they have steep banks, which are often muddy, and, in the 1940s at least, relatively few vehicle crossing points. Infantry on foot can move easily but risk losing their mobility and fire support, especially as the ground is broken by roads, hedges, farms and villages. Local knowledge would have mattered.

The river line was covered by a line of fixed defences. The backbone of these were the so-called “pillboxes”: concrete and brick blockhouses which gave protection from small arms, splinters and the weather. They fulfil the role of static tanks. There are about eight of these to each mile of front, giving a degree of intervisibility and interlocking fire. There are clusters at vulnerable points such as road junctions or river crossings. Each of these strongpoints would have been supported by other defences, such as trenches and barbed wire, which have since disappeared.

As the plan evolved over the autumn of 1940 greater importance was given to “nodes” or “islands” – groups of defences intended to block key terrain such as bridges or road junctions. This development reflected the lessons of the Blitzkrieg in which the Wehrmacht had relied heavily on roads for movement and to outrun the defenders’ response. A motorised force, can go cross country but only at price of speed, fuel consumption and wear and tear. The production of new equipment also made the defenders more mobile and better-armed, allowing them the option of a more aggressive and mobile defence plan.

## **So, what do we have here?**

In the area we are studying there are vehicle bridges at Hever and to Chiddingstone Mill about a mile to the East. There are also a number of footbridges and much of the river is fordable by infantry.

There are limited local roads, with footpaths. The ground is cross cut by wood, orchard and parkland, with hamlets and farm complexes at the road junctions.

We lack information on how the Castle complex itself might have been prepared for defence. One witness, who lived there as a boy, noted its use as living quarters for troops garrisoning the local defences but does not mention anything about the Castle itself.

## **Working West to East**

To the West of the Castle is a small stone bridge, suitable for vehicles. We know that the parapet was demolished to remove protection from attackers trying to cross. A pillbox to the NW was fitted for an anti-tank gun. It seems very likely that there would have been plans to mine or demolish the bridge if attacked.

The defence line then runs along the North bank of the River Eden – behind the Castle with a pillbox covering a footbridge.

Thereafter the defenders would have relied on the artificial lakes to divert assault and these make up the main part of the front here. The three pillboxes covering this front are those that we will visit on the walk later.

A single pillbox was built on a promontory, previously occupied by an ornamental tea house. This would have covered the lakes with gunfire to prevent any crossing by boat.

At the East end there is a pair of pillboxes, covering a weir and bridge.

The line continues Eastwards across open meadow to Chiddingstone Mill and then towards Penshurst, one of those anti-tank nodes, which has a group of a dozen or more pillboxes protecting it.

## **What else do we know about the defenders?**

The pillboxes are all of a design known as Type 22. These are hexagonal and designed for a garrison of six. As I've just mentioned they would not have been in isolation when built. Construction is concrete with a brick face and interior wall to stop ricochets. Local efforts were made to camouflage – at a minimum with disruptive pattern painting, but also with local scrim, brush wood etc. You will see that one of the pillboxes that we visit is decorated with the roof of the Japanese tea house which formerly stood there – presumably also as camouflage. We can get into one of the pillboxes but I warn now that the entrance is small and you will need to watch your head!

In the event of facing an enemy equipped with heavy weapons, such as artillery, the orders were to avoid the pillboxes – which would have become shot magnets – and to fight from the nearby trenches.

Colleagues at Edenbridge Museum and Hever Castle are researching such records and recollections as are available. Many records, however, were lost in the floods of the 1960s and we are losing the remaining personal knowledge.



I know nothing of what resources would have been used to support the defenders but this would have depended very much on responding to the direction of attacks. The most likely scenario would have been an encounter battle with a German force trying to force its way North to get around the more substantial defences at Edenbridge and Penshurst.

### **And of the attackers?**

We know the composition (1<sup>st</sup> wave 11 Inf xx and 2 AB xx; 2<sup>nd</sup> wave 8 Pz/MR xx; 3<sup>rd</sup> wave 6 Inf xx) and initial objectives for OP SEALION. The consensus is that Germany would not have been able to sustain a force, even had it managed to land a viable number of troops with their equipment. The best option would have been to secure a bridgehead, ideally including a large port (Dover) and to hope that the presence would have been enough to force an armistice.

### **However, let's fantasise for a moment**

A German force moving inland from the Hastings area would have been infantry-based. It would have had tanks and some equipment brought into service for the operation – including artillery tractors captured from France (fewer horses), later models of the PzIII (50mm gun) Nebelwerfer, Stug III SPG (75mm) and Flammpanzer. Most, however, would have walked or used whatever transport it could capture. If the battle had continued this far we can expect a background of several days, if not weeks fighting and casualties, with both sides getting increasingly desperate and determined to force an end. There was also a very good chance that the HG would have been declared francs tireurs – i.e. partisans operating outside military law and subject to execution on capture.

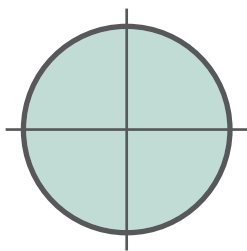
### **The walk**

I reckon an hour. Flat but much is on grass or country paths. You do see those all-terrain buggies. Can get muddy.

Getting into the one pillbox where there is ready access needs you to be a bit agile: entrance is about three-feet high although the pillbox is higher inside.

The walk is part of the Hever lake walk. Once we've reached the far end of the lake I'll finish. You are welcome to come back with me or to continue round – another mile or so and, again rough muddy paths.





## A SHARPSHOOTER KING

by Dave Whitehouse



There are no shortage of colourful and distinguished characters in the regiment's long history. But there are few that could claim to be a monarch in their own right with their own currency and coinage. However such a character did exist in the person of Sir Charles Vyner de Windt Brooke.

He was the third and last so-called 'White Rajah' of Sarawak – a dynastic monarchy founded by his great uncle James Brooke to rule the Kingdom of Sarawak, located on the island of Borneo, from 1841 to 1946.

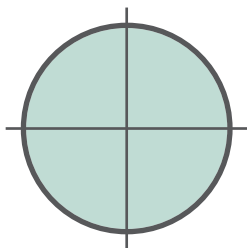
Sir Charles, known as Vyner, was born in Greenwich, London on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1874. He was educated at Clevedon, Winchester College, and finally Magdalene College, Cambridge before entering the Sarawak public service.

He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) on 12th May 1911 and was posted to 'C' Squadron. He, however, only served for two years before resigning his commission in 1913. During World War I he served incognito as a private in anti-aircraft defence and as a fitter in the aeroplane manufacturing works at Shoreditch, east London.



Following the death of his father, Vyner succeeded to the title on 17th May 1917 and was later proclaimed Rajah at Kuching. Vyner would continue the modernization and protectionist policies set by his predecessors and Sarawak would continue to develop and prosper.

During the early years of his rule he introduced a formal penal code and went on to establish a constitution. Vyner was forced to leave when the island was occupied by the Japanese in 1941, and his rule was not restored until 1946, whereupon he formally ceded Sarawak to the British Crown. He died in London in 1963, four months before Sarawak joined the Federation of Malaysia.



## **CENTENARY REFLECTIONS**

**by Dave Whitehouse**

As we mark the centenary of the end of First World War, it is worth reflecting on the sheer scale of the conflict and its impact on the UK, with 700,000 British women working in factories to support the war effort, over six million men under arms and 888,246 British soldiers killed. So how many men from the Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanries were involved? This is not an easy question to answer as convenient lists of men such as muster rolls or ration returns rarely survive. Nevertheless, those records that have survived, such as the Medal Index Cards (MIC) in the National Archives, as well as our own extensive regimental archives have allowed the creation of a database that now includes over 16,000 names covering service from the earliest days of the Kent Yeomanry in 1794 right up to the 1961 amalgamation and beyond. The database is by no means definitive, or in any way complete, as there will be many, many people who have served in the regiment, the details of which we have yet to discover. Nonetheless, this is as good a record as we are likely to get and is worthy of further exploration.

