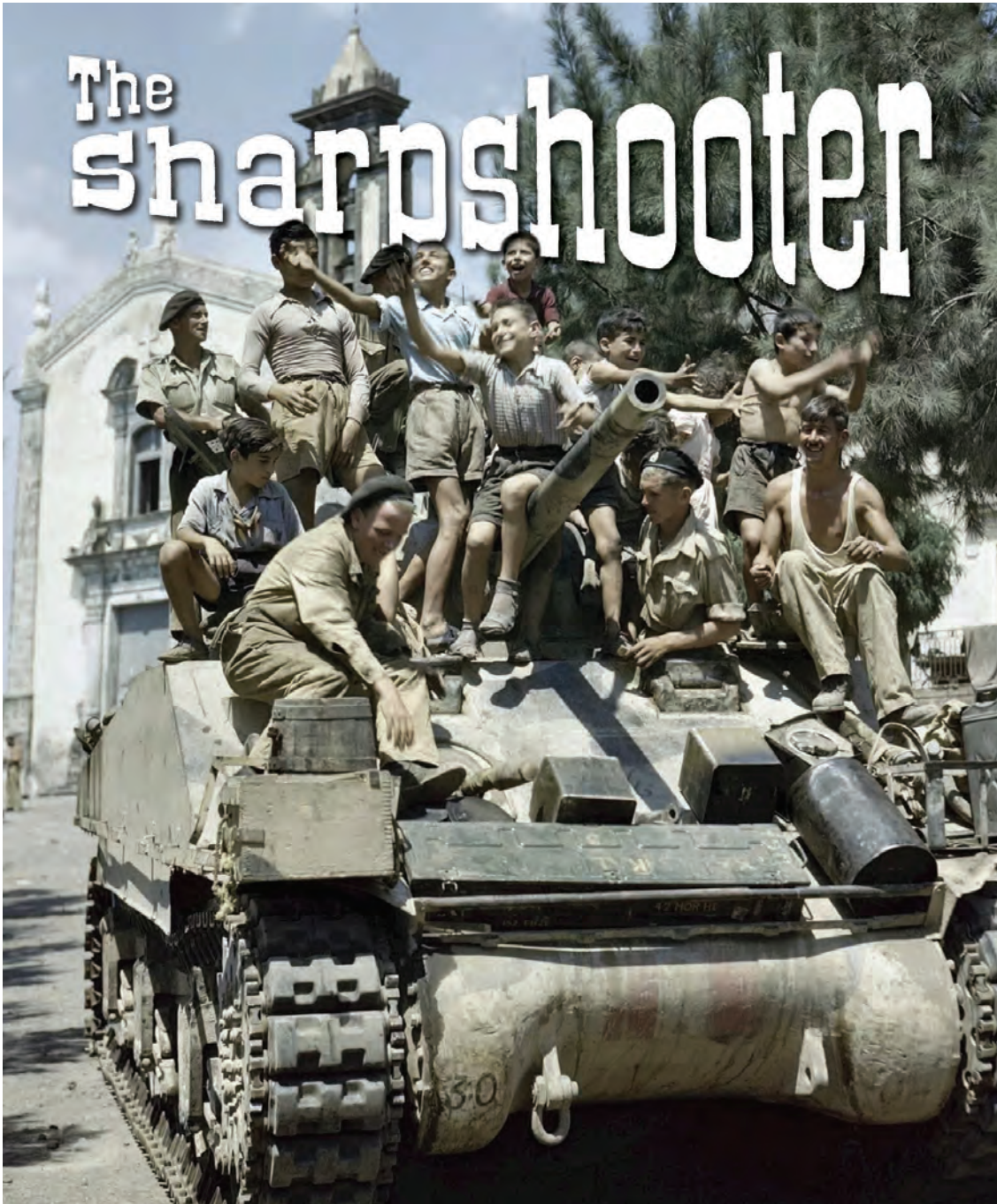


The Sharpshooter



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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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Front cover: Local children crowd aboard a Sherman MkIII tank of the CLY in the village of Milo near Catania in Sicily, August 1943.

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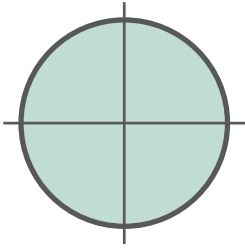
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THE SHARPSHOOTER 2018

ERRATA

List of Donors to the KSYA: Add Chris Sutton

List of Donors for the purchase of the Bond medal group: Add Dave Shardlow



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Mark Hodson

A very warm welcome to the 2019 edition of The Sharpshooter journal.

Let me start by thanking our journal editors Lieutenant Colonel Simon Malik and Tim Rayson, also our Honorary Secretary, for their immense hard work and dedication putting together the journal for us again. And of course, my thanks to everyone who has contributed to this year's edition.

Much as in last year's report I talked about the safe return of those who had been on operations, this year we are looking ahead to Sharpshooters being mobilised again as part of an RY led and commanded team deploying on Op CABRIT in Poland. Support to operations is one of the Association's key outputs and we will be gearing up for this during the course of 2020.

Since last year's report both Squadrons have had changes in their commands. As noted last year, Major Godfrey Critien assumed command of C (KSY) Sqn Royal Yeomanry early in 2019, and Major David Lakin assumed command of 265 (KCLY) (Sharpshooters) Support Sqn 71 Signals. I've been pleased to welcome them both to their commands from an Association perspective, as we endeavour to support the serving squadrons and their officers and soldiers. This also provides an opportunity to thank their respective predecessors Captain (now Major) Chris Chadwick and Captain David Alleyne for their support to the Association during their tours in command.

Within the committee, Chris Moden has joined us as Membership Secretary. A very welcome addition to the team, and Chris has been making valuable contribution to the running of the Association as soon as he took up post, not least tracking down various Sharpshooters who had lost touch with the wider family.

Our Treasurer, John Gunn has stepped down although and I am pleased to say that John continues to remain as a Trustee. On behalf of us all I'd like to record our thanks to John for all the work he has done as Treasurer over the years, and in his place I am very pleased to welcome Tony Bentley to the team who has taken on the Treasurer's role.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to several Sharpshooters during the year and their empty saddles are remembered further on in the journal. One I would like to mention, is Major Mike Shaw, our Chaplain. Mike will be remembered by all those who came into contact with him for a multitude of positive reasons. Always ready to conduct a service regardless of location and certainly regardless of the weather. Mike was always full of energy, and ready to throw on a uniform at a moment's notice ignoring all his years; he was an inspiring man and a proud Sharpshooter. Mike will be much missed by us all, and our condolences go out to Jenny and the family.

Many events have again taken place where Sharpshooters gather, many of which are detailed in this year's edition. I'll mention a couple of these briefly here. First, the Worshipful Company of Insurers' 40th anniversary celebratory lunch. The Insurers' are very generous towards supporting the Sharpshooters family, so it was especially pleasing to be able to participate in this major event in their history.

The lunch was held at the Guildhall in the City of London. 40 years ago, Major Allan Grant MC, a 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) desert war veteran was one of several insurance people in the City who were instrumental in creating the Insurers' Livery. Allan was then equally instrumental in forming the affiliation between the Sharpshooters and the Insurers! An affiliation that I am delighted to say continues to flourish. We, Colonel Paul Acda, Colonel Julian Radcliffe, Lieutenant Colonel Ben

Chairman's gallery



Royal Exchange.



WCI 40th anniversary luncheon table: Clockwise from Tim Rayson, Lt Col Angela Richardson ACF, Col Paul Acda TD DL, Lt Col Scottie Rankin CO 71 SIGS, Major George Doughty, WCI guest, WCI guest, Col Julian Radcliffe OBE QVRM, Lt Col Mark Hodson TD, WCI guest, Lt Col Ben Tottenham.



The Duchess of Sussex talking to the Chairman at the Field of Remembrance.

Tottenham (KCLY), Lieutenant Colonel Scottie Rankin, Major George Doughty, Tim Rayson and I formed an Army affiliations table combining with Middlesex & North West Army Cadet Force and were proud to have taken part in the Insurers' celebrations.

Second, was the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey Gardens in November. There was a great turnout of Sharpshooters amongst many other Yeomanry friends. Personally, I was especially proud to be standing at the foot of our plot representing the Sharpshooter family. The Royals attending this year were their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, and I'm pleased to say that I managed shared a few words with both of them – more with the Duchess, who paused to chat briefly which was wonderful.

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 would not function without their hard work, energy, enthusiasm and passion for our cause.

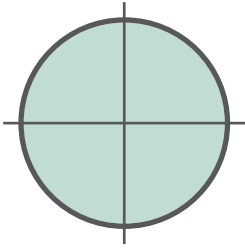
As you will see that the Sharpshooters are in extremely good heart, and I look forward to seeing many Sharpshooters, families and friends at the many events and occasions at which we gather during the course of the year.

With very best wishes.

Yours aye

Mark Hodson

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hodson TD



THE 72nd EL GUBI DINNER

Saturday 23rd November 2019

by Mark Hodson

This year's El Gubi dinner, the 72nd such dinner, marked the 78th anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi, and saw a very strong turnout of *Sharpshooters* as 95 of us dined that evening.

The Cavalry & Guards Club was the venue for the sixth year running and again proved extremely successful. The staff and chefs at the Club did us proud, and 2020 will see us return to the Club.

Whilst it is impossible to mention everyone who attended - it was wonderful to have so many people there. That said, I will single out a number of 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 Tom Bragg and his wife Hannah; Second-in Command of the Royal Yeomanry; Major Matthew Webb; Squadron Leader 265 (KCLY) Support (*Sharpshooters*) Sqn 71 SIGS, Major David Lakin and his wife Jessica, also a *Sharpshooter*; Sergeant Major C (KSY) Sqn RY, WO2 Phil Mason; from HQ Army, Brigadier Hugh Robertson; from SHAPE (Germany), David Palmer; friends from Germany both the Bundeswehr and Air Force, Colonel Frank Dirksmeier and Mrs Dirksmeier, Lieutenant Colonel Wolfgang Mann, Lieutenant Colonel Stephan Schrank and Major Dorin Sach Schrank, and WO1 Ralph Ortmann; from the Westminster Dragoons Association, Mark Vickers, Lieutenant Colonel Conn Macevilly (immediate former CO of the Royal Yeomanry) and Lieutenant Colonel John Annett; from the Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association, and a *Sharpshooter*, Major Chris Chadwick and his wife Nikki; from the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry Association, Gordon Jones and John Marshall and their wives; from the Federation of Old Comrades Associations, Richard Black and his wife Hannah; from the Museum Trust, Our President Major Guy Farage, and Chris Sutton; from the Worshipful Company of Insurers, our affiliated Livery Company, Master Rosemary Beaver and her husband Jonathan Westcott, Clerk Mrs Sarah Clark and Senior Warden (and the Insurers' LO to the *Sharpshooters*), David Sale, and Mrs Karen Sale; a great number of serving *Sharpshooters* and their partners, and *Sharpshooters* and their families and friends generally. It is very reassuring that the dinner reaches and attracts ever more younger *Sharpshooters*.

In what I think is perhaps a first in the history of El Gubi dinners, we enjoyed the bagpipes being played during dinner. Thanks to Colonel Frank Dirksmeier of the German Air Force for such splendid playing.

This year saw a signature book started for those attending the dinner. A splendid idea and kindly provided by our Honorary Secretary, Tim Rayson, this is a really superb way



Jonathan Westcott, Master Insurer Rosemary Beaver, Senior Warden David Sale, Karen Sale, Lt Col Mark Hodson



Master Insurer Rosemary Beaver, LCpl Isabelle Iratni



Sharpshooters from C (KSY) Squadron RY

to capture the names of people who attend the El Gubi dinner. I've seen similar books in various Messes and they always form a very important part of the history of whatever organisation they belong to. Please make sure that you get to sign the book whenever you attend one of the dinners.

My message of Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty the Queen included a note explaining that the dinner would also be marking the 110th anniversary of the first dinner of the *Sharpshooters' Brigade* in 1909 at which the *Sharpshooters* enjoyed 9 courses! Her Majesty graciously replied and wrote that she was interested to hear of the 1909 event and sent her best wishes to all who gathered for our dinner. Her Majesty's response was read out by Staff-Sergeant Mark Thomson, and Mr Vice was Sergeant Chris Wood.

Our President, Guy Farage, proposed the toast to Absent Friends, in 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, Rosemary Beaver, kindly proposed the toast to *The Sharpshooters* at the end of the formalities. We were grateful to the Insurers and the Master for their generosity in presenting a Worshipful Company of Insurers gold pin to Lance-Corporal Isabelle Iratni; a very deserving and inspiring young Sharpshooter. The citation was read out by a previous recipient of Insurers' cufflinks, WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason.

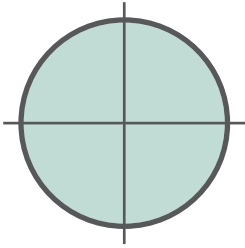
The end of dinner collection generated over £ 500 in donations which the Association shared with the Musuem Trust – a massive thank you to everyone who made a donation on the night, as well as to those who contribute at other times of the year.

I am indebted to our hard-working Hon Sec, Tim Rayson, and hard-working Asst Hon Sec, Stephen Shelley for organising the entire event; and to Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bragg and Major Godfery Critien for allowing the regimental and squadron guidons to be with us during dinner; and Kevin Wright, our Association standard-bearer, for bringing our standard that stood alongside the guidons. Further thanks to Major Godfrey Critien, WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason and members of C(KSY) Squadron for the bringing the Sharpshooter silver and for the soldiers and NCOs who formed the lance-guard, all of which made a huge contribution making the dinner such an enjoyable occasion.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 73rd El Gubi dinner marking the 79th anniversary of the Battle and which will take place on 21st November 2020.

Mark Hodson





KSYA DONATIONS 2019

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

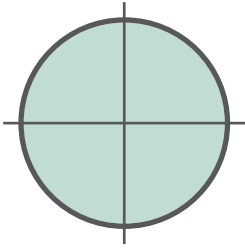
The Worshipful Company of Insurers, Tim Rayson, William Stancomb, W M Fernie, Doreen Matthews (In memoriam Ian Matthews late 3rd CLY), David Sinker, Patricia Moore (in memoriam Philip Moore late 4th CLY), Trevor Tew, J R Parish, Mr G Bloom, Maurice Tomlin, Euan Watt, Robin Laurence, Ronnie Todd-Young, 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, Phillip Harrison (in memory of Captain Bill Harrison), Huw Jones, Terry Bodman, Simon Jenkins, Chris Chadwick, Jaimie Barr, Roger Thompson, Hilary Wilson (in memory of Roy Cawston late 4th CLY), Anthony Gethin, Gordon Browning, Mark Hodson, Mr S Barrow, Mr J P Lee, Mike Last, Kim Hunter, Peter Crowley, Richard Hewitt, David Hannam, Andy Johnson, Chris Sutton, Tony Pilton, Ray (Smudger) Smith, David Hower, David Fisher 12/16th Hunter River Lancers, Dave Brown, Keith Wrate, Piers Storie-Pugh, Wolfgang Mann, Ralf Ortmann, Ray Dunkley, R Houghton, Jason Grais, Rich Dunning, Will Wright.

If you are donating but your name does not appear above please first check that you are donating to the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association account at Lloyds Bank*. If you are then please let the Hon Secretary know so that he can investigate with the Hon Treasurer. If you are currently not donating and wish to get your name on the list above then please send a donation of £20.00 or other sum. If you are able to please also set up a set up a Standing Order at whatever frequency you wish for the same amount payable to the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* at the account shown below:

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

Please quote your name as the reference so we can identify you and add you to this list.





HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Tim Rayson

This year has seen some key events taking place including especially the commemorations connected to the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. This was a major effort for RY and the *Kent and Sharpshooters* at Croydon and the *Association's* input to this was to provide support for a battlefield study for up to 200 RY personnel a figure far in excess of any Touring Bus Company trips of the past. This was quite a challenge as you can imagine with a convoy of three coaches and on 6th June a dismounted group of around 120 walking the field of Villers Bocage. There were of course two recces and I found out that you can get to Caen by train even in the midst of a snow storm and on the last train out of Paris in January!

Other events have included a wonderful lunch with our associated Livery company in the Guildhall in the City and an outstanding El Gubi dinner in November. All of these large and small events bind us together and sadly they also are the occasion for remembering those remaining *Sharpshooters* from World War 2 and after who have marched off parade in the preceding 12 months. Jack Lovell who was the senior *Sharpshooter* sadly left us aged 103 he was a great supporter of the *Sharpshooters* and I had the pleasure of interviewing him with David Hannam – as well as consuming quite a bit of whisky. In the year we have also lost Tim Lawson Cruttenden, Roger Metcalf, Michael Shaw our very own padre and, just before Christmas Sgt J Parish.

The *Association's* numbers are pretty good and as Chris Moden reports and we are despite our losses up a few. However there is no reason to be complacent and we will be seeking to add to our number over the next 12 months. We can all help this effort by racking our brains – and attics – to see if there are any old troop lists around. In the meantime we continue to try and get serving squadron members to sign up. It is a point often missed that serving *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* are automatically members but we do need them to complete a membership form so that they get their Journals sent directly to them.

In November the *Association* adopted a new Constitution which allows the Management Committee to better administer the *Association*. The previous Constitution whilst suitable did not allow us to reflect more modern ways of working nor the improved governance that is required of charities today. The old constitution has been incorporated into the new one untouched and the additions improve our governance processes. One key change is that each serving Squadrons will have two places on the Committee as full voting members rather than ex-officio members as in the past. A copy of the revised Constitution has been passed to the Charity Commissioners for their approval and will once approved be circulated to all members of the Association both electronically and in hard copy.

As a trustee of the Museum Trust I have also been involved quite a bit with Museum business and I want to thank all of you who have helped us to crowd fund the purchase of medal groups of significant importance to our history. This year we successfully bid in December for a DCM group belonging to SSM Harold Allan of 4th CLY and the Museum Trust welcomed the permanent loan of the MC group belonging to Lt Colonel Teddy Bradbury of the 'Bwright light' story. This latter group have been permanently loaned by his family (Mr Eddie Tuke) for display in the Army Reserve Centres and Museum at Hever and we are most grateful for this valuable donation. The citations for both the DCM and MC are in this journal for you to read and admire the bravery of the recipients together with the 'Bwright Light' story.

It is at this point that I wish to appeal to all of our surviving WW2 veterans and their families who may have their father's (or indeed grandfather's) medals and are wondering what to do with them. Whilst medals (and especially gallantry awards) can be seen as income generation we would ask you that you consider passing what you have to the *Association* for the wider *Kent and Sharpshooters* family to enjoy. They are part of our heritage and the *Association* offers a safe home for them where they can be displayed and admired by *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* who are presently serving at either Croydon or Bexleyheath. Please contact me for further information and advice on how to secure our heritage.

In every journal for the last 10 years I have asked that you all consider contributing towards the *Association* so you will not be surprised to see me banging on again about this. However before I do that I would like to apologise for the issues that we had in the summer with those of you of pay by Standing Order or direct debit. The issue was speedily resolved but I would ask all of you who do donate by Standing Order to check that your standing order is being made. If not please let me know but in the meantime I wish to acknowledge the outstanding support given to this *Association* by the Worshipful Company of Insurers and the 50 or so members who donate on a regular basis. The most generous donation from the Worshipful Company of Insurers and those from the members each year are extremely helpful and are put to good use. This year for example we have helped two former Croydon *Sharpshooters* and just before Christmas a welfare case for a former Bexleyheath *Sharpshooter* arose and I am delighted to say that we have helped him as well.

The Insurers donation for 2019 is very firmly earmarked for S2O (see below for more details) but as I keep on saying we need the rest of you to contribute as well. This can be done by donating £20 per year either by standing order or direct debit or even an annual cheque. If you complete a gift aid declaration – and tell your tax office - then that £20 is increased by 22% to £24.40. The donation can be made monthly, quarterly or even annually and is allocated to welfare (which includes Support to Operations) and the cost of the Journal.

All donations should ideally be made by BACS directly into the official *Association* account details below. If you are paying anything into any other account then that money does not come to the *Association*.

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Account No.00593399

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Reference: Your name

For those who do not do internet banking then please make cheques payable to:
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association
And send them to me at my home address.
And what of the future?

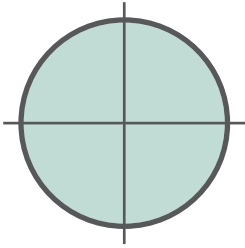
In 2020 RY will be mobilising around 140 personnel to participate in NATO's forward deployment in Poland called Operation Cabritt. This will be the third deployment by Sharpshooters – the previous two were in support of The Queens Dragoon Guards whilst this time RY will be leading the deployment which shows just how far the reserve has come from the halcyon days of the 80's. We fully expect that a considerable number of *Kent and Sharpshooters yeomen* will form part of that deployment so the call on our funds will be higher than normal over the twelve month deployment period. We will of course be working very closely with the Squadron at Croydon as well as the RY Regimental Association to ensure that those on deployment and their families are well looked after.

In addition there will be the usual events and the beginning of May looks to be extremely busy starting off with an early Cavalry Memorial parade on 2nd May followed by VE Day the next weekend and then the 7th Armoured Division parade/service at Thetford which has been reinstated and which I visited with Kevin Wright this year. This is a fascinating day out with re-enactors plus assorted military vehicles and is also a fund raiser as well for the Desert Rats memorial presently languishing at Sandhurst waiting to be moved to the National Arboretum. The Federation of London OCA Parade is expected to take place in June and there is planned visit to Orwell Park School in whose grounds 4th CLY were based before embarking for D Day. This trip is being organised by the Desert Rats Association and promises to be a lovely day out with a small service followed by an excellent lunch. In August there will be VJ 75: one can only hope that the 14th Army does not remain the Forgotten Army. The year will close out with the El Gubi dinner which will be held at the Cavalry and Guards Club in November. The year 2020 is the 110th Anniversary of the second Sharpshooter Brigade dinner and it would be fantastic if we can get 110 Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen with their wives and partners sat down for dinner that night.

I look forward to seeing you at as many of the events in the FOE as possible and wish you all the best for 2020.

Tim Rayson
Hon Secretary





UPDATE FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

by Chris Moden

Dear Sharpshooters,

Greetings from Malta, it's time for me to update you about the condition of the Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry Association membership. As of 30 November, our total headcount was 418 across our membership whether they are full members (serving and ex-serving Sharpshooters), family members, honorary members and friends of the association.

The association grew in 2019, mostly from a flurry of 26 new members, mostly from serving soldiers at C Sqn in Croydon and despite the sad passing of twelve of our comrades who joined the list of empty saddles. Last year, we invited you to complete a membership questionnaire. Many thanks to those who replied, I received about 30 responses which have added a few new members and fill in gaps in our contact details. You can still complete the membership form by downloading it at the KSYA page on the KSY museum website. <http://www.ksymuseum.org.uk/KSYA/Membership> or contact me at membershipsec@ksya.org.uk

For those who don't know me, I served in C Sqn from 2006-2015 transferring from Southampton University OTC. I moved to Malta last year to take up a diplomatic posting at the British High Commission. Since I arrived, I have looked for any trace of the Sharpshooters in Malta, besides the obvious stops of the minesweeper *HMS Sharpshooter*. *HMS Sharpshooter* missed the famous convoys during the great siege of Malta 1941-1942, she was busy escorting the arctic convoys. I was fortunate enough to attend a memorial for Op Pedestal in August commemorating the 77th anniversary since the convoy limped into Valletta's grand harbour bringing fuel, food and supplies to the besieged island. I have a personal link to the Op Pedestal story through my grandfather, Petty Officer L.V. Benson, a radio fitter on aircraft carrier *HMS Victorious*.

HMS Sharpshooter did pull into Malta in early 1944 after joining the Mediterranean theatre of operations. In January 1944 she seems to have been involved in a dust up with an Italian warship and was damaged in a collision, which we can only assume was caused by Italian driving.



HMS Sharpshooter in Valletta Grand Harbour Spring 1944.



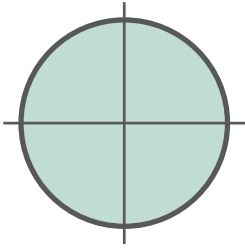
Attending the 77th anniversary commemoration of Op Pedestal in August 2019.

With British military presence in Malta from 1800-1979, you can quite literally trip over history everywhere on the island. There were a great number of injured British and Commonwealth troops brought to hospitals in Malta from the Gallipoli campaign, and the island was a major Garrison during WW2. I would be keen to hear from anyone with knowledge of *Sharpshooter* ties to Malta and if you are visiting, I'm always willing to meet for a brew and a chat.

Yours aye

Chris





KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

Chairman's Report by Chris Sutton

In this year's Museum Trust Chairman's report, I am focusing on the experiences of visitors coming to our museum at Hever Castle. Some people plan their visits with the specific intention of visiting our museum, many more stumble across us when they visit the castle and then explore the castle grounds. At the end of this article is a selection of some of the reviews we have received online.

The museum can occasionally be a magnet for people who have a connection with our regiment(s) but who are not aware of the Association. Two great examples took place this year. Firstly, our volunteers met a WW2 veteran wearing a Scots Greys beret at the Home Front weekend at Hever, on an outing with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. This veteran was none other than Tpr William Johnson, born in 1923, who served with 3 CLY from 24 May 1944 (as a transfer from the RTR) to 4 August 1944 when he transferred to the Greys. Just two and a half months with 3CLY, but at such an action-packed time in our history when we prepared for and then fought in Normandy. What an honour for us to meet with him.

Secondly, we discovered a note in our feedback box at the museum from the son of the late Colonel Charles Rich, whose decorations include Military OBE, 39-45 Star, Desert Star (with 8th Army clasp), Italy Star, War Medal (with MiD clasp), TD, Bronze Star (US).