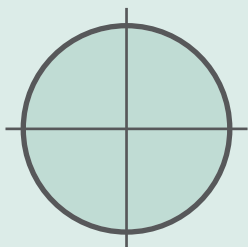
Analysis of the database throws some light on numbers of Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomen involved during WW1. For example, the database contains 4,116 records of Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomen who had at some point served during WW1 either in their original units or in another unit. The bulk of these (3707) relate to the Kent Yeomanry, with only 409 Sharpshooters. The disparity in numbers can be accounted for by the fact there were two regiments of the former and that our records of the latter are not as complete.

Despite the limitations of the database, it does highlight the extent to which men were moved around in the British Army at this time. For example, at least 120 men were transferred to the Middlesex Regiment from the 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London Yeomanry, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles and West Kent (Queen's Own) Yeomanry. Over 80 went to the Sussex Regiment, another 50 went to the Royal West Kent Regiment and over 60 transferred to either the Royal Flying Corps or RAF.

Surviving records do not always indicate if an individual served with the first line regiment or the second or third line. For example, a medal index card might show 3CLY but this could in fact refer to 1/3CLY, 2/3CLY or 3/3CLY. We know that some second or third line regiments provided drafts to other units – in 1916 a large draft from 3/1 WKY went to the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment. This accounts for a handful of names of WKY yeomen appearing on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, having all been killed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1916 whilst serving with the Middlesex.

So what of the human cost? The database shows 460 killed, but this will be largely limited to those killed whilst still serving in the regiment. Those former yeomen who were killed whilst serving in another regiment will not necessarily be included. Also excluded are those who were killed with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Bn Machine Gun Corps who were not previously Sharpshooters (i.e. Roughriders). Nevertheless, we can be fairly confident on the data we have as this is based almost entirely on Commonwealth War Grave Commission records. There is some limited data on those wounded (537) but this is mostly confined to those shown as having been wounded in Ponsonby's history of the West Kent Yeomanry. The true figure is highly likely to be a great deal higher.

Hopefully, as the database continues to develop, this will give us fresh insights into the men and women with the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry who have contributed so much to the defence of the nation.

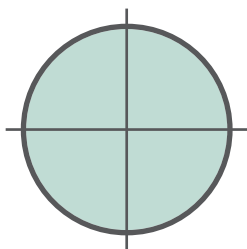


## FROM THE COLLECTION OF SIMON MALIK



4th County of London Sweetheart Brooch





# **THE KENT YEOMANRY AND THE SHARPSHOOTERS IN WORLD WAR 1 – A SHORT EXPLANATORY NOTE OF THEIR ORGANISATION**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907 which brought the Territorial Force (TF) into being, the TF was intended to be a home defence force for service during wartime and members could not be compelled to serve outside the country.

However, on the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, many members volunteered for Imperial Service and therefore, TF units were split in August and September 1914 into 1st Line (liable for overseas service) and 2nd Line (home service for those unable or unwilling to serve overseas) units. Later, a 3rd Line was formed to act as a reserve, providing trained replacements for the 1st and 2nd Line regiments.

### **1/3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)**

This was the first line regiment that we know the history of but there were both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> line regiments. See below for their history.

### **2/3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)**

The 2nd Line regiment was formed in London in August 1914. By March 1915, it was with 2/1st London Mounted Brigade in 2/2nd Mounted Division and was in Norwich in Norfolk. For most of the war the regiment remained in Norfolk with various titles and roles including converting to a cyclist unit amalgamating for a short time in November 1916 with the 2/1st County of London Yeomanry (Middlesex Yeomanry) to form 6th (1st and 3rd County of London) Yeomanry Cyclist Regiment in 2nd Cyclist Brigade. In March 1917 it resumed its identity as 2/3rd County of London Yeomanry. In May 1918, the regiment moved to Ireland and was stationed at The Curragh and Athlone, still in 2nd Cyclist Brigade, until the end of the war.

### **3/3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)**

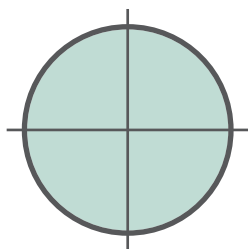
The 3rd Line regiment was formed in 1915 and in the summer it was affiliated to a Reserve Cavalry Regiment in Eastern Command. In the summer of 1916, it was affiliated to the 9th Reserve Cavalry Regiment at The Curragh. Early in 1917, it was absorbed into the 2nd Reserve Cavalry Regiment at The Curragh.

### **The West Kent and Royal East Kent Yeomanries**

There were two first line regiments (1/1st West Kent Yeomanry and 1<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles) and we know of their history as well including their amalgamation to form 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in 1917.

However each regiment also had a second and third line regiment with remarkably similar history to the two Sharpshooter regiments which included being based in Norfolk and amalgamating together for a short while in 1916 to form 9th (East Kent and West Kent) Yeomanry Cyclist Regiment in 3<sup>rd</sup> Cyclist Brigade. Clearly cycling was in vogue as a method for rapidly moving troops around the battlefield but clearly road bound. Both second line regiments moved to Ireland in April 1918 whilst both of the 3<sup>rd</sup> line regiments were disbanded and the troops absorbed in either the 2nd Line regiments or to the 4th (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment at Crowborough.

TJR



## **A KENT YEOMANRY TRAGEDY**

**by Dave Whitehouse**

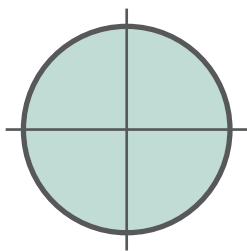
In a churchyard in Kent, is a memorial inscribed with the words “In Ever Loving Memory of Ronald Bluett, The beloved only child of George Bluett and Ethel May Winch who died in the service of his country 18th April 1915, Aged 20 years. And of Anthony Desmond Winch very much loved only surviving child of George Bluett and Ethel May Winch, killed in action, aged 23.”

The memorial gives no hint of the double tragedy that lies behind its creation, for the loss of a son would be difficult to bear by any parent, let alone the loss of two.

In 1915, George Bluett Winch was the commanding officer of second-line regiment of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, which had been raised after the outbreak of war. His son, Ronald, had been commissioned into the same regiment in October 1914. Whilst returning to camp by car on the night of 18<sup>th</sup> April 1915, he was shot dead by a sentry, when he failed to respond to a challenge. The subsequent inquest recorded a verdict of ‘death by misadventure’. The sentry had apparently challenged the car four times, but still failed to stop and so he opened fire. A preceding car containing Colonel Winch had passed the sentry without incident.

Shortly afterwards, George Winch, gave up command of the regiment and transferred to the Reserve of Officers. Later on, the still heartbroken George and Ethel, decided to adopt a boy in need of a home – Anthony Desmond or ‘Des’ as he was more commonly known. When war broke out again, Des was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards, but was killed by mortar fire near Maastricht in January 1945. He is buried in Brunsum War Cemetery, Limburg, Netherlands.

Ethel Winch, who had now lost both her sons to two World Wars, buried her husband in 1948.



## THE 3<sup>rd</sup> COUNTY OF LONDON (YEOMANRY) SHARPSHOOTERS

### OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

In the beginning...

In last year's Journal I suggested that there was probably a *Sharpshooter's Association* that was born out of the three battalions who served in the Boer War. However that statement was incorrect and there were in fact four battalions. Yes you are reading it correctly there were four battalions and everyone including me always thought that there were only three – 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> battalions!

It was whilst I was going through the archives researching for this article that I carefully re-read my copy of the 1905 edition of the Regimental history (yes there was one produced then) that mention of a 4<sup>th</sup> battalion appeared. This new battalion were named confusingly as 1st Battalion of *Sharpshooters* Imperial Yeomanry (18th Battalion) and were formed on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1901 from a draft of over 300 men which included volunteers from the other three battalions under command of Lt Colonel Minchin. They served from 15<sup>th</sup> April 1901 through to 5<sup>th</sup> February 1902 returning home on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1902.

So there we have it. Four battalions of *Sharpshooters* (two of which were numbered 18<sup>th</sup>) and in those days four battalions formed a brigade – hold that thought. The 3<sup>rd</sup> County of London (Yeomanry) *Sharpshooters* raised by the Earl of Dunraven was formed as a home service regiment at the same time as all four battalions were deployed in South Africa or in the case of the original 18<sup>th</sup> on their way home. The new regiment consisted of four squadrons with a machine gun detachment. The four squadrons recruited from the following predecessor battalions as they returned from operations:

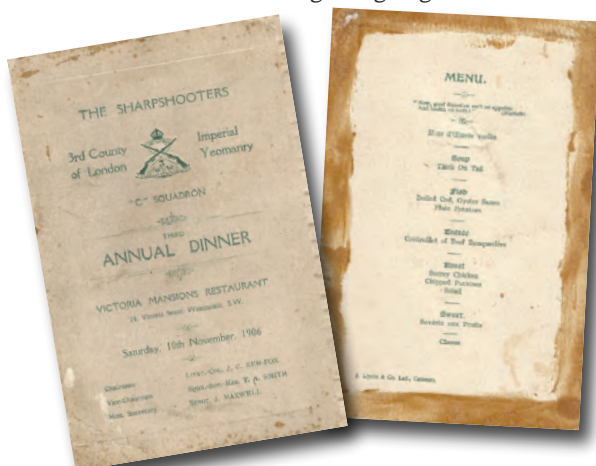
A Sqn (18<sup>th</sup> Bn), B (21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Bns), C Sqn (other ex soldiers and yeomen) and D was for new recruits. This meant that three of the four squadrons had a solid base of operational experience at both officer and OR level – the Sqn OC's were former battalion or company commanders. It also meant that they had the nucleus of a strong OCA at both regimental and squadron levels.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1902 the King authorised the raising of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY for home service and three days later on 26<sup>th</sup> July the *Sharpshooters Committee* gave a dinner for 350 old *Sharpshooters* at St James's Restaurant in London for the members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Bn on their return from active service. The *Sharpshooters Committee* – originally set up to recruit and select people into the *Sharpshooter Corps* – had by then started the transition from war time recruiting to peace time OCA activities even though at this time the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> battalions were still engaged in South Africa. One of the outcomes (planned or otherwise) of this reunion dinner was that 200 of those who attended subsequently re-enlisted and formed the core of A and B squadrons of the new regiment. Although

the 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY were a home service regiment they established a veteran squadron (117<sup>th</sup> Company of Imperial Yeomanry) in October 1901 who deployed as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Bn Imperial Yeomanry and were disbanded in country 12 months later.

Following the 1902 dinner there was another dinner in 1903 at the Criterion restaurant in Piccadilly – which is still there opposite Eros and adjacent to what was Lillywhites sports store. This was I think preceded by the unveiling of the memorial in St Martin's in the Field church at which 'a large contingent of former *Sharpshooters* attended in their war torn khaki' plus 400 All ranks from the serving regiment under command of Colonel Lord Dunraven.

The next event seems to have been in 1904 where a representative team of old *Sharpshooters* attended camp at Bisley to shoot a match against the 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY and where the latter won an apparently easy victory. There is then a gap of five years where regimental reunion dinners did not seem to take place although C Sqn held their third annual dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1906 at the Victoria Mansions restaurant in Victoria Street which would indicate that something was going on.



The Boer War Association 1906 Dinner menu.

It is not until 26<sup>th</sup> July 1909 that the next regimental dinner took place and that was specifically for the Brigade of *Sharpshooters Old Comrades Association* so it might be similar to that which happened after World War 2 when the OCA ran some dinners which were then taken over by the regiment only for that decision to be reversed a couple of years afterwards – similarly the post war *Sharpshooter Gazette* underwent the same traumas! There are records of two Brigade of *Sharpshooter* dinners that provide information that suggests there was an OCA that met annually with a Committee structure that seemed to be fairly stable. And the organisation expanded with the joining of the Veteran Reserve Squadron in 1910.

The two menu cards (interestingly the same extensive menu for both years) have some traditions which are carried forward today at the El Gubi dinner. The Loyal Toast includes the message of loyal greetings that were telegraphed to the King; the toast to Fallen Comrades (Absent Friends today) drunk in silence and standing. A concert

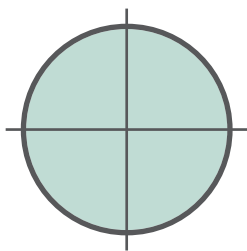


which could be music by the RY Band today although there are many individual artists singing or reciting pieces. Finally the use of the phrase 'Lest we Forget' on the front page although not used today maybe should resurrected for future dinners as it will ensure that we do not forget any of our veterans.



There is I believe therefore sufficient evidence to suggest that there was an OCA structure post the Boer War supported by the Home Service 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY and it was managed by the *Sharpshooters Committee*. The history of the Association therefore can be back dated to the dinner in 1909 and indeed back to 1902 which means that in 2019 it will be either the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first *Sharpshooter* Brigade dinner or the 117<sup>th</sup> *Sharpshooter* dinner if we select the 1902 dinner. My preference is that although we have hard evidence of the 1902 dinner it was only for the 18<sup>th</sup> battalion whereas 1909 is the first dinner for all the *Sharpshooter* battalions – and 110 is a nice anniversary to celebrate!

The *Sharpshooters Committee* was formed in 1899 at the suggestion of Sir Henry Seton Karr to help manage the creation of the Volunteer Corps of *Sharpshooters* and consisted of the following: The Earl of Dunraven KP, Sir James Fergusson MP, Colonel Saunderson MP, Sir John Dickson-Poynder MP, Sir Henry Seton-Karr MP, Mr Bruce Vernon-Wentworth MP, The Hon Horace Plunket MP, Mr Lionel Phillips, Captain Alfred Christopher, Sir Ralph Wayne-Gallwey, Major The Hon T F Freemantle, Lt Col Hill. Mr A G Hamilton was the Secretary. A short article will appear in next year's Journal on the early days of the formation of the *Sharpshooters*.



## **EXERCISE MORLANCOURT**

**by LCPL Rhys Egleton**

In early April 2018 I was one of the four personnel from C (KSY) Sqn (WO2 Phil Mason, Cpl Chris Smith and, Tpr Sandil Gurung being the other three) who took part in a three-week Overseas Training Exercise called MORLANCOURT. We formed part of a wider RY troop known Gallipoli Troop.

Following Pre-Deployment training hosted at Sharpshooter House we set off for Australia and duly arrived in Townsville some 28 hours later. Our hosts in Australia were the 12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Hunter River Lancers commanded by ex-Sharpshooter Lt Col David Fisher. The aim of our exercise was to work as a Light Cav element of the Australian Army Reserve, sharing knowledge and tactics ahead of an important exercise that they had to undertake against the regular Australian Army to retain their Cav Scout role.