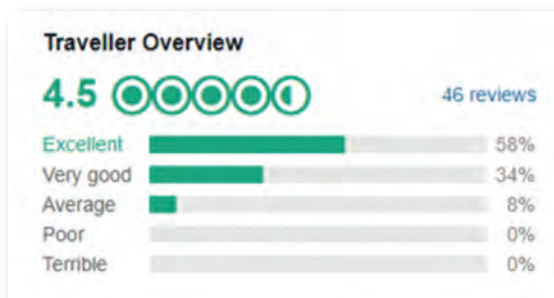
Charles Rich served with 3CLY from the early 1930s and then throughout the Western Desert and Italy campaigns, before being seconded as a liaison officer to the US Army.

Usually these feedback forms are just comments on our museum, but this one had added interest. It was wonderful to follow up with Charles's son John, who had left the note, and to get copies of photographs from the family album which have supplied our curator Dan with some critical missing jigsaw pieces from our records of the 1930s.

I have this year been appointed as a trustee of The Heritage Alliance, an advocacy charity which represents the interests of the independent heritage sector to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. I am enjoying learning new things about how to create an effective heritage sector in this country, and look forward to working with my fellow trustees and volunteers of the Museum Trust to keep us on the crest of the wave as regards new opportunities. We have wonderful stories to share and tell.

So, to conclude with visitor reviews. Trip Advisor is a leading brand on the internet, for people (like us) who run visitor attractions to promote what we do, and for visitors to leave feedback. Visitors give you marks out of 5, and I am proud to say that we have maintained a score of 4.5 since the museum opened. Here is a sample of visitor comments.

Sharing a few of our recent 5 Star Reviews on Trip Advisor as at 30 July 2019. Thanks To all our volunteers who are delivering such excellent visitor experiences!



johnmY8756LQ
Perth, Australia

101

Reviewed 2 weeks ago via mobile

One of the best!

Unexpectedly came across this Museum whilst visiting Hever Castle with my wife.

We both agreed that this is one of the best Regimental Museums we have anywhere.

Only spent 30 minutes as we arrived late afternoon to see Hever. Could easily have spent a couple of hours, and probably will if I get spare time before heading home.

Date of experience: July 2019

TDM900PILOT
London, United Kingdom
 12142

Reviewed 12 May 2019

small but perfectly formed

very interesting, lots of information and exhibits and some amazing models. i have reviewed the museum in my main report, but just to use up the mandatory 100 words, the 25lb'er outside is in great condition but the saladin is showing its age, but to a kid it still looks impressive.

Date of experience: May 2019

gmleech
Mount Barker, Australia

8110

Reviewed 26 April 2019 via mobile

Really Interesting

Being an Aussie, our visit coincided with Anzac Day, so we had to visit here (we were visiting Hever Castle).

Don't be fooled by the ordinary exterior, inside is packed with interesting exhibits, displays & information. All the displays are well presented & easy to read & understand. There is a natural flow to the exhibits & it almost tells a story in itself.

The staff are really friendly & more than happy to help with information.

There are interactive parts to some of the displays & even sound effects that help create just a small insight into life in the trenches.

We found this to be a really interesting experience.

Date of experience: April 2019

PETER T
Margate, United Kingdom
423224

Reviewed 26 October 2018 via mobile

Visit if going to Hever Castle

This museum is in the grounds of Hever Castle and worth visiting. The history of this regiment is unbelievable something I was not aware of. The artefacts are numerous and the museum certainly has your attention when in there. The interaction within is very good and educational. It's free so get in there .

Date of experience: October 2018

martinhW7937GE

Chapel-en-le-Frith, United Kingdom
13971

Reviewed 21 October 2018

Brilliant Regimental Museum

We visited this museum by chance whilst visiting Hever Castle. The history of this regiment and its later augmentation in the British Army is fascinating... its history spans from the Napoleonic Wars to modern day. The various regiments have seen action in all major conflicts during those dates & contains various uniforms, artefacts & histories. All very interesting.

Entry is free & comes as part of the entry fee to Hever Castle. Not a large museum it will take 20-30 minutes to explore

Maarten v
Zeeland, The Netherlands
7611

Klein maar goed

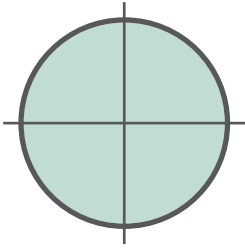
In een compacte setting erg informatief over hetgeen dit legeronderdeel uitgevoerd heeft en zijn geschiedenis. Zelfs een voertuig en artilleriegeschut staan buiten opgesteld.

"Small but good"

In a compact setting, very informative about what this military unit has done and its history. Even a vehicle and artillery guns are set up outside.

Date of experience: July 2019





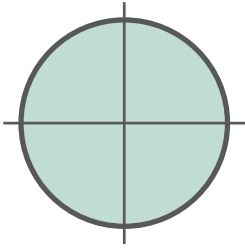
KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

The Home Front Weekend



On 22-23rd June 2019 Hever Castle hosted it's annual Home Front Weekend. As in previous years, the KSY Museum Trust stepped forward to support this weekend with guided tours of the museum, handling collection displays and the ever popular model-making. In fact the model making was so popular this year that all the glue was exhausted on the first day. Thanks go to all our volunteers who helped make the weekend a success.

However, a special mention must be made of our newest and youngest volunteer, 10-year old Arthur Whitehouse who did sterling work on Sunday in conducting young children around the museum, pointing out the various displays. Such was his ability, that he came to notice of 'Winston' and his good wife 'Clemmie' who also visited our museum.



THE KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM

FREE/DISCOUNTED ENTRY

by Tim Rayson

There has over the last few years been some confusion about entry to the Museum and whether it was/is free to the serving squadrons and their families as well as Association Members. The following guidance has been agreed by the Museum Trust and is the definitive position.

The following special discounts have been agreed:

- Free access to the museum for all service personnel and veterans and their families, for the purpose of taking part in any sort of volunteering activities that the museum trustees are co-ordinating, or attending occasional free events that the museum trustees organise at the museum.
- Free access to the museum for all service personnel and veterans and their families, on condition that the visit is to the museum only, and is outside the busy periods which are defined as “school holidays and bank holiday weekends”
- 20% discount on the standard price of entry to the castle and / or the castle grounds, including access to the museum, for all service personnel, veterans and their families, throughout March to December. (Please note the castle and grounds and museum will be closed in January and February each year)

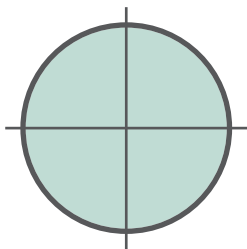
To obtain free access, proof of service or veteran status will be required to be shown at the ticket office. Families must be accompanied by a serviceman/woman or veteran with the appropriate form of ID. For serving personnel this can be either by presenting their MOD90, KSYA Membership Card or Defence Discount Card. For veterans, the KSYA Membership Card (which is available free) or the Defence Privilege Card, which veterans may apply for, will be produced. This card costs £4.99 for a five year period and available online at:

www.defencediscountservice.co.uk

For those not connected to email, please write to:

Defence Discount Service
PO Box 10180
Loughbrough
Leicestershire LE11 9HN
Tel: 01509 233466
Open Mon-Fri 9.00-17.00

TJR
Curator
Croydon



TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2019

by John Gunn

Using current valuations of investments the association had net assets of £79k at 31st March 2019 (£77k prior year). Income in the 12 months was £7k (£4k prior year). The current year included £2.3k of dividend income from investments.

As in previous years the largest item of expenditure was the magazine at £4.8k (£3.3k prior year). The Trustees still consider this to be essential in maintaining the Espirit D'corps of the Sharpshooters. The Association has continued to lay a wreath at the Westminster Fields of Remembrance and has made small grants that total less than £500

Income less expenditure was a deficit of £2.0k in the year.

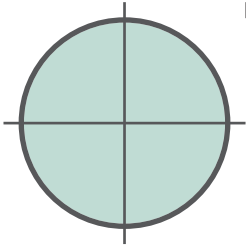
The bulk of the Association's assets date back to subscriptions made towards the end and just after WW2. Sadly many of these Sharpshooters have now passed away but their generosity lives on. There are now approximately 40 individuals paying standing orders into the SYA and this regular income is essential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

The following individuals made donations during the year:

Acda, Annett, Barr, Barrow, Bentley, Besque, Bodman, Bonser, Browning, Browning D, Chadwick, Crowley, Currie, Dodds, Donnelly, Fernie, Gethin, Gillman, Grais, Gunn, Hannam, Harrison, Hewett, Hodson, Hunter, James, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Last, Lee, Macnamara, Malik, Moden, Moore, Newitt, Parish, Perry, Rayson, Smith, Smith R, Stancombe, Steel, Sutton C, Tew, Thompson, Tustin, Watt, Whitehouse, Wilson, Wright.

John Gunn ACMA
Treasurer

| Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2019 | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Note: | Investments at cost | 31st March 2019 | 31st March 2018 |
| B | 2837 Charifund Units | 19,727 | 19,727 |
| | Current Assets | | |
| | National Savings Investment Bk | - | 22,160 |
| | Cash at bank | 35,148 | 14,198 |
| | Sundry debtors | 68 | 68 |
| | | <u>35,216</u> | <u>36,426</u> |
| | Less sundry creditors | 936 | 936 |
| | Magazine | - | 3,285 |
| | | <u>34,280</u> | <u>32,205</u> |
| | Publications | | |
| | Total Accumulated funds | <u>54,007</u> | <u>51,932</u> |
| | Represented by: | | |
| | Balance brought forward | 51,932 | 50,862 |
| | Plus/less surplus/loss | 2,075 | 1,070 |
| | Accumulated Funds | <u>54,007</u> | <u>51,932</u> |
| | | - | 0 |
| Note: | | | |
| B | Market value of investments at 31st March 2019 | | |
| | 2837 Charifund Units | 19,62 - 44,331 | 19,62 - 44,331 |
| | | <u>44,331</u> | <u>44,331</u> |



EMPTY SADDLES 2019

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.

David Smith – 265 KCLY (Spt) Sqn, 71ST (City of London) Regt

Jack Lovell – Late 3rd CLY

Michael Shaw – Late 3rd/4th CLY and Padre to the Sharpshooters for many years

Tim Lawson-Cruttenden – Late OC C(KSY) Sqn RY

Roger Metcalf – Late C(KCLY) Sqn RY

John Parish – Late 4th CLY and 3rd/4th CLY

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVER MORE LEST WE FORGET

DAVID SMITH

21st September 1935 – 16th November 2018



David was born in Bromley and when war broke out was evacuated with his family to Church Stretton in Shropshire, where he attended the local church school and sang in the choir. Following the cessation of hostilities the family returned to Bromley and David continued his education at Valley School and then Beckenham Tech, attending evening classes to gain qualifications for a career in electrical engineering. Following National Service with the RAF as a radar technician, David went on to work for the MOD at RARDE in Sevenoaks and joined 265 (KCLY) Squadron, finally retiring in the 1980s. In 1960 he married Audrey and together they had three children and four grandchildren, although sadly one of their children predeceased David.

Following a long illness, David finally passed away peacefully in his local hospice on 16th November 2018, aged 83. He will be sadly missed by Audrey and the family, who remember him as a devoted husband, father and grandfather.



SHARPSHOOTERS REMEMBERED

WING COMMANDER JACK LOVELL

1916-2019

By TIMBER



Jack joined the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (*Sharpshooters*) in the mid 1930s. At this time the Regiment was very fashionable and had a waiting list for membership. Jack's chums were all for joining the HAC, but he wanted something more exciting with some fun and adventure, and *The Sharpshooters* had Rolls-Royce Armoured Cars! Double wheels at the back and the prospect of driving this wonderful vehicle round the streets of London... and occasional trips up to a pub near the old De Havilland Factory... were enough for Jack to apply.

He was interviewed at St John's Wood by the Commanding Officer the celebrated Colonel Jago. After being asked all the appropriate questions about his background and family, Jack was accepted in as a Trooper.

Jack was 102 years young when he was interviewed in 2018 by Tim Rayson and Brenda Traylen about his memories and we have a wonderful video of Jack waxing lyrically about his life and his times in *The Sharpshooters*. Jack recalled volunteering during his training to demonstrate to the CO the stripping and reassembly of the Vickers Machine Gun... which he did with a careful and methodical manner... which impressed the Inspecting Officer. He remembers the Regiment with great fondness and mentioned how good the training and drill was across the skills and disciplines.

Jack had always wanted to be a pilot and had applied previously but had been turned down. In 1938 he applied again to the Royal Air Force. On the day that *The Sharpshooters* called him up for active service, he was also called up by the RAF! He had to report to St John's Wood, but by then RHQ had already had a call advising that Jack was to go to the RAF and not stay with *The Sharpshooters*.

He did not get his wish to be a pilot but was granted a commission – at interview – in the RAF Equipment Branch.



Jack attended officer training course at RAF Little Rissington and, at the very start of the war, he was posted to RAF Honnington, in Suffolk. This was the Bomber Command station for 9-Squadron Wellington Aircraft and here he witnessed the departure of many daytime bombing raids from which aircraft and crews never returned. On one afternoon on 18th December 1939, he watched a large number of Wellingtons take-off and waited for them come back. Only two returned. He knew the pilots very well and, that night, the officers' mess was empty. Jack's recollections of this episode were used word-for-word as the opening to the author Max Hastings' book "Bomber Command".

It was during his time at Honnington that the RAF decided to carry-out the final test of a Mosquito Bomber Aircraft in a manoeuvre called a "Power Dive to Destruction". For this dicey exercise, a Mosquito aircraft would be packed with a maximum load of fuel, bombs and guns. The test would then involve a dive from height at full speed to see if the wings stayed on. The accomplished Polish test pilot was pretty sure that they would come-off; however, for the test to be fully accurate, they needed someone to sit beside him in the navigator seat.

Jack volunteered!

They flew up to 40,000 feet and then DIVED. Jack had never done a parachute jump and he would have had no idea what to do had he needed to bail out. But there he was anyway, in a wooden plane heading for Earth at full speed.

The dive was dramatic. The shaking was indescribable but, when the pilot pulled the stick to level-up THE WINGS STAYED ON! After landing, Jack simply got out of the

plane, dusted himself off and went quietly back to his desk. The Mosquito went on to become one of the most important aircraft of WW2 but Jack never sought recognition for taking part in the “Power Dive” test.

He was a modest man.

In 1941, Jack was promoted to Squadron Leader and sent to Canada to recruit foreign pilots. The following year, returning to England by ship in a slow convoy, his lifelong friendship began with a young American reporter called Walter Cronkite. Walter would years later become a legendary CBS News Anchor. Jack was always rather vague about what they got up to during their treacherous four-week voyage across the Atlantic. Enemy submarines may not have been far away but, suffice to say, there were many female members of the US military on board; so the parties on board were lively and fun.

In 1943, Jack was posted to North Africa to an RAF station in the middle of the desert. He then spent the last year of WW2 back in England working with Lancaster Bombers. Along with everyone else, he worked hard and partied pretty hard, too, cheering Winston Churchill’s speeches in the pub and dashing to London at every opportunity for nights out with the dancing girls at the Coconut Grove. The war eventually ended and, between 1946-48, Jack oversaw the clearing-up and shutting down of all the ex-RAF stations across Italy. He was the very last RAF Officer to leave Italy, having pulled down the Union Jack and witnessed the raising of the Italian flag. Sadly there were no photographers present at this historic event and afterwards Jack simply got into his jeep and drove to Austria.

Another little moment of significance that he chose not to brag about.

Jack would stay in the RAF until 1960, going-on to serve at the Air Ministry, receive three commands, get promoted to Wing Commander and – perhaps most impressive of all – he was appointed Commanding Officer of a top-secret underground facility containing all of Great Britain’s atomic bombs.

His final posting was a two-year stint in Australia. It ended with Jack sailing out of Sydney Harbour with aircraft performing a flyover for him. Jack finished his RAF career at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. He was just 44-years old when he left his desk for the last time.

An all-encompassing military lifestyle had come to an end. He also led a full life with his family and friends and always welcomed visitors and always remembered *The Sharpshooters* and the excellent start they gave him to his military career. Well done Jack – or perhaps we should use his favourite word “Marvellous”!



MIKE SHAW

Michael Shaw was born in Kew in December 1925 and lived his early life in London. In 1939 he went to Sherborne School in Dorset from where he joined the Fleet Air Arm and was sent to America to learn to fly. He achieved solo flight and thus began one of the great loves of his life which was all things aircraft. He supported the Fleet Air Arm charity and took every opportunity to go to any air display. His last flight was at the age of 86 in 2011 in a glider at Lasham airfield where his son and grandson were both training to go solo.

Mike was always a very adventurous man who really had little fear. With his naval flying career cut short he returned home where he joined 2 RTR in Luneburg in Germany. Mike worked hard at soldiering and commanded a Churchill tank and then a troop: he loved his tanks especially his Crocodile (Churchill flamethrower variant!) as much if not more than his aircraft. Mike was always so very happy to tell stories of post exercise entertainment which showed his lack of fear and his enormous sense of humour and fun. He was the 2 RTR marquee jumping champion! This was a race over a marquee by running up one side and sliding down the other, he also introduced the extra danger of going through the vents at the top for added entertainment. Another time one evening he was in the mess bar on the first floor at the honourable artillery company when he was challenged to a race to the car outside, Mike spotted that his challenger was much closer to the door and the stairs so he ran and jumped straight out or the first floor window to win the race. Lateral thinking as well as cunning.

Mike left the army to embark on a career in surveying specialising in rating and valuation and moved back to London. In 1948 he went to a party in Kensington High Street which he confessed was quite boring but there was a lot of noise coming from the kitchen so he decided to see what was going on. Walking through the door he was confronted by a bottom in a wren skirt sticking out from under the kitchen table. He pursued his curiosity and found a liar dice school going on with a young lady taking everyone's money. He decided then and there that if she was that good at this then she would be excellent with the housekeeping and six years later he married Jenny (the wren from under the table) in the church on Kew Green on July 3rd 1954. They were happily married for 64 years.

Mike worked as a chartered surveyor in the private sector for a number of firms and then moved into the public sector and worked for the Department of the Environment as a planner until retirement. He had a white hard hat with DOE on the front, he turned it round and wrote STAG on the back. In the meantime he carried on with his soldiering joining the 3rd/4th CLY who had Comet tanks and were based in St Johns Wood. He enjoyed the weekends and the camps so much it did affect his professional training but only really to delay it; and why worry when you are having so much fun including being deafened following an incident on the ranges at Lulworth where a Comet inadvertently fired its main armament when was just in front of the gun trunnions.

In retirement that Mike found a new lease of life and new avenues to pursue. He took on work for a charity called Welcare. The charity helped predominantly single mothers with housing and he also collected and delivered all kinds of furniture to their base in

Surrey. He raised money for them and convinced others to help. He also developed and progressed his relationship with his church and his god and studied to be a lay reader; he joined the chaplaincy in St George's hospital in Tooting and also took on the role of chaplain to the Sharpshooters. It was in this role that he became known to many members of the squadron turning up on Remembrance Sunday to lead the squadron's own service after the main event at Croydon. Mike officiated at many of the funerals of WW2 Sharpshooters with whom he had a great affinity and also led the services abroad when the Association visited places such as Normandy, France and, Germany. When he was unable to attend he 'delegated' his powers and wrote the service sheets so that they were correct. His final outing as Padre was to officiate at the service laying up the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry guidon*. Mike's ministry also included organising donations from his church congregation for the contents of the goodies parcels for those *Sharpshooters* deployed on Telic and Herrick.

Mike loved sport and played rugby for the Sharpshooters. His magnanimous side would come out during internationals where he would cheer for the team which had the least spectators, unheard of now in our parochial sport watching.

In his long and fulfilled life it is very easy to forget what a world of change Mike lived through and yet none of these changes affected his core values. Duty, decency, reliability, honour and honesty, great dignity, respect and wisdom. He had an enormous capacity for love and forgiveness and a wonderful daft sense of humour. Perhaps his finest quality was his patience: an inherent ability to listen, to absorb and to offer a point of view based on quiet measured wisdom. A beacon to look up to and a true *Sharpshooter* to the end.



TIM LAWSON-CRUTTENDEN

23 January 1955 – 17 April 2019



Tim Lawson-Cruttenden (otherwise known as TLC or even LC) was a vigorous 64 when he died. He was swimming in the sea off Gibraltar on 17 April 2019 when he was overwhelmed by currents and died of hypothermia.

As a Christian Soldier for whom onward was the only way to face and go TLC loved a scrap and was stalwart and passionate in anything that he undertook. He was a physical man: solidly muscular and as was recalled at his memorial service someone who was rugger-tackled by him “stayed tackled”. TLC joined the Blues and Royals in 1973 and for seven months before he went up to Sidney Sussex he was a Cornet (2nd Lieutenant) during his university years and for a time afterward and served overseas with the regiment.

In the early 1980s, TLC joined the Sharpshooters as a Lieutenant where he served as a Troop Leader of 2 Troop and then 6Tp when they converted to tracks in time for Lionheart 84 where he took them to Germany for their first camp on tracks. He ended up commanding the Squadron and leaving in the mid-1990s. TLC was a sort of overgrown schoolboy whose joie de vivre, loyalty and affection for being a Sharpshooter made him both an effective and admired troop leader as well as OC.

Notwithstanding his Yeomanry career TLC was a well known and full-on civil rights lawyer: he appeared on TV many times. He helped formulate and was an authority on the Harassment Act 1997 (he wrote two books on the law of harassment) which made it easier to protect women from stalkers, but which from the start had much wider implications. TLC made his name in legal circles representing some of punk rock’s most notoriously subversive figures. While running what he called his “punk law practice” in the 1980s, he had a client list that included Johnny Rotten, the Clash and Ian Dury and the Blockheads. Their drug busts, punch-ups and assorted misdemeanours kept him busy. “But at least I managed to keep them all out of jail,” he liked to boast.

Tim was a man of faith and charitable work whether he was running marathons for charities (he ran 14) or representing in court those who could not afford to – and that includes serving soldiers at courts martial. In his life loyalty and affection came a close joint-second, action a decent third, and a pleasure in selected glories of British national life an important fourth.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

The following members of the Association attended his memorial service:

Lt Col Simon Jenkins, Major Tim Parkes, Major Peter Kennerley, Major George Doughty, Major JJ Macnamarra, Bill Lovell, Chris Eley, John Cox, Paul Waddington, Des Campbell, Andy O'Hare, Les Martin, Chris Sutton, Andrew Wingfield, Tony Bentley, Danny Shead.

Tim Rayson



ROGER METCALF

Roger Metcalf sadly died after a long illness. He was the first troop leader of the 6th (Support) Tp when it was formed in 1968.

Roger joined C Sqn in 1968 and was appointed by Boris Mollo (then Sqn Ldr) to be troop leader of the newly constituted 6th (Support or was it Assault!) troop. With Boris's drive to emulate the then current soviet tactics of having intimate infantry support to armoured recce (which was the extension of the recce arm on foot) it thrived under his leadership and with Ron Snowball as Troop Sgt rose to become a force to be reckoned with in the Royal Yeomanry.

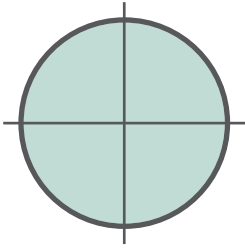
When I joined C Sqn on 3 Dec 69 and he was both the attesting officer and my troop leader - can you run three miles he asked and I said don't know but I'll try so that's why I ended up in Metcalf's Marauders as we were also known as. In those early days we bought our own 58 webbing, dennison smocks and even boots because all we were issued with were ammunition boots which were not very good for stealthy patrolling and clambering over armoured cars.

Roger founded the troop and its concept of operations which were then taken forwards by visionaries such as Charles Bennie and Julian Radcliffe. He will be remembered for leading the troop on a challenging 4 day patrol ex on foot over the Brecon Beacons carrying 60lb packs and rations for two days. We lost quite a few to hypothermia but he was the last man in off the area making sure that all of those injured were properly cared for – and that included me.

He will be sorely missed by his family and all those who served with him.

The following members of the Association attended Roger's funeral: Guy Farage, Ron Snowball and Tim Rayson.





KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

**An update and report on recent
acquisitions, 2019 by Dan Taylor**

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

Curatorial posts held as of 30th November 2019

Hon Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary: Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

This has been a busy year at the museum and January seems a long time ago. Our cycle started, as ever, with the annual museum spruce-up in January. This activity regularly attracts a dozen volunteers to dust, polish and re-stick our exhibits, fixtures and fittings which, given the usual difficulty for any organisation to get large teams deployed, is most heartening. It may be that the cakes and pub lunch prove an attraction, though the enthusiasm shown, and the number of tasks achieved, suggest the assembled crowd was happy to apply themselves, for which I am enormously grateful.

We have fostered some very useful alliances with other museums and historical groups which create a lot of good-will bonuses. In particular our association with the Invicta Military Vehicle Society has been very helpful. I waive off a vehicle run from Sevenoaks to Hastings each April and they bring along a selection of their vehicles to Hever's Home Front weekend in June. In addition, this year they got involved with the Normandy 75 commemoration and I was pleased to accompany them whilst also looking after the historical side of the serving squadron's tour of Normandy – ably assisted by Tim Rayson. Another group with whom links were fostered in Normandy was the East of England Military Museum, who provide mobile living history in the form of a selection of restored vehicles. It was through this connection that I was able to give the commemorative Villers-Bocage talk from the top of a Humber Scout Car in full 4 CLY uniform!