The OTX involved four days of administration and acclimatisation in camp at the start before setting out on a nine day exercise phase. This acclimatisation phase was centred on adjusting not only to the time zones change but also the challenging temperatures which hovered around 34C with considerable humidity. Fortunately we were luckily allowed to use the Australian swimming pool after hours to cool down and relax. During this four day period we also completed a WHT and live firing on the Australian Steyr Rifle and their support weapons at a local range, qualifying us to use them on the upcoming exercise. During this phase we also had a kit issue from the Australians for the upcoming exercise (their equipment is very different to ours and not as comfortable) and we spent time going through both British and Australian SOPs with our Australian counterparts as well as getting familiar with the ASLAV and



Bushmaster vehicles we would be using on the exercise.

The hosting barracks housed a large portion vehicle simulator, which my company makes. It was quite surreal to be able to meet some of my civilian colleagues out in Australia. We were able to use these under the supervision of the contractors.

We began our deployment on day five which was split into two phases. The first was a seven day shake out period, where we were able to train and exercise with the Australian Cav Scouts, develop our joint SOPs and get used to operating from the vehicles in the inhospitable terrain. This phase culminated in a readiness exercise where we were tasked with QRF responsibilities to test our joint capabilities. The first night of the exercise was the worst for the Brits who slept poorly, owing to the amount of

danger we were told lurked in the undergrowth. I've never had as many encounters with spiders in the field before, let alone ones that can kill you!





The final phase was a two day exercise, where the 12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> and the Royal Yeomanry's Gallipoli troop was under the spotlight of the Australian regular army and our tasking was to conduct route reconnaissance for advancing M1A1 Abraham tanks and components of the RAR (Royal Australian Regiment) in order to allow them to assault and clear an objective in a large building complex. The terrain was challenging and at times impassable – but that's what route recces are designed to tease out. We were tasked with finding accessible routes and holding them over night until the RAR pushed through us on a dawn assault. This culminated in the use of live demolitions to destroy an enemy obstruction. We completed the tasking as ordered and were highly praised by the Australian army – regular and reserve. The result was that due to the performance demonstrated during the exercise by the Reserves the 12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> were to retain their Cav Scout role. Once we returned to the barracks, we had a group social which culminated in a joint night out in Townsville before we said our goodbyes and headed off on R&R to the Gold Coast.

A welcome (and welcoming!) three day R&R package based on the Gold Coast at Surfers Paradis followed after which it was time for the long journey back to the UK. Overall, this experience was the best I've had during my time in the army and this was down to the Royal Yeomanry network pulling it all together. In the future I hope we get the chance to host the 12<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> here in the UK, although I feel they may need to bring some warm kit and a good sense of humour!



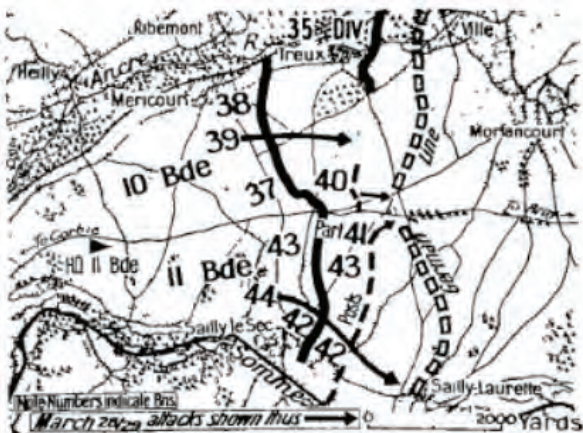
## A short note on the BATTLE OF MORLANCOURT

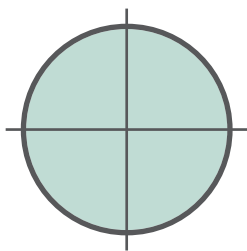
The First Battle of Morlancourt took place over the period 28-30 March 1918. It was into the triangular peninsula between the River Ancre in the north and the River Somme in the south- that the 3rd Australian Division under Major-General Sir John Monash was sent on 27 March in an attempt to hold the line against the German Spring 1918 offensive. The positions initially occupied by Monash's troops, running from Méricourt to Sailly-le-Sec, lay about three kilometres behind those held by flanking formations, so shortly before noon the next day he was ordered to move forward about 2,000 metres to occupy the ridge-line overlooking Morlancourt from the west and thereby considerably straighten the line.

Advancing after 4.30 p.m. – the 10th Brigade on the left and 11th on the right – the 3rd Division enjoyed little support from artillery since few guns were yet in range. When strong resistance began to be encountered on the bare steep slopes from enemy machine-guns and artillery, progress was slowed and on the left eventually stopped after only 500 metres. Monash ordered the march to be resumed after dark, by which time a light drizzle was falling. The advance became stalled by Germans holding a copse in the centre, and on the extreme right troops sent to secure the village of Sailly-Laurette beside the Somme stumbled into an ambush by enemy outposts containing six or seven machine-guns and nearly 100 men were lost. All up, the day's activity had cost some 300 casualties.

Giving up hopes of an advance without effective artillery support, Monash ordered his batteries to take up new positions during the remaining hours of darkness. The guns proceeded to hammer the obstacles encountered in the centre during 29 March, forcing the enemy to abandon these posts, and the Australian line began digging in on the forward slope of the spur-lines it now occupied. The 11th Brigade, holding the southern portion of the division's front, was forced to defend its ground when attacked at noon on 30 March by a fresh enemy division. The initial German deployment was stopped at heavy cost to the attacking troops, as was a second attempt two hours later and a third made about 4 p.m. The 11th Brigade easily held its positions, sustaining about 150 casualties. The enemy loss was several times that number, though nothing like some estimates which ran to 3,000-4,000 killed.

Two further actions were fought around Morlancourt in the final stages of the Spring Offensive over the period 4-9<sup>th</sup> May and finally on 10<sup>th</sup> June.



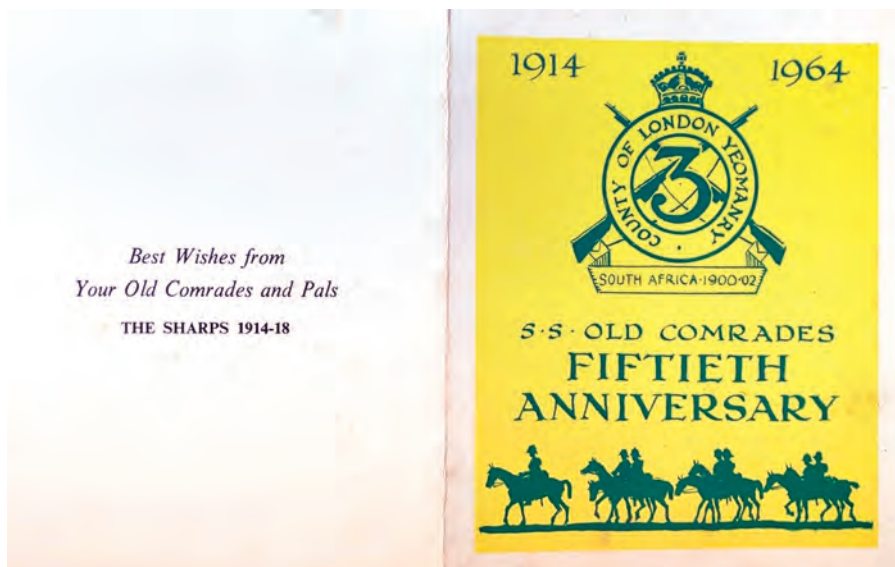


## MAN WITH A HORSE

### Commemorating our mounted predecessors

In the 2016 Journal I wrote a piece about the World War 1 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY Association which was illustrated by a couple of the birthday cards that the veterans from the Great War used to send to each other in November. The 'birthday' they were celebrating – or commemorating - was of course the ending of the Great War and quite a few of the cards had as the cover picture either a horse or a dismounted soldier with horse in the desert. The figures were hand made in wood by Frederick Brownlie who served in C Sqn 3<sup>rd</sup> CLY and sadly none seem to have survived the passage of time: the cards stopped in 1967 quite possibly on the death of Fred and there were no successors to carry on the tradition – or send cards to.