One fascinating speaking opportunity was one given for the Westminster Dragoons to commemorate 100 years since the reformation of the unit after the Great War. The brief was to highlight the transition the Regiment made from active service, back to a peacetime Territorial unit. Fortunately, their path very much mirrored that of the Sharpshooters, as we too ended the War as part of the Machine-Gun Corps and reset as an Armoured Car Company. Another benefit is that their then commanding officer, Lord 'Tommy' Howard de Walden, has a large archive at Westminster Council's offices to which I was given access. He was a great character to research, and clearly an enormous benefactor for the unit, personally financing a lot of the transition from his



The curator in his mount for Normandy 75 – the Humber Scout belonging to Robert Callaghan, beautifully restored with the assistance of Shaun Hindle. Cunning use of magnetic marking plates allowed it at various times to represent vehicles of both Sharpshooters Regiments, plus the Sherwood Rangers. Rob has a penchant for commemorating the service of the Yeomanry.

own funds. Next time the OC bemoans the lack of training aids, I have a list of equipment and vehicles bought for the WD's by Tommy. He also replaced all of the band's instruments which had gone missing whilst in storage in Egypt, whilst also covering back pay whilst the War Office dithered over paperwork.

Over the summer we had our second 'Student Volunteer Week'. This is an opportunity for those of school and university age to get hands-on experience with real conservation projects within the museum. It is also a major plus for the museum, as we get the chance to tackle some jobs that need more manpower than could ordinarily be arranged. This year's project centred around the map collection at Croydon. We had bought a large map chest at the time of the museum rebuild, along with a number of large-format plastic 'envelopes' suitable for protecting the maps but all had lain dormant, awaiting a working party that could tackle the job. This years students: Georgia Davies, Madeline Budgen and Gareth Rhys-Thomas, supported on behalf of the curatorial team by Neil Hubbard, Tim Rayson and myself set about the task, the proportions of which seemed to grow as the job unfolded. Each map needed to be unfolded, checked against the accession listing, recorded, photographed and inserted into its envelope before being stored in the chest. After the two allocated days, working flat out, the task was still not entirely finished (mainly because we ran out of the plastic envelopes), though the back of it is broken and we really only need a few hours to tidy up. We then had an outside excursion to the National Archives at Kew, for which there was much greater enthusiasm that I had imagined. Apparently I am not the only one who gets enormous

satisfaction from trawling through dusty old archives. We achieved an enormous amount, mainly photographing reports and war diary entries that have been missed by the websites that sometimes provide these things. Subsequently, we have taken on another student, Freddie Deane, who is currently busy transcribing these reports into digital format. Georgia, Madeline and Gareth were also given the project of transcribing the diaries of PLK Bird – late of 4 CLY so that we will have a digital version of that extensive document too.

The other major curatorial project currently underway is the AMOT/Libor digitisation of Great War archives. Essentially, this uses funds derived from the miss-selling of insurance to get professional assistance in scanning difficult or large format items like maps and older photograph albums. This has proved to be a double edged sword. I had carefully gathered around seventeen albums, a box of glass negatives and fifty or so maps for the project, clearly labelled and arranged on a surface for collection from Croydon. In the few days between preparation and collection, heavy rain managed to penetrate the roof above the store and three of the albums plus the box of glass negatives found themselves in the resultant puddle. The rest are away being scanned whilst we are trying to remedy the damage caused.

An eventful year, I think you will agree. And here are the items received and accessioned into our collection:



Georgia Davies and Madeline Budgen outside the National Archive during the summer Student Volunteer week.

Let's start with the reading matter.

Diary, Frank Edwards c1915 3 CLY

2019-01

Gift: Tim Rayson

Considering the prohibition on keeping diaries, it is a little surprising that we have a rich collection of personal notes written by our veterans. This one provides insights into the events around the Gallipoli campaign in 1915.

Manual No18, Saladin Armoured Car

2019-08

Anonymous donation by post

The manual deals with the armament of the Saladin Armoured Car and will be helpful in assisting any restoration of our Sally's interior. It arrived without covering note and, if I had prior warning, any note has escaped my records. If you sent this in, please let me know so that I can record its provenance.

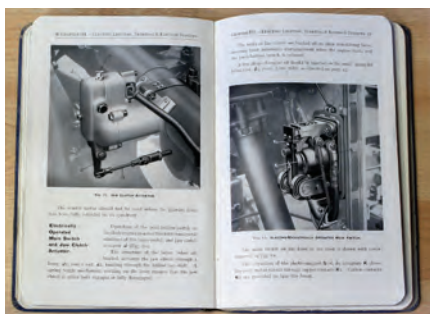


Manual, Rolls Royce Car 40-50HP c1928

2019-11

Loan: Nigel Fuller-Shapcott (son)

Cyril Fuller Shapcott served with 23 LACC (Sharpshooters) between 1926 and 1930 before his employer, GEC, posted him away from London. Prior to this, his contact with a businessman who owned a Rolls, meant that he was given a pair of manuals, one of which he passed to the Sharpshooters. The unit had recently received their Rolls Royce Armoured cars and so were grateful to receive a handbook, having not been issued with such with the vehicles. This is the second of the two manuals, thus duplicating the one long lost in the mist of time.



We are pleased to receive all manner of ephemera and curios that give life to the Regimental history. This year the following were added to the collection:

Blazer Badge, 3 CLY

2019-02

Gift: Tim Rayson

A fine bullion wire recreation of the 3 CLY (WWI era) badge in colour. Assumed to be for a blazer badge.



Sharpshooter Wall Plaque, A Sqn KCLY c1960

2019-09-1

Sergeant's Mess Sign, KY c1960

2019-09-2

Gift: Joyce Brice (Niece)

Harry Perkins served with the Kent Yeomanry through the 1950s and into the 1960s, the period of the amalgamation that resulted in the KSY. These two mementos of the period, rendered obsolete by subsequent organisational changes had been presented to Harry on his retirement and we have benefited from their return via his Niece as a reminder of an old comrade.

WD Jerry Can, 1942 dated

2019-10-1

M35 German Helmet – from Villers Bocage

2019-10-2

Gift: Sean Claxton

Whilst perhaps unprepossessing as museum artefacts, they do have a compelling association with the Regiment, as both items were found in Villers-Bocage. The Jerrycan

has resided in a farm close to the town since the war and is believed recovered soon after the famous battle. The twisted lump of rusted metal that was once a German helmet was unearthed in excavations next to the town's Gendarmerie. Though lacking any actual evidence, this is on the exact line that elements of 2 Panzer Division attacked on the afternoon of 13th June 1944 and so there is good reason to believe it may have been lost in the battle.

Gramophone Player and Radio Items

2019-12-1 to -5

Gift: Major Mustoe

The gramophone player is intended for display in our Gallipoli trench display and has been restored to working order by David Whitehouse. The other items are a timely addition to expand our 265 Royal Signals based offering, which should start to be added to our post war displays in the Spring of 2020.



Model – Landrover FFR c1988

2019-13

Gift: David Whitehouse

Another item to embellish our telling of 265's story is this fine rendition of a Landrover Fitted for Wireless in 1/35 scale by David Whitehouse. It should be swapped with our model of a Ferret during the Winter refit.

Our medal collection has taken on another array of fascinating sets along with their stories, chiefly thanks to Tim Rayson, C Squadron RY and the KSY Association. This year's crop was picked up at auction and all are currently on display in the ARC at Mitcham. The list is as follows

Medals of Lt G Bond **2019-03**

Gift: KSYA

Medals of Pvt Groom **2019-04**

Gift: C Sqn

Medals of Lt SG Hibbert **2019-05**

Gift: C Sqn

Medals of Cpl AG Wilkerson **2019-06**

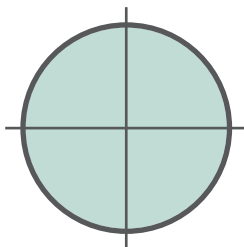
Gift: Tim Rayson

Medals of Trptr C Rutland **2019-07**

Gift: T Rayson & C Sqn

Looking forward to discovering more about the past in 2020.

Dan Taylor 30/11/2019



SHARPSHOOTER MEDALS

Edward Robert Couch BRADBURY

PS/885: 30 M. 11/44. Army Form W.3121 (58)

4 Arm'd Brigade Division 12 Corps Received 12.5.45 Passed 13.5.45 86

Schedule No (To be left blank) Unit 3/4 County of London Yeomanry Division

Rank and Army or Personal No T/Major 194190 Corps 16 May 45 22 May 45

Name BRADBURY, Edward Robert Couch RAC Sharpshooter Army 2 5 MAY 1945 13 JUN 1945

Christian names must be stated

| Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated) | Recommended by | Honour or Reward | (To be left blank) |
|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| During the period 1 Feb - 30 Apr 45 Major Bradbury has been in command of "G" Squadron of 3/4 CLY. | Lt. Col. M.C. McEntion | Periodical | 24.6.43 M.C. |
| On 28 Feb 45 near UDEM he was commanding the leading squadron when the Commanding Officer was killed and the second-in-command's tank was hit and set on fire. He immediately assumed control of the Regiment in addition to his own Squadron until Regimental Headquarters could be reformed. He then reorganised the entire tactical dispositions of the Regiment, in order to meet an unexpected enemy counter-attack. Despite the heavy losses of "G" Squadron in this action he reformed it and continued to lead it with tireless energy from the crossing of the RHINE on 25 March until the final capitulation of the enemy. | Lt. Col. M.C. McEntion | Periodical | 24.6.43 M.C. |
| This officer commanded the A.I. Echelon of the Regiment in the desert throughout the 1941-42 campaign, and invariably succeeded in maintaining supply to the tanks under the most hazardous circumstances, doing outstanding | Lt. Gen. M.C. McEntion | Periodical | 24.6.43 M.C. |

32766

LG 11 OCT 1945

COMMANDER, SECOND ARMY.

work in particular during the operations round KNIGHTSBRIDGE and ACRONA. He was Adjutant of the Regiment in SICILY and ITALY, and played an important role in the night attack on the WESSEM Canal last November, when he led his Squadron with detachments of Crocodiles, flails and AVRES up and along the canal tow-path by artificial moonlight, a task which he carried out with complete success, due to his own careful reconnaissance and preparations in the preceding days.

This officer has never missed a day's fighting since SIDI REZECH, and as a Squadron Leader in the period under review he has consistently distinguished himself by his personal courage, powers of leadership and organisation, and singular devotion to duty.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

| Nature of Casualty | Date |
|--------------------|------|
| Killed in action | |
| Died of Wounds | |
| Died | |
| Missing | |
| Prisoner of War | |



Who's Who in the Sharpshooters

No. 2.—Major E. R. C. BRADBURY, M.C.

THE present Second-in-Command's association with the Regiment goes back a long way. Edward Robert Couch Bradbury first joined "D" Section in April, 1929, when 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters) was under the command of Capt. Jago. He broke his service in 1933 and it was in June, 1941, that he rejoined 3rd C.L.Y. at Westbury as a subaltern.

Shortly after the Regiment's arrival in Egypt he was appointed Signals Officer and in November took over A.I Echelon. It is in this unenviable role that he is best remembered by many of us. Always uncomfortably close to the tanks, this small body of soft vehicles was easily recognisable by the rather curious humped-back 15-cwt. in which the echelon commander used to ride. His simple and effective method of signals within the echelon (a large red flag was flown from his truck at the halt and a blue one 10 minutes before moving off) was a further landmark. Only a first class navigator with unusual powers of endurance could have successfully commanded "Stuka's Delight," as A.I Echelon was wryly known at this difficult time, and the Regiment owes much to Teddie Bradbury and his boys.

He was promoted Captain in June, 1942, and was Adjutant from October, 1942, until December, 1943, when he became 2nd i/c "B" Squadron. Shortly after the amalgamation he took over command of "C" Squadron. He was awarded the M.C. in 1944. He remained O.C. "C" Squadron for nearly two years and was demobilised whilst the Regiment was at Schleswig in April, 1946.

As soon as the Sharpshooters were reconstituted as a T.A. Regiment in 1947, he rejoined as O.C. H.Q. Sqn. and became 2nd i/c of the Regiment last year. On the personal side, perhaps his main characteristics are a remarkable flair for organisation, the gift of preserving an unruffled calm under all circumstances and a dry and sometimes caustic wit. His alleged inability to pronounce the letter "r" earned him the nickname of "Wokey".

Reggie Davis's cartoon opposite calls for some explanation. On a very dark night somewhere in the Knightsbridge area Teddie Bradbury and his echelon were experiencing difficulty in locating the tanks, who were under the command of Colonel Grafftey-Smith. Although in wireless communication with the Colonel the echelon drove round and round for an hour or more without success. In the meantime a vehicle attached to Lt. Bradbury's party struck a mine and caught fire, lighting up the whole area. Eventually the C.O. in desperation asked: "Are you anywhere near the bright light?" Back over the air came Bradbury's answer: "I am the bright light!"

P.R.S.



Harold Chances **ALLAN**

W/L 42852/125, 30000, 2/40, W.S. Ltd. 51-0158, P. 4/W3121/6.

Army Form W 3121.

Date recommendation passed for award **543**
 Received **21 JAN 1942** Passed **1 FEB 1942**

22nd Armd. Brigade Division _____ Corps _____

Schedule No. _____ Unit **4th City of London Yeo.**
 (for full details)

Army No. and Rank **7892792 AP/WOII (SSU)**

Name **ALLAN Harold CHANCES**
 (Christian names must be stated)

| Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated) | Recommended by | Honour or Reward | (To be left blank) |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>This Warrant Officer has been conspicuous for his outstanding bravery and love of battle throughout the operations, he was fearless and untiring and a great help to his Squadron Leader.</p> <p>On 28th Dec. he was in the thick of the fighting all day. He engaged the enemy at very short range accounting for at least six enemy tanks himself.</p> <p>During the withdrawal he took part in the rear guard action and was one of the last to come out of action.</p> <p>No man could have done more with the material and ammunition at his disposal. On 30th Dec. he was again in the thick of the fighting all day and again accounted for several enemy tanks.</p> <p>On at least three occasions during these battles he towed broken down tanks out of the firing line, personally supervising the task himself outside his tank.</p> <p><i>W. H. W. 19 Jan. 1942</i> <i>W. H. W. 19 Jan. 1942</i> <i>W. H. W. 19 Jan. 1942</i></p> | <p>Lt. Col., W. G. Carr</p> | <p>Immediate Award</p> <p>D. C. H.</p> | <p><i>Pat. Norris</i> <i>Pat. Norris</i> <i>Pat. Norris</i></p> |

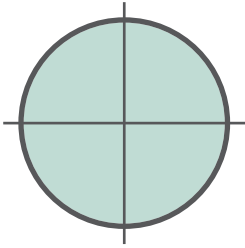
Lt. Col.,
W. G. Carr

Immediate Award

D. C. H.

General,
Commander-in-Chief,
Middle East Forces.





265 (KCLY (SHARPSHOOTERS)) SUPPORT SQUADRON OC REPORT

OC – Major David Lakin

2IC – Capt Dave Alleyne

SSM – WO2 Simon May

PSAO – Capt Steve Slaney

Trg Offr – Lt Ranny Wei

Trp Ldr – 2Lt Ian Dawes

SQMS – SSgt Rob Marshall

Looking back on 2019 in order to prepare this report has been a useful exercise in auditing. Did the squadron achieve the objectives set at the beginning of the year when I took over command from the caretaker OC, Captain Alleyne? Well it has certainly been a busy year and on the whole a successful one.

The Squadron focus for most of the year was emphatically on preparation for the regimental OTX –Ex LION STAR. Military skills and range work were very much to the fore in order to bring everyone up to the starting standard for the exercise. Old skills were brushed off and new skills learnt over three weekends of bespoke range packages and two weekends of military skills refresher training. Luckily all of the range weekends benefited from excellent weather, indeed the August range weekend proved to be a forewarning of the heat stress conditions which were to be a significant factor when we finally got to Cyprus.

The two military skills preparation weekends saw 2Lt Dawes, Sgt Porter and Cpl Harries all stepping into command appointments in the regimental orbat . Harbour drills, recce patrols and ambushes were the order of the day as the squadron refreshed its dismounted close combat skills (a useful reminder that whatever our technical role we are ‘soldiers first’).

Although OTX was very much a driving force in training for much of the year normal activities were by no means neglected. April saw the squadron attend the regimental MATTs concentration at Pirbright to be tested in shooting, fitness and all of the other military skills required to achieve a certificate of efficiency. The mandatory presentation on drug and alcohol policy was this year given a new spin – it was presented by a rehabilitated drug dealer.

Communication is normal business for the squadron so June and July saw us very much in signals mode. Ex COMMUNICATOR 3 in June was a regimental exercise held at Kenley airfield – an ideal location for a PACEX to test the equipment following an upgrade to the BOWMAN software during the previous month. Whilst the bulk of



Briefing to Troops prior to practicing harbour occupation drills.

the squadron had their hands on the kit SHQ practiced their role in a CP exercise hosted at Bexleyheath ARC. The work put in during June bore fruit in July when we took part in 11 Signal Brigade's Ex BUZZHAWK. All elements of the squadron were deployed and exercised in their primary role. The exercise enabled detachments to operate and learn beyond regimental level as communications were established with other units in the brigade as far afield as Scotland. In addition crews were given introductory training by their regular counterparts in the IRT teams at Woolwich. Although not yet in the reservist arsenal, being able to understand this kit and seeing how the regulars work is another skill-set that operators can take away.



FFRs at Kenley.



LCpls Liscoe and Lovett making sure everything works.

The first part of the year was not all work and no play however. In February members of the squadron participated in the regimental ski expedition, **EX PHOENIX SLIDE**, which was facilitated once again by our resident skiing ninja and 2IC Capt Alleyne. In September 2Lt Dawes led the squadron (with some friends from the rest of the regiment) on **EX HINDENBURG BREAKTHROUGH** a battlefield study to France and Belgium. The study was designed to examine the actions of the British Army during the final phase of World War 1 and to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors in the Kent Yeomanry and the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (a part of our history examined by Dave Whitehouse in last year's journal). Respects were paid and a wreath laid at the Menin Gate memorial to the missing.



At the Menin Gate.



2 Lt Dawes and his team at Armed Forces Day in Woolwich.

We even found time to participate in spot of public engagement as 2 Lt Dawes and a team from the squadron laid on a signalling stand at the Woolwich Armed Forces Day event at the former arsenal. There were a wide variety of units present including the Royal Marines, Royal Artillery and Grenadier Guards. But the working camouflaged Bowman FFR detachment, along with portable radios and recruiting gazebo proved to be irresistible to visitors passing by who got stuck in and immersed themselves in radio procedure!

Finally in October the culmination of the preparatory training arrived and at very early o'clock one Saturday we found ourselves at RAF Brize Norton waiting to board the trooping flight to Cyprus. All went smoothly (much more smoothly than those who had experienced trooping flights before expected) and we quickly found ourselves settled in to Dhekelia camp in the eastern sovereign base area. The two weeks that followed were hectic but great fun. Once briefings were over a week long range package started which brought the troops up to a level of individual skills which would normally be expected of a combat infantryman – the highlight of this phase being the night ambush. A constant feature of the first week was the unseasonably high temperature which meant that several times work had to stop until the heat stress index dropped to a safe level.

After a brief pause for personal admin and a cultural visit to the Green Line marking the ceasefire line in the Cypriot civil war the second week started with the military skills phase. Operating as an infantry company the regiment went into a scenario which tested the basic skills and drills practiced during the preparatory weekends. Moving through harbour occupation, recce patrols and ambushes the phase culminated in a company level assault on a compound to rescue captive 'friendly forces'.

The final phase of OTX saw the squadron dispersed across a number of adventure training packages. Some went to the Troodos Mountains to hillwalk and mountain bike



OTX, Captain Alleyne provides direction during the range package.

while others went climbing or took advantage of the watersports facilities close at hand in the sovereign base area. Needless to say by this stage the weather had broken and those in the mountains got the benefit of torrential rain. So the return to the UK turned out to be less of a shock than it might have been although most of us were sporting fairly decent squaddie tans.

Almost without pause we then went in to a spot of ceremonial as the Remembrance season was upon

us. The Squadron led the parade to Bexleyheath war memorial as in previous years, this time however smartly clad in service dress. This provided an ideal first opportunity for a spot of drill practice in preparation for the highlight of the first part of next year (of which more anon).

The year rounded off with the usual mixture of equipment care and festive celebration. The first weekend in December saw the detachments and G4 staff checking over all the kit prior to close down under the watchful eye of the PSI(T). A squadron



At Bexleyheath after the Remembrance Parade.



Sig Majoros winner of the 2019 SSM's prize.

smoker was held on Saturday evening and an old tradition was revived with the award of Squadron Commander and SSM's Prizes. Congratulations go to Sgt Crane (OC's Prize winner) and Sig Majoros (SSM's Prize winner).

The final event of the year was the squadron Christmas party once more ably arranged by Sgt Crane. Who was that man with the white beard and red coat at the children's party? Could it have been the RQMS (V)?

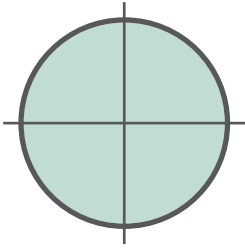
Before looking forward, briefly, to what is in store for next year I need to record the changes of key personnel during the year. June saw a change of SSM as WO2 Kev Elliott moved closer to home taking up a post in Chelmsford. WO2 Simon May took up the post of SSM coming to us from the regimental operations team. In September we said goodbye to CSgt Rob Norton who moved on to pastures new

and welcomed a new SQMS, SSgt Rob Marshall. In April our PSI(T) Navin Gurung swapped posts with SSgt Georgie Lodge and moved to 68 (ICCY) Sqn. SSgt Lodge in turn moved on and in November Sgt Andy Weight took up the post (which we hope he will occupy for a little longer than his predecessors).

Finally a look forward to 2020. The key event in the first part of the year is the Privileged Regiment Parade which will see us marching through the City of London on 25 January to be reviewed at the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor of London. Plenty of drill practice and polishing is in prospect. The rest of the year will see a return to an emphasis on communications with plenty of opportunities to rectify any skill fade after more than a year concentrating on military skills and drill.

It has been a busy but productive year for the squadron. Meanwhile I look forward to meeting fellow Sharpshooters at the Bexleyheath briefing evening on 25 February where I can fill in the mass of detail which didn't find its way into this report.





EX PHOENIX HINDENBURG BREAKTHROUGH 19

by 2Lt I Dawes

The Regimental battlefield study finally came to fruition, with 19 personnel deploying to Belgium and France to study the battlefields of the First World War.

Instead of studying all 4 years of the war, the study focused on the last 18 months or so which enabled the Regt to witness the fundamental changes in how the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) operated from mid 1917 to November 1918.

Day 1

After a very early start on the Thursday morning, the group got the ferry to Calais and headed to Belgium to commence their study, by examining the 3rd Battle of Ypres. But first, with the study focusing on the latter part of the war, the context needed to be covered in order to enable the participants to put the actions of 1917/18 into perspective.

Sgt Crane, Sgt Porter and Cpl Hennigan laid the foundation for this, highlighting not only the initial failings of the BEFs tactics but also the domestic developments and other issues that hampered operational effectiveness such as the issue of recruiting able bodied men by 1916 which were becoming short in supply, or the unlimited submarine warfare that the Germans had waged on merchant shipping.



With the context of 1917 set, the stands kicked off with the assault of Polygon Wood in 1917. The key development saw the use of General Plumer's 'bite and hold' strategy. Instead of advancing continuously and exhausting themselves, formations would capture their objective and consolidate themselves before a reserve unit would push through to the next; a fundamental shift from the initial battles of all-out assaults that were unsustainable and cost massive human life.



On the way to Tyne Cot, the participants followed the advance of the 33rd Australian Battalion and soon began to realise how complex the western front was, by

examining the German defensive strategy. Far from just lines of trenches, the group came across numerous pillboxes, each with interlocking fire and in-depth positions. The realisation of the challenges faced by high command and those on the ground was made by all, especially by LCpl Lovett who was tasked to explain how he would command a section to take one down. The point hit home when the group realised that despite all the efforts of taking down a pillbox, there would inevitably be a connected trench or a supporting pillbox. Clearing out an enemy position on our exercises is intense work as it is but is nothing when compared to what a WW1 platoon had to deal with. This insight was put into some context by Tolkien's 'They shall not grow old' film. The impact of colourising WW1 footage and using testimonies, the sheer horror and chaos of war was cemented in everyone's minds.



By looking at the harsh conditions of fighting, it emphasised the huge challenge of command and control. The conditions and heavy kit that soldiers carried meant that they would be slow moving and had to, naturally, stick close together in order to hear their orders from the platoon commander. However, with rounds coming in from machine guns and constant bombardment, men would take cover in water-filled craters – how could command and control genuinely be carried out? It was this realisation that highlighted the problems that all those who fought faced.

The group reached Tyne Cot cemetery where, again, the interlocking pillboxes could be seen. There was even one under the memorial cross, as decided by King George V himself when the cemetery was built. It was a sober moment, with Pte Mackee VC's grave being one of the only VC recipients to be buried in a place where you can see the battlefield where he earned it – by storming a pillbox, clearing it and pushing onto the next.



The evening saw the most profound memorial ceremony and one that would remain in memory for the participants. It was the Menin Gate ceremony that has been carried out every single day since WW2 and it always attracts hundreds of civilians and military personnel alike who want to pay their respects. We were not civilians that day. We were not behind a barrier. We were stood in the very centre of the ceremony, representing the



Regiment and we paid our respects to the fallen. This act was a huge honour to Sig Uhl, sig Gurung and Sgt Sharpe who were chosen to lay the wreath on behalf of the Regiment; they did us proud. As the first group to pay their respects, they marched proudly up to the steps and laid the wreath of 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment right in the centre for all to see. It was a touching ceremony and a special moment for all involved.