As this was the centenary year I decided to try and recreate the dismounted soldier with his horse in the desert exactly as Fred had made his in wood but a silver plated version. This would be a fitting tribute to all of our mounted predecessors. I engaged Peter Hicks and Co and quickly determined with them that this was not going to be an easy or inexpensive exercise because they would need to start from scratch and create a new model – they had nothing suitable which could be modified. We also had no idea of the scale/size of the original so we were going to have to take a flyer on that.





A "SHARPSHOOTER" 1914-18  
From a model by F. BROWNLIE  
'C' SQUADRON

*Greetings*

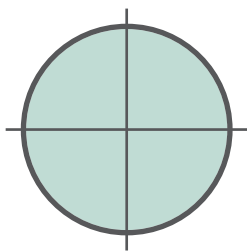


This all took about six months with many pictures and reviews of the maquette to ensure that it was faithful to Fred's model. The result when I saw it in a picture was breath taking but when it was delivered it was magnificent. Every little detail is covered right down to the figure 3 on the Solar Topee and it is rather large – much larger than I imagined actually – so I'm having to get rid of stuff so it can go on display at home. It has had two outings so far to dinners (Endex dinner for commonwealth cadets and El Gubi) and it will be reappearing at the El Gubi dinner and others this year for *Sharpshooters* to enjoy.

The mould is held by Peter Hicks and if there are any *Sharpshooters* who wish to acquire one they can make it either in Bresin (bronze resin) or a silver plated Bresin one.

Tim





## EXTENDED GUARD STAG

by Ivan Collins

The thoughts of “Remembrance Sunday 100”, must have started early at the squadron because I was contacted by the SSM shortly after the 2017 event and asked to look at improving the condition of the existing gate guards.

I must have been out for longer than I thought, as the golden rule of “don’t volunteer for anything” didn’t immediately come to mind. After grasping the nettle, the first thing to do was to find out what I had let myself in for.



MK 2/3 Ferret



MK2 Saladin

On initial inspection they didn’t look too bad. Many years of neglect had taken its toll, but then this is British engineering at its best, so how bad could it be?

On a more detailed inspection the answers became apparent: all the external body work on both vehicles was shot to some extent. The Ferret’s side bins were in a very sorry state, but the Saladin bins would clearly need to be replaced. The side skirts to both vehicles were both full of holes and would need a lot of patchwork repair.





So off to the Prefabricators we went, and on a sunny day in June this year, the parts finally arrived allowing us to commence the project.

These were quickly put to good use.



Over the next month both vehicles were scrubbed, scraped and sanded to within an inch of their life. Unfortunately, the time and the location did not suit a back to bare metal restoration but we did the best we could.

Finally, both were ready for painting and here we hit the first hurdle as the British army no longer provides paint. We had the option of requesting 4000 (!! ) touch up pens or finding an alternative source. Luckily from previous experience I knew of Marcus Glenn, a great military vehicle parts supplier who came up with the goods, along with a few NOS (new old stock) items to help provide the finishing touches.

Then there's the smoke discharger covers, the lamp covers, the registrations numbers, the locks, the antenna's and bases. Where to find all these? Amazon and Ebay would you believe, the answer to all 21<sup>st</sup> century problems.

So, we were set, but now it was September and with winter closing in, where do you find lots of keen reliable (gullible) people to work on military vehicles? Well modern technology came to the rescue again, the Sqns old farts communication network more commonly known as "whats app" (lot better than Clansman or even Larkspur which the vehicles were fitted with) came to the fore, with lots of willing support.

Unfortunately, as was the case many times over the following weeks, someone had forgot to book the weather. Twelve brave souls turned up for the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend and everyone was soaked by lunch time. However with much military ingenuity we rigged up a temporary shelter over the ferret which bought us some time.

Unsurprisingly further weekends were less well attended, but that was fine as we had broken the back of it. What was now needed was some flair and finesse and this was provided in buckets by the few who remained.

"Do you want your nuts painted red or white", "are you qualified to handle that", "how the \*\*\*\* does this go back on", "I used to drive these you know" and "watch out for the ... oh dear". These were just some of the comments, that had probably not been heard down the barracks for many a year.

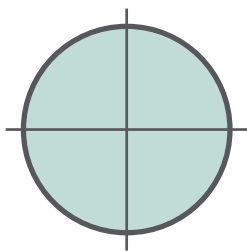


Many thanks to all those to attended (you know who you are), but in particular to Chris Eley, John Cox, Mark Hoare, David Paine, George McNeill and the O'Hare's. It wouldn't have happened without you.

Eventually we got there, not sure if it was skill, perseverance or just dumb luck. But we are happy with the final result and we hope you are too.







## **LT GEORGE WILLIAM FINCH, THE VISCOUNT MAIDSTONE: THE EAST KENT YEOMANRY CAVALRY IN THE 1830s**

The KSY Museum Trust collection includes a fine oil portrait of George, Viscount Maidstone, later 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Winchilsea<sup>1</sup> (31 May 1815 – 9 June 1887) as a cornet (second lieutenant) in the East Kent Yeomanry Cavalry. The painting is dated 1830, coincident with the re-raising of the regiment, and Maidstone's commission, like those of the other officers, is dated 20 December 1830, making him only 16 years old at the time. The Trust has recently had the painting restored and it resides in the office of the Commanding Officer of 71<sup>st</sup> (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment at Bexleyheath.

### **The portrait**

The portrait shows Viscount Maidstone three quarter length in dress uniform, cloak over shoulders, holding a sword in his left hand. The tunic is a plain dark blue, double-breasted short-tailed coatee, which has a double row of close set silver buttons down the front. The facings are a pale, almost white, shade of buff. A light dragoon style girdle of gold, with two horizontal scarlet stripes was sewn onto the jacket. He wears light dragoon



George, Viscount Maidstone, later Earl of Winchilsea,  
East Kent Yeomanry, 1830

pattern silver bullion epaulettes. His crossbelt is herringbone pattern silver lace with a navy centre and the picks and chains seem to be gilt. The sword slings (not shown) would also have been silver lace. Officers had a sabretache (a flat-faced ornate pouch used to carry papers in lieu of pockets) and this was dark blue with a silver lace trim and the White Horse of Kent surmounted with a crown in silver. Headdress was a shako, trimmed with silver lace and with silver cap lines to attach it to the wearer. It carried the regimental badge of the Kent Horse and crown in silver and was topped with black drooping cock's feather plume in full dress and black horse hair for other duties.

In undress (working dress) officers wore a wide blue forage cap with a

<sup>1</sup>The correct spelling for the title.



silver band and scarlet piping and swapped the tunic for a single breasted plain blue frock coat, which was worn with black leather belts and a plain black sabretache. On campaign the epaulettes would have been replaced with metal shoulder scales to give better protection from slashes to the shoulder, similar to the mail worn on shoulders in patrols/number one dress today.

The portrait is signed “Saye pixit” in the bottom right corner. This may be Frederick Richard Say (30 November 1804 – 30 March 1868), who was a notable society portrait painter in London between about 1830 and 1860, undertaking commissions for portraits of many famous and important figures such as Earl Grey, Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington (all three of whom served as prime minister) and the Royal family. He began to exhibit in the Royal Academy’s Summer Exhibition and the British Institution in 1826, and he continued to exhibit at the Royal Academy every year except 1834 until 1854 (a total of 78 paintings), although he never became a Royal Academician.