Day 2

Armed with contextual knowledge and the understanding of the sheer challenge that both soldiers and officers were faced, the second day saw the focus on the two major offensives of the Battle of Cambrai and Operation Michael.

Capt Sherchan, WO2 Hawtree, SSgt Aldridge and Sig Rideout gave a comprehensive presentation on the Battle of Cambrai. The battle saw the first attempt modern combined warfare, with the use of tanks, artillery, aircraft and of course the infantry. With so many components, like with any operation, there was considerable planning and coordination needed in order to pull off the operation. Aircraft flew over to conceal the noise of the tanks and tanks moved at night to avoid being spotted. Aircraft were used for reconnaissance and to bomb the enemy for the first time in support of the advancing infantry. The advance of 5 miles seemed a success, exploiting the principles of warfare; surprise, concentration of firepower and security. However, the battle had its flaws. As a diversionary attack of the Battle of Ypres to the north, the fact that it took 3 months to plan and execute undermined its original aim. The participants therefore grasped the idea that although there can be a multitude of apparent preparation, the preparation can be done in the wrong way, as was shown by the fact that the BEF advance in the battle was stopped as it could not sustain itself (a key principle of war) and thus had to withdraw. These issues were not exclusive to the BEF, however, as the Germans experienced the exact same problem in their counter attack.



G4, therefore was paramount, as it is in all wars. What was new in this battle, was the introduction of the tank and although it was a considerable weapon, relative to the

rifleman and his rifle, it had to be used in conjunction with other assets. Participants realised the need to question but importantly embrace new ideas and see how changes can be positive; the disastrous impact of not embracing ideas as shown by the 51st Division who were massacred when the tanks and infantry advanced separately.

The BS did not always focus on the actions of the BEF. Operation Michael was the major offensive in 1918 and a presentation was given by Sig Uhl, Sig Gurung and Sig Majoros, otherwise known as the three musketeers!



The presentation and stand emphasised the trench layout structure of the BEF, with early warning systems posted beyond the main battlefront (where the main bulk of the BEF would be waiting). The troops in these further forward positions therefore knew that they were going to die when the German onslaught approached. The advance was unprecedented, with the Germans reaching 10km from Amiens. It therefore showed the sheer courage and determination of the BEF to hold the Germans; all at a time when resources and man-power were in short supply.

This huge advance played havoc on communication, as shown at the last stand of the day at the cemetery devoted to the 2nd Suffolk Regiment. The Regiment were at the edge of the German advance and were able to see them advancing but had no idea what was going on. Participants took their head out of the military bubble and began to understand the changing political landscape that was occurring during the war; the Russian revolution, the entry of US into the war and the politics of Lloyd George. Politics may seem like a distant and irrelevant aspect of war for soldiers but to understand it is paramount. The changing political landscape meant that G1 was put under pressure as Lloyd George held back 300,000 troops to lower casualty rates and gain power; the Russian revolution meant German troops came over to the western front and the entry of US into the war forced Germany to pre-empt with Operation Michael before they establish a foothold. All these examples were brought to life, enabling each participant to understand the implications of major events, past and present, and what it means to those fighting wars at every level; not something simply confined to politicians and debate chambers.

Day 3

Too often, wars are written and presented to us from the perspective of an Englishman and the involvement of English men signing up for King and country. Of course, this played a part, however Day 3 showed to us that this was only part of the picture. Due to the power and influence of the British Empire of the time, the participants were educated on the influence of commonwealth troops – particularly the Australians under General Monash, one of the most underrated generals of the war.

A visit to Monash's Corp HQ introduced the concept of the underlying structures that underpinned the operational effectiveness of the fighting force - discipline.

Unlike the discipline of today, the methods of discipline in the war were far more extreme such as over 300 being executed for military crimes, or punishment number 1 which involved being tied up for all to see and mock. Although, thankfully, we don't use these methods today, the parallels are obvious. The values and standards of the British Army remain a key tool for every person, regardless of rank, to abide by for not just self-respect but also to lead others in times of distress. There is a reason that the BS was open to all ranks. The lessons learnt from all the stands apply to all; regardless of their rank.

On the way to the next stand, the BS stopped at the memorial to the 3rd Ulster Regiment, which had a small museum and plaque to the 9 VCs earned by the Regiment. The participants managed to get hands on with a replica webbing and rifle, with a bayonet; thus, adding to the realism, especially when comparing to the much lighter and flexible kit that we use today.

After 2Lt Dawes wrote in the memorial visitor book and a photo, the BS travelled to the Australian memorial near Villers Bret. This huge memorial was a focal point for the annual ANZAC day and boasts an impressive view of the surrounding area – showing the vast openness that troops had to scale but also the importance of the objectives that the BEF fought for. The initial reaction of the BEF fighting for a village or hill is that of indifference, until one sees the strategic value these locations add.

Whilst having lunch, the participants visited the visitors centre which had an immersive film of the Australian battles, with 180-degree screens and graphic imagery.

The Australian visitors centre highlighted the leadership of Gen Sir John Monash, who initially concerned his peers, but his actions at Le Hamel proved his worth. This was the penultimate stand which showed how meticulous and considerate planning enabled success. Le Hamel was the battle that was the fruition of Monash's top leadership, with tanks and aircraft resupplying the frontlines, enhanced communication and constant rehearsals. This success opened the way forward for the discussion of leadership. By looking at the leadership code, the group discussed the effectiveness of Monash's leadership, by him encouraging team work, inspiring confidence and leading by example. However, it was noted that these traits did not have to come from one person from the top and the participants soon realised that they possess the ability to do this within their own squadrons. The idea of cooperating with other forces were highlighted by Cpl Harries and Sgt Porter – a





common theme for those in World War 1 who were working with commonwealth and US troops. Parallels were present despite these actions taking place over 100 years ago.

The last stand of the day was the Battle of Amien and a thorough presentation was given by Sgt Sharpe, LCpl Needham-Beck and Sig Jackson. The Battle of Amien was the start of the Hundred Day Offensive, where this BS gets its name from. Like Le Hamel, the sheer preparation enabled a successful operation such as the use of deception plans to confuse the German high command. However, as like all stands and battles, the participants never forgot that although there were advances, there was a huge cost. Every day throughout the Hundred Day Offensive, for example, the daily rate was 4,000 dead – far more than the infamous Battle of the Somme which is perceived to be a military blunder.

The day ended with a trip into the centre of Amien and a last meal at a riverside restaurant, enabling everyone to reflect on what they had learnt up until that point but to also relax and bond with those from other Squadrons. After a fantastic spread of three courses, a short speech was given along with toast by the OIC, 2Lt Dawes in World War 1 fashion to King George V!

Day 4

The final day of the BS approached at what seemed like breakneck speed.

With the final checkout, the group were on its way to the final few stands. But before that, WO2 Hawtree gave a summary of the work and structure of her regiment, 3DSR; a valuable insight as they become increasingly involved with us.

It was the culmination of the three days before, with the first stand of the day focusing on the Mont St Quentin offensive. This assault was a fundamental shift from trench warfare to open mobile warfare, after the Amien offensive broke the trench stalemate. However, although the trenches were no more, this did not mean it was any easier. It was immediately obvious for the participants that the battlefield was still dangerously open, which emphasised the importance of fire and manoeuvre and reacting to enemy fire... sound familiar?

The intensity of the defensive enemy positions and exposed terrain made everyone think of the core courage needed to carry out the assaults but also the de-centralised execution on the ground level, making use of the resources available to the infantry

such as the trench mortar and heavy Vickers MG. This was especially staggering, given that troop numbers were low, with examples of platoons having only 15 men. But, with increased variance of weaponry on offer for the infantry they worked together to become force multipliers. Doing this is something that everyone, at every level can work towards with the correct leadership and resources.

What followed was the final presentation by Cpl Harries, LCpl Lovett and Sig Wilsher – the development of comms. The use of signals expanded exponentially during the war both in the technology but also the use of it; ranging from effective wireless radios and transmitters on planes, to the use of dogs to lay cables and the expanse of Corps HQ. For example, the average messages in a Corps HQ rose from 100 a day to 4,500...

The war therefore showed a massive change in communication in reaction to a changing need and challenge which led to a discussion of the future of the Royal Signals Corps. Is the Corps reacting to its current threats at the same pace? Where will the future changes come from? Are we ready for operations as we are currently operating? There were no firm answers, but it showed how actions from a war a hundred years ago have significant impact on today.

The last stand, at Quentin Canal, which was the beginning of the end of the Hundred Days Offensive. Again, Gen Monash shone in his planning and execution, with the integration of US troops and tanks. The major obstacle for him was the canal but the speed of the execution and, importantly, the sustainment of this meant that the canal was seized which enabled the BEF to continue its offensive into the German lines and eventually win the war. The bridge remained as is from 1918 which brought the stand to life for everyone and one could sense the relieve of those in the photos posing on the canal sides – relief of the end of the battle and relieve that the end of the war was in sight.

The BS enabled reflection. Reflection of military offensive actions but also the sacrifice of those who fought it. The BS enabled three individuals to pay respects to those relatives close to them, who were Sig Jackson, Sig Rideout and WO2 Hawtree. Each had their own personal wooden cross to pay their respects, a hugely personal and touching affair.

The Regiment held its final act of remembrance in Bellicourt cemetery. After a brief on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Sgt Crane, each participant put a wooden cross of remembrance next to a headstone that meant something to them; the same family name, same age, it didn't matter. This was the opportunity for each person to truly reflect on what those soldiers went through so that we can live in freedom. A final act of remembrance was made at the memorial, with Sig Jackson laying the wreath on behalf of the Regiment, followed by a minute's silence. As shown in all previous stands, the one consistent theme was the enormous cost associated with every offensive. Despite all the changes and improvements, the soldiers and their lives are at the very heart of war.

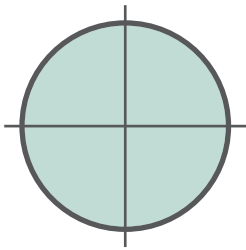




The BS therefore enabled personnel from all Squadrons to study a previous war, looking at military tactics, strategy and the doctrine that underlines what happens and what happens today. However, it enabled those to develop on a personal level through each stand impacting someone differently from each other. These insights are crucial for future development and the Regiment relies on individuals who are able to use their knowledge to further themselves and others – something that a BS is a key gateway towards.

OIC
2Lt I Dawes
Tp Cmdr 265





EX PHOENIX SLIDE

(2-9 FEB 2019)
- LT RANNY WEI
(TP CMDR 265 SP SQN)

Just as temperatures were dropping and snow began falling in London, 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment flew out to the French Alps to conduct our annual Adventurous Training exercise – alpine skiing in the **Grand Massif** resort in *Flaine, France*.

The party assembled on Friday 1 Feb prior to an early start on Saturday, and especially early for **WO2 Si May** and **Sgt Charlie Woo**, who'd selflessly volunteered to drive the support vehicle all the way to the resort whilst the rest flew out to **Geneva**. Live updates of the resort being closed due to heavy snow brought excitement and anxiety – are we going to ski at all this week, or will we have the softest powder to devour?!

Upon arrival at the picturesque village of *Samoëns*, situated at the bottom of the ski area, the excitement of the millimetres of snow back home was put to shame by the waist-high white walls which had settled only the night before. The excitement really kicked in when skis and boots were collected in the quiet but colourful village. Still tentative as to whether the “pistes” (ski runs) will re-open in the morning, the party split into quartets to settle into the self-catering chalets for the week ahead. Terrace, balcony, comfy rooms, modern kitchen, coffee filter machine – check; spa and sauna – if only...!

The first day began with group allocations as we waited for the sun (forecasted for the whole week) to clear the mist and allow the pistes to fully open. Introductions were made by **Matty** and **Ads**, two Regular soldiers who'd stepped up at short notice to offer their kind help to instruct on our AT complete novice group with **Matty**, Ski Foundation 1 (first ski-proficiency qualification) continuation group with **Ads**. Ski Foundation 2 continuation group with chief instructor **Dave**. **Capt Dave Alleyne** (2IC 265 Sp Sqn) is our Regt's ski know-it-all who claims to know the resort inside out, although he is credited by many returners this year who'd learnt to ski for the first time by attending Ex Phoenix Slide in previous years.

The beginners, **Capt Raj Sherchan** (36 Sig Sqn), **Sgt Nav Gurung** (265 Sp Sqn) and **Sig Harry Hawks** (31 Sig Sqn), waddled onto the shuttle bus, still experimenting with the odd-fitting ski boots. Some more seasoned skiers certainly spiced up the flavour with their vibrant neon outfits – **SSgt Daz Cooper** in bright orange, **Capt Scott Tomblin** in punchy pink, **Lt Ranny Wei** in fluorescent yellow! Although, these may have proven useful on the first afternoon as the thick mist was still glued to the mountain, making it difficult for everyone to find their feet, literally!