### **The background**

The yeomanry were raised in 1794 as a volunteer cavalry force for home defence, especially following the descent into violence of the revolution in France. Kent had no police force until 1857 so, after the French invasion scare receded with the victory at Trafalgar in 1805, the yeomanry’s primary role was aid to the civil power. In practice this meant support when asked for local magistrates in the event of disturbances, principally riots and the destruction of farm machinery or factories by so-called “luddites” and labourers whose livelihoods were threatened by the mechanisation of industry and agriculture. This was reflected by their funding from the Home Department (now the Home Office) rather than the War Office. By the late 1820s, however, Kent was relatively peaceful in contrast to the more disturbed industrial areas of the north of England where riots and protests, such as that at “Peterloo” in Manchester had forced regular yeomanry callouts and even deaths. In December 1827 the Home Office decided to save money by dispensing with those regiments which had seldom or never been called out to aid the civil power in the last ten years. This included the East Kents which is why, despite being one of the earliest yeomanries raised, the regiment lost so much precedence in the yeomanry lists.

The move was, as so often, short-sighted. In 1830 agricultural disturbances began across southern England, including Kent, even before the harvest was over, with stacks, mills and barns set alight and machinery destroyed in nightly attacks. The government turned to the forces it had disestablished three years earlier and called on the yeomen to resume their old responsibility of aiding the civil power.

George William Finch, 10th Earl of Winchilsea and 5th Earl of Nottingham (19 May 1791 - 8 January 1858), who was Viscount Maidstone’s father, had become deputy lieutenant for Kent on 7 September 1820, a role that included responsibility for militia and volunteer forces. Winchilsea was ordered to re-raise the regiment, and he held a meeting of those he thought might assist him at Ashford on 9 November 1830, with the first officers’ commissions, dated 20 December 1830. Excluding the Lydd and Romney Troop, disbanded in 1836, there were six troops:

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A Ashford                         | B East Wingham (Thanet and Dover) |
| C West Wingham (later Canterbury) | D Hythe                           |
| E Sittingbourne                   | F Faversham                       |

The regiment assembled for training at Ashford in 1831 and the Duke of Wellington inspected the regiment in 1832, pronouncing it “a very efficient regiment”. In May 1837 the East and West Kent yeomanries assembled as a brigade at Mote Park in Maidstone joint drills and were, as their forefathers, entertained to dinner afterwards by Lord Romney, some 600 sitting at table. The regiment’s social programme also included races for a cup given by the Earl of Winchilsea and an officers’ ball for the local gentry.

The regiment was called out on several occasions, such as on 7 May 1835 when E Troop, under Captain George Harris<sup>2</sup>, was called out by the local magistrate to escort prisoners who had been arrested during a riot at Rodmersham to gaol. Here, a dispute over the payment of poor relief led a crowd to assault the poor law relieving officer and his officials. They took refuge in the church and serious injury was only prevented by the arrival of a detachment of regular troops. Police from London made twenty arrests over the next few days and it was decided to move the prisoners, under yeomanry escort, to Canterbury Gaol to forestall any attempt to free them. Harris’s troop was ambushed by a mob in Canterbury High Street and stoned, eventually forcing them to retreat to the yard of the Fountain Inn.

In 1838 the troops were to assemble independently under the adjutant for six days “at such times as might be most convenient”. That year, too, the government decided to reduce the establishment of the East and West Kent Yeomanries. Each regiment lost its colonel commandant and two troops, and its establishment was cut to:

1 Major	1 Adjutant	1 Surgeon
4 Captains	4 Trumpeters	8 Corporals
4 Lieutenants	4 Quartermasters <sup>3</sup>	176 Private Men
4 Cornets	8 Sergeants	



The scene of E Troop’s siege. The Fountain Inn, later The Royal Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, photographed in the 1920s.

<sup>2</sup> Harris’s son later joined the EKY, rising to command and to write the regimental history. The account is drawn from a conversation with his father related in that book.

Lord Winchilsea wrote to his regiment, addressing them as “Brother Comrades” and describing the reductions and his “heartfelt sorrow” at the loss of two troops. He does, however, seem to have followed Queen Victoria’s wish that “as a mark of her royal approbation, that the officers should retain the rank and honours belonging to their respective commissions” as he remained on the regimental list, albeit inactive, until November 1853. He was succeeded by Major Deedes<sup>4</sup>, who issued his first order on 11 May 1839.

## The Earls of Winchilsea

The two Earls of Winchilsea are intriguing individuals in their own right.



Colonel the Earl of Winchilsea, c1850.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Earl, who commanded the reformed regiment, succeeded to the peerage when his cousin, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Winchilsea and fourth earl of Nottingham, died on 2 August 1826. The 10<sup>th</sup> Earl was a frequent speaker in the House of Lords, and a prominent “ultra” that is one opposed to the 1832 Reform Act, which widened the franchise, abolished so-called “rotten boroughs” and used the seats freed to give representation to towns and counties with larger populations. He is more notorious, however, for his opposition to Catholic emancipation and The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, which removed the legal barriers to Roman Catholics holding public office, including sitting in parliament or holding commissions in the armed forces, and attending universities. In fact Winchilsea was almost the only English nobleman willing to identify himself with the Orange (hardline Protestant) party in Ireland.

Winchilsea presided at a very large and influential meeting held on Penenden Heath, Kent, on 10 October 1828, when strongly worded resolutions in favour of Protestant principles were carried. His hostility ultimately led to a duel with the Duke of Wellington and, when he wrote to the secretary of King’s College London, that the duke, “under the cloak of some coloured show of zeal for the Protestant religion, carried on an insidious design for the infringement of our liberties and the introduction of popery into every department of the state”, Wellington replied with a challenge. The meeting took place in Battersea Fields on 21 March 1829, the duke being attended by Sir Henry Hardinge. Winchilsea was attended by fellow “ultra”, Edward Boscawen, 4th

<sup>3</sup> Not a commissioned rank. The present day equivalent would be troop sergeant major.

<sup>4</sup> An ancestor of Lord Bill Deedes, former cabinet minister and editor of The Daily Telegraph.

Viscount Falmouth. The duke fired first and missed. He claimed he did so deliberately, but was known to be a poor shot and accounts differ as to whether he missed on purpose. Winchilsea kept his arm by his side at the command to “fire” then quite deliberately raised his arm in the air and fired. He then apologised for the language of his letter. It is almost certain that Winchilsea and Falmouth had agreed on their course of action, as the letter of apology was already prepared. He died in 1858 and was succeeded by his son, the 11th Earl, formerly Viscount Maidstone.



The 11th Earl of Winchilsea,  
Vanity Fair 2 October 1880

was succeeded in his titles by his half-brother. He is buried in the cemetery of the now ruined church of St Mary the Virgin at Eastwell Park.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Earl, while still Viscount Maidstone, remained in the EKYC and was promoted to lieutenant on 20 April 1837 but there is no date in the regimental history for his retirement. It is highly likely that he left at the same time as his father, when the regiment was reduced. An alternative explanation is that he resigned when elected as MP for Northamptonshire North in 1837, a seat he held until 1841. In 1858 he succeeded his father as the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Winchilsea and entered the House of Lords. In the mid-1860s, experienced serious financial difficulties forced him to leave his property at Eastwell Park in Kent, severing the family’s direct connection with the area. On 4 December 1868, trustees appointed under the Winchilsea Estate Act (1865) entered into a contract to let Eastwell Park, together with its furnishings and effects, to the Duke of Abercorn for a period of five years. Lord Winchilsea had been obliged to vacate the property some time prior to December 1868 and he was formally adjudged bankrupt on 5 October 1870. He died on 9 June 1887, aged 72. As his only son had predeceased him, he

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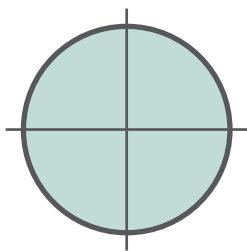
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<sup>5</sup> A large open area just outside Maidstone. The scene of public meetings, hangings, witch burnings and for the assembly of local insurgencies and militias.

<sup>6</sup> This incident is included in the series of stories described on the Museum’s I-Pads.

<sup>7</sup> Wellington’s Secretary at War, and thus responsible for the army’s administration. Later rose to Field Marshal and succeeded Wellington as Commander in Chief.





## MENIN GATE – THE ONLY SHARPSHOOTER

by Timber

On panel 5 of The Menin Gate you will find the name of Second Lieutenant HAROLD MALTHY HARRIS *3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)* who is recorded thus by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and noted as having died on 16 June 1917.

According to his record card his name was Harold **Maltby** Harris who started as a Private in *The London Regiment* prior to being commissioned into *The Sharpshooters*. His next of kin address was Hove in Sussex. He is recorded as one of the many missing of The Great War.

The puzzling thing is that in June 1917 *The Sharpshooters* were in Palestine. So how did Harold come to be in Flanders? The answer has been revealed, at least the last part of the mystery, whilst conducting a family research project involving the *2/2<sup>nd</sup> City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)*.

Their Regimental History on page 166 tells us that Harold was part of a reinforcement of Officers for the *2/2 Battalion* in March 1917 at Boisieux in France where they were part of the *173<sup>rd</sup> Brigade* of the *58<sup>th</sup> Division*, south of Arras.

The Battle of “Bloody Bullecourt” has a deep memory for Australians on a par with Gallipoli but is much less well known. The *2/2 Londons* found themselves taking over the line North-West of Bullecourt from the Aussies, opposite a deeply defended section of the Hindenberg Line, late on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Harold was in command of *No. 6 Platoon*, the lead platoon of *B Company*.

Arriving late on the assembly line having been held up by a big block in *Factory Avenue*, the non arrival of *No. 7 Platoon* resulted in Harold being moved up with his Platoon to the first wave of the planned attacks.

At 3.10am on 16<sup>th</sup> June Harold advanced under cover of a barrage from the whole of the Divisional Artillery and Brigade Machine-Gun Companies, and the Company succeeded in establishing themselves in the Hindenberg support line.

The Company Commander positioned men at the entrance to each dugout in the trench, and, after passing *Fag Alley* (a long communication trench running back to the German second system) established connection with *A Company* on the left. He then returned, and, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Harris, explored *Fag Alley*, finally leaving a party of men about fifty yards up it to form a block.

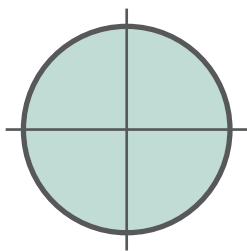
After an eventful night of hostile shelling, the Germans appeared on the flanks of the Company positions and bombed the *Fag Alley* block. Despite repeated red flares and waving yellow handkerchiefs whenever the spotter planes came over, no artillery support

Name		Company	Rank	Reg't No.
HARRIS		25/Land. R.	Sgt	6260
C. of Land. R. & 2/Lieut.				
Harold Matthey		Appointed Comm. 1/2 Land. R. 25/4/92		
Serial	Full	Page	Date	
x 2/6/92	off 160	27	Dec. 15/6/17	
Enlist			(summary)	
SWA			NW 2000 2/6/92 No 1/4/23692	
Toskired Warbird served in				
Date of entry Canada				
17.2.22		NW/6/23692 2. 1990		

**We will remember Harold Maltby Harris with honour in perpetuity**



113



## POLAND – CABRIT 3

I was about mid-way through my honeymoon when I got the call that I was being mobilised for a year. To be specific I was laying on a beach in the Seychelles, basking in glorious sunshine, quite literally drinking a Pina Colada when Capt Westwood (C Sqn PSAO) informed me. ‘Aaa... I didn’t realise you were still away... OK, give me a call when you get back pal’, he says. ‘Bugger’, I thought. Not at the prospect of being mobilised, but at not knowing how on earth I was going to spin this to the Wife!

Of the ten soldiers who attended Chilwell for a two-week mobilisation on a cold and icy Monday morning in January, two were Sharpshooters. Joining us were a selection of Soldiers from C&S (Westminster Dragoons), D (Shropshire Yeomanry) and B (Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry) Squadron’s including an Officer each from C&S and E (Leicestershire and Derbyshire) Squadrons respectively. We were all oozing with pride that we had been selected out of the one hundred and fifty or so across the Regiment who put their hands up for mobilisation, over a year prior.

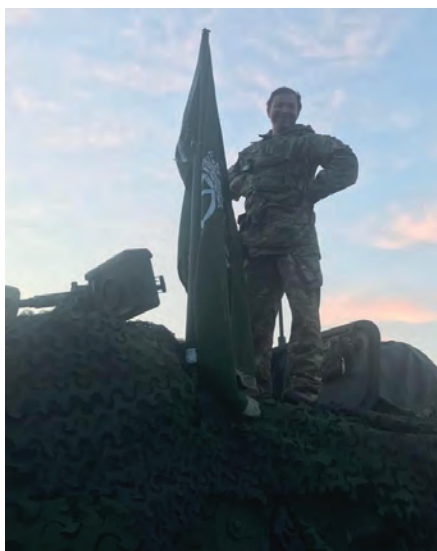
Like many Sharpshooter’s and Yeoman before us, we received a comprehensive and well delivered MATT’s package at Chilwell which flew by in the blink of an eye. Before we knew we were on route to join C Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> The Queens Dragoon Guards (QDG) in Swanton Morley whom we would be spending the next 11 months with on Op CABRIT 3. No sooner had we arrived, we were thrust into an extensive pre-deployment training package utilising Thetford, Salisbury Plain and Warcop training areas. Primarily revolved around dismounted and mounted ranges, it was our first taste at training with and operating from the Jackal 2 vehicle platform and firing the grenade machine gun (GMG). Using these vehicles during Ex Wessex Storm on The Plain, in weather that would rival the Arctic Circle certainly gave a very wide eye opener as to the best way to live and survive off of this new platform, namely – always pack a softy.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, we departed for RAF Brize Norton and landed in Warsaw the following day, arriving at our home for the next six months later that afternoon. The tiny town of Bemowo Piskie in North East Poland is situated on the outskirts of a vast training area. Wedged just 70km or so from the Sulwaki Gap, with a camp big enough for around three thousand five hundred personnel - and expanding. Simply shortened to BPTA, it is by and large occupied by the US Army’s 2/278th Armoured Cavalry Regiment, with a spatter of Croatian rocket artillery, Romanian anti air defences, Polish heavy and light armour, and us. One hundred and fifty members of QDG and attached arms, acting as the 15th Polish Mechanised Division.

Over the first few months we conducted more gunnery training on some truly superb and stunning ranges, mainly concentrating on the General-Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), Heavy Machine Gun (HMG) and more trigger time on the GMG. We were



*Cpl Wright instructs on the Bayonet Range during a Multi-National, QDG run Potential Non-commissioned Officers Cadre.*



*LCpl Salamut instructs a young Pole how the .50 calibre Heavy Machine Gun works.*



*Capt Rich Harris of E Squadron claims a US Army 'Striker' as his.*



*"The Change Over of 3 to 4"  
Cpl Wright and LCpl Salamut meeting LCpl Egleton at Warsaw Airport as he arrives to embark on CABRIT 4*





*Sabre Strike – complete.*

*Sharpshooter's pictured with elements of the US 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment on completion of Ex Sabre Strike.*



*In need of some lovin'. The Jackal 2 vehicles of 3 Tp, C Sqn, 1<sup>st</sup> QDG.*



*"The Spoils of War". LCpl Salamut, Cpl Wright, Capt Harris, Lt Col MacEvilly, LCpl Spencer (C&S), Cpl So (C&S) and Tpr MacLeod (D) display 'acquired' Stetson Cavalry Hat's as worn by members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2/278<sup>th</sup> US Army Cavalry Regiments.*

also able to get acquainted with our 'new' vehicles which were in dire need of some TLC following a year of being battered by The Light Dragoons. It was around this time I was assigned to my wagon and took up the role of GMG gunner with an over the shoulder Commanders' role in 3 Troop.

My fellow Sharpshooter, LCpl Taza Salamut by this time was working some Signals magic in the Squadron Headquarters, however, he very quickly displayed a flair for photography. Around mid-way through the tour it was decided that he would become the Regimental Photographer for the duration of the deployment, something which suited him down to a tee. He was able to capture thousands of images of our time in Poland which will long stand as the official documentation of our time away.

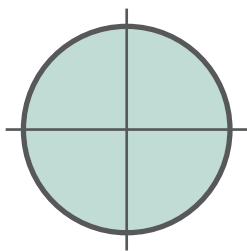
One of the occasions where this bore fruit was on the main NATO exercise, 'Sabre Strike'; where QDG acted as the forward Recce screen for a four-mile convoy of US 'Striker' vehicles moving up from Germany, through Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and finishing in Estonia. We provided the left and right 'screen' to thwart any incursions from 'The North West' or 'The South East' (You may need to consult a map for that one!)

Poland itself is a very strange theatre. To use the age-old term 'hurry up and wait' would be wholly accurate and the tension got quite uncomfortable at times. It was like the old cold war except that of course we were in Poland rather than on the inner German border. We found ourselves prepared mentally, physically, kit packed and placed by the door, weapons zeroed, ammunition a short distance away, radios fitted and vehicles prepped, awaiting the proverbial balloon – or, one hundred or so Smerch rockets to arrive.

To relieve the tension we were able on stand downs to explore Poland. We had a few occasions to visit Warsaw, like when we conducted a huge NATO parade to celebrate the Polish Armed Forces Day and meeting the (then) Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Minister for Defence Gavin Williamson. We visited Krakow to learn first-hand about the atrocities of WW2 and then on to Westerplatte and Gdansk where it all began. We took part in civilian shooting competitions, kayak and swimming races, cross-fit events and half marathons. It truly was six months to remember.

What made it all the more enjoyable was working and living alongside a bunch of people who simply made it easy. QDG are with-out doubt a game changing pairing for the Royal Yeomanry. They encourage you – regular or reserve, to grasp each and every opportunity that they can throw your way and its because of this that Taz and I return to Croydon more qualified, more experienced, more clued up and more professional as a direct exposure of working alongside them. Taz and I have no doubts that the two Sharpshooters currently deployed on CABRIT 4 with A Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Queens Dragoon Guards will return in the exact same state.

As Taz and I both start to melt back into the RY we are already looking ahead to 2020 when QDG are expected to return to Poland for their next rotation. Breaking the news to Nicola that I was off to Poland actually went down better than expected, I wonder how well it will sit in two years' time?



**LIEUTENANT  
GERALD AUBREY BOND MC  
3 County of London Yeomanry**

Our history of WW1 gallantry medal awards is nil and so when a WW1 MM group appeared there was a certain amount of surprise and the medal group was purchased by the Museum Trust supported by a significant crowd funding effort . Imagine our surprise though when a MC group suddenly appeared just before Christmas. It was one of those must have acquisitions and again thanks to the generous support of those listed below we raised sufficient money to purchase the group. Lt Bond was from 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> CLY and attached to the Middlesex Regt probably as reinforcement but we are not sure or indeed which battalion he served in so more research will need to be done and which will be reported in the Journal next year.

The citation for the award was announced in a supplement to the London Gazette dated 18 October 1917:

‘E. of Ypres, 2nd to 11th August, 1917. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on several occasions when bringing up rations and material to the front line on pack animals, over very difficult country and under almost continuous shell fire. In spite of casualties to animals and a stampede caused by shells, he never failed to deliver the whole of the stores. Throughout he set a very fine example to his men’.

This was right at the start of the Third Battle of Ypres – known as Passchendaele and he went on to survive serving also in the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars. He was also served after the war in the 5<sup>th</sup> London Armoured Car company (Sharpshooters) and presented a magnificent trophy for the best section which was in use from 1922 through to 1961 and we still have it.

To acquire the medals the following generously donated towards the costs:

KSY Museum Trust, Tim Rayson, Stuart Pritchard, Neil Bromwich, Des Campbell, Mark Hodson, John Freeman, Paul Waddington, Mark Kentfield, Phil Mason, John Gunn, Ivan Collins, Matthew Webb, Dean Francis.

It is hoped to display these medals together with the MM group from Salonika at the ARC Mitcham Road later this year before they go on display in the museum at Hever.



# AGIUS DIGITAL CATALOGUE 2019

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**Cheques payable to:** D. Hannam

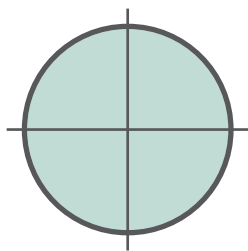
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<i><b>The Sharpshooter Chronicles</b></i> by David Hannam		PDF	£10

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





## KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION FORECAST OF EVENTS 2019

### February

- 1st 101st 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 10th (Royal East and West Kent Yeomanry) Bn. East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

### April

- 4th **80th Anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Armoured Corps in 1939. There will be a series of events at the Tank Museum in Bovington connected to the vehicles etc in use at that time and since. Please register your interest in getting further details from the Hon Secretary as soon as possible.**

- 7th 101st Anniversary of the amalgamation of 3rd CLY (Sharpshooters) and City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders) to form 'E' Bn Machine Gun Corps subsequently re-titled 103rd Bn Machine Gun Corps in August 1918.

- 8th 225th Anniversary of the raising of independent troops of Yeomanry in Kent in 1794 that subsequently formed the basis of both the East and West Kent Yeomanry regiments.

- 21st HM The Queen's Birthday

### May

- 12th Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park. Sponsor Regiment: 1st The Queens Dragoon Guards 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. Date TBC.

- 6th 75th Anniversary of the D Day Landings.

- 13th 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage in 1944

### July

- 10th 76th Anniversary of the invasion of Sicily (3rd CLY) in 1943

23rd ***Founders Day. 118th Anniversary of the 3rd CLY being gazetted in 1901.***

26th 110th Anniversary of the first OCA (Sharpshooter Brigade) Annual Dinner in 1909.

### **August**

30th 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Alam El Halfa (1st Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942

### **September**

22nd 76th Anniversary of 3rd CLY landing in Italy at Taranto in 1943

76th Anniversary of 4th 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 77th Anniversary of El Alamein (2nd Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942

### **November**

7th 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.

10th Remembrance Sunday.

19th 78th Anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1941.

23rd The 72nd All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner. To be held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly. See flyer for further details.

24th 2 RGH Bir El Gubi service at Badminton. Please contact Dave Carter in October if you are going.

### **December**

**Inputs for the 2019 Journal are required before the end of Dec.**

11th (TBC) RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.

20th 118th Anniversary of the Battle of Tafel Kop, South Africa (18th Bn Imperial Yeomanry – the original Sharpshooters) in 1901.

31st ***120th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.***

## **2020**

**100th Anniversary of the Sharpshooters serving in Armour**

**100th Anniversary of the Founding of the Royal Corps of Signals**

### **January**

25th/26th 71 (SR) (which includes 265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Sp Sqn) Parade in the City of London to celebrate the granting of 'Privileged Unit Status'.

**Please note dates/events for this important Sharpshooter event will be advertised later in the year.**



10th (Yeo) Bn The Buffs on the Western Front 1918