The beginner group were introduced to basic movements with all the gear and began to move on skis whilst focussing on the correct technique and postures. Endless snowploughs made for a tough workout! **Sgt Nav Gurung** shared his experience:

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the view from 2500m altitude at the top of *Flaine* resort – clearly standing out in front of us was the unfiltered grandeur of Mt Blanc. Mandatory tourist snaps obtained, the successful week (with no major incidents or injuries) was wrapped up with a team meal in town. Of course, not that this was necessarily better than the home cooking at which all the expd participants have clearly improved this week – more skills gained than just skiing, clearly!



Regimental personnel pose in front of “Mont Blanc”.

Ex Lightning Strike (15-17 Feb) - 2Lt Ian Dawes (265 Sp Sqn)

Ex Lightning Strike is the annual Potential Officers engagement event held at Corps HQ in Blandford. The annual event provides the opportunity for more than 100 Officer Cadets (OCdts) from across the UK to learn about the exciting and varied operations and training opportunities available at 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment.

A party consisting of **Maj Carr, Capt Pryke, Lt Wei, 2Lt Dawes and 2Lt Cuthbertson** braved the fog and windswept training area to advocate London’s only Reserve Signals unit.

OCdts were given a command task which involved transporting cargo across a minefield on a narrow pre-designated path. Sounds easy, right? However, with everyone bar one blindfolded and under time pressure, recruits’ communication and leadership skills were thoroughly tested. Despite numerous failed attempts and some questionable manoeuvres from those tip-toeing blindly, recruits learned the importance of clear, concise information being conveyed effectively and thus the importance of the Corps in all operations.

The three Young Officers were on hand to provide an insight into the Reserves from a YO perspective, sharing with the visitors what being a troop commander really involves, which captured the attention of aspiring Potential Officers. Although already committed to a Regular Army career path, the Defence Technical University Scheme

(DTUS) OCdts understood the importance and prevalence of the work of the Reserves which they recognised as a growing component of the British Army.

The day of stands showcasing all the various Regiments and specialist roles within the Corps finished with a final race, with OCdts having to extract a casualty, connect and use a field telephone and evacuate a casualty... all under fire. This was no mean feat and was designed to reflect the valiant actions of Cpl Thomas Waters, a signaller who was awarded the Military Cross in 1944.

The day's work was topped off with a formal Mess Dinner in the Corps Officers Mess, in company of the Corps Colonel Regular and Reserves. A mix of black tie and red tunic, the dinner reflected the abundant social life and community across the Corps which is, and always will be, a key attraction of the Corps' rich culture and tradition.

A key event in the recruiting calendar, Ex Lightning Strike continues to attract the future members of the Corps from a variety of backgrounds. With enthusiastic promoters of the Regt and engaging interaction with a keen recruitment pool, the success of the weekend will continue to bear fruit not only for the ever-growing Corps but also for the only Signals Regiment in London and South East.

EX PHOENIX WARRIOR 1 – 2LT Ian Dawes

The weekend of 22nd-24th saw 71 Signal Regt and elements of 265 Sp Sqn deploy to Longmoor to train troops in basic soldiering skills; advocating that we are signallers first and soldiers always.

Troops with mixed abilities and experiences deployed as a platoon from across the Regiment.

Making the most of daylight, lessons began with selected Reservists refreshing the troops' knowledge of the basic soldiering skills with focus on the 6 section battle drills. This was overseen by members of the Permanent Staff who then gave feedback to develop the Reservists' skills.

After a harbour lesson given by the Platoon Commander, the tactical phase of the exercise began. Armed with the knowledge given to them, it was time to put it to the test, under the eyes of the DS. With affiliated cadets intertwined, a harbour was established swiftly with the lesson fresh in their minds and hard routine was soon established just before nightfall.

The exercise stepped up in its intensity with Pl recce orders, with pressure put on the section commanders to formulate their own recce orders within a fast turnaround. Not only did this test their initiative and judgement but also their leadership with a section in which most had not operated with each other before. With enemy OPs, minimal moonlight, intertwining tracks and the importance of swiftness, all had their soldiering skills tested; navigation, patrolling drills, voice procedure and situational awareness.



Briefing to Troops prior to occupying harbour drills.

After gathering vital int on the enemy positions, their work was far from over. Whilst still fresh in their minds, detailed patrol reports were written after a section debrief which crucially fed into the Platoon Commander's plan for the morning attacks.

After a brief sleep, the Platoon mustered for their final offensive action to defeat and push out the enemy from the AO. In full fighting order, sections left the safety of the harbour and, based on the int gathered previously, set out to use what they had learnt to defeat the enemy positions. All enemy positions were destroyed methodically, with each soldier's skills and drills becoming ever more refined each time.



Troops receiving orders for a RECCE.

Soldiers learnt the lesson to never switch off, when the harbour was attacked by the remaining pockets of enemy resistance, in a surprise twist. Under the Platoon Commander's orders, the enemy were successfully repelled with a platoon worth of suppressive fire and control from the section commanders and 2ICs. However, with the position compromised, soldiers were forced to swiftly bug out of the location to the emergency rendezvous to regroup and await further orders. But unknown to them, that was the end of the exercise.

Ex Phoenix Warrior 1 greatly enhanced the soldiers' core infantry skills and was made all the more effective by the high attendance. With such numbers, it made the exercise more realistic but also easier to execute on every level. Despite being fatigued, the exercise was enjoyed by all and made a refreshing contrast to the normal comms exercises that we pride ourselves on. Ex Phoenix Warrior 1 gave troops the chance to develop and establish an additional skillset and environment to improve their professional development. Ex Phoenix Warrior 1 has laid very strong foundations for Ex Phoenix Warrior 2 later this year, which will build on the skills learnt over the weekend. As a result, it will be more realistic and challenging but importantly more rewarding for all those who attend; an exercise that we all very much look forward to.

EX SHARP FOCUS – PRE-BATTLEFIELD STUDY – IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM – 2LT Ian Dawes

Ex Sharp Focus was a study day at the Imperial War Museum devoted to preparing those going on a battlefield study in September 2019. The battlefield study, Ex Phoenix Hindenberg Breakthrough will examine the last battles of the First World War on the western Front and the tactics and strategy which led to Allied victory. The study day aimed to better prepare those attending the battlefield study in order to maximise learning on the ground at each battlefield.

The Imperial War Museum's newly refurbished gallery dedicated to the First World War examines a range of themes from weaponry, political context, new technology and infantry tactics, allowing visitors to be fully immersed in the life of a soldier of the period. Although starting with a focus on the global and political aspect of the war, the

displays showed the human side of the war; something that is often overlooked and yet proved to be all the more impacting. Seeing handmade trench clubs and hearing raw accounts of injury, for example, brought the horror of trench warfare to the present day. Although being over a century old the war to end all wars, like any war, still resonates with the public today; especially with fellow soldiers.

The breadth of what the museum had on offer meant that there was also time to study other periods of war, with the values and standards of the British Army acting as a handrail for all.

The holocaust exhibit made a powerful impact and acted as a reminder of the need for leadership based on strongly founded standards and values.

Other exhibits also provided more recent examples of conflict in the 20th century such as the Cold War between the US and Russia, UN involvement in Cyprus and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The experience of so many theatres in a short amount of time showed how conflict changes drastically, with different environments, enemies and technologies. However, by contrast some theatres remain frozen in time, for example Cyprus where the demilitarised zone of the Green Line has remained for decades and shows no signs of changing.

The day was academically stimulating for all, with those attending leaving with a greater appreciation of what those soldiers in the First World War had to deal with. The insight therefore emphasised the importance of relying on core values and standards instilled through training to achieve a collective goal. This was reinforced by the day being conducted in civvies. With no uniform or rank slides, the day bonded together the officers and soldiers alike. As plans are finalised for Ex Phoenix Hindenberg Breakthrough, the study day has provided a strong foundation for deeper analysis when on the battlefields of northern France. The artefacts and stories on display in the Museum will bring to life the realities of war on the seemingly empty open fields of Flanders, Artois and Picardy.

Ex Communicator 3 June 19– 2Lt Ian Dawes

Ex Communicator 3 saw the Regt deploy its vast fleet of FFRs and CST Dets for a PACEX of the upcoming Ex Buzz-hawk, a Brigade-wide UK exercise. Technical skills and procedures had to, therefore, be at the highest standard. Coinciding with the Bowman 5.6 uplift, this weekend proved invaluable in preparing the Regt and its Sqns for operations.

Each Sqn met at the Kenley airfield *en masse* and, under the direction of PSIs and PSI techs, started their PACEX. It was hugely beneficial for all, across all skill-sets, in seeing the bigger picture but also developing the Bowman capabilities in responding to an increasingly complex scenario. Sig Mann, yet to be classed, thoroughly enjoyed the weekend: "...though I am not traded...I really enjoyed the weekend. It was particularly helpful to see it all put into practice and observe how the Bowman radios work. It is a very technical field, but it all makes more sense now, especially because everyone was very willing to explain what was happening and I did learn a lot. I would actually highly recommend that all recruits attend a weekend such as this one before commencing their trade course." Conversely, LCpl Lovett, an experienced CS Op, also learnt a great deal:



“This exercise was a useful PACEX in preparation for the upcoming Buzz-hawk Exercise. It was also good to see some of the new BOWMAN uplift and to learn a few advanced Det capabilities, as well as to ensure our Dets are generally in a good state of readiness. With the rest of the Regiment attending and visits from CO, 2IC and Ops Major, it was a great opportunity to catch up on recent and future updates.”



With the comms element concentrated on the airfield, the command element was based in Bexleyheath ARC with RHQ and 265 Sp Sqn. After an initial training lesson on the basics of forming up a Sqn Command Post (SCP) as well as seeing where our Regt fits into UK-Ops, each Sqn established a SCP and responded to a real-life scenario, acting as ISOC 71. As the scenario became more complex, each SCP reacted swiftly by sending out orders, conscious of resourcing, timings and the overall mission for the UK-Op. Many lessons were learnt, with each Sqn exchanging ideas as to how to set up an SCP. This was especially beneficial for the newer officers who have joined the Regt and experienced their first full comms-based weekend exercise. Full credit to WO1 Clarke, Foreman of 71stY SR, for establishing a comprehensive training weekend for the officers.



71stY SR are not all about comms and SCPs, however. Clerks and medics also developed their skills over the weekend to enable them to stay sharp in their critical role in the Regt. Without pay and administration, the Regt would cease to function. Although few in number, the value added is huge. Equally, medics need to be focused in their role to deal with every eventuality. By checking and practising with kit, it enables key individuals to be relied upon to deal with anything from a gunshot wound to a broken femur.

Overall, Ex Communicator 3 was a fantastic weekend in developing the capability of the Regt. With each component focusing on their respective training, it was focussed and advanced and thus ideal for preparing the Regt for Ex Buzzhawk in the coming weeks. Mistakes were made by all but this was the time to make them, learn from them and develop from there on, for future exercises. With all Sqns convening for their specific training, the concentration of experience, ideas and effort meant that the Regt has increased its quality of expertise which it will be able to advocate in the upcoming Brigade exercise.

Ex Phoenix Buzz-Hawk 1-2 July 19 – 2Lt Dawes

The first week in June saw the Regiment partake in the Bde exercise on Ex Buzzhawk. Using both CSTs and FFRs, this was a key exercise to demonstrate and practice the Regimental capability. Only occurring once a year, the previous PACEX on Ex Communicator 3 was hugely important in preparing operators to hit the ground running and for each Sqn to make the most of this opportunity.

With the preparation on Friday, the Sqns braced themselves for their deployment orders from JFCIS and the ISOC. The scenario was based on something that could genuinely be a reality. The scenario was based on a major emergency with widespread flooding across the South East of England, with assets deployed to provide communications infrastructure to the civil authorities. As with all exercises, the context and changing operational need required each Sqn to react quickly and effectively at short notice. This was crucial practice for those trained for, or looking to train for, HRR.

Like all exercises, there were some stumbling blocks for each Sqn but these were overcome with obvious determination by each operator; clearly advocating 'Fight for Comms'. 265 Sqn, for example, were challenged by the unique infrastructure of the Bexleyheath ARC which limited the effectiveness of the HF radio waves. Efforts were also not helped by the baking sun which was an extra hurdle for already busy crews.

The exercise enabled crews to operate and learn beyond Sqn level. As a Bde exercise, comms were established with other Regts in the Bde and it is not often that crews set up comms to reach Scotland. Further to that, crews were exposed to introductory training with the IRT teams at Woolwich by their regular counterparts. Although not yet in the Reservist arsenal, being able to understand this kit and seeing how the other Regulars work is another skill-set that operators can stockpile.

The exercise was a success for all, albeit far from an easy one. Operators tackled changing frequencies and challenging geography with limited sleep. They were the unsung heroes who enabled each ISOC to liaise with JFCIS and disperse orders. A learning curve for all, it enabled our Regt to identify how to improve. For example, changing the location of the ISOC and introducing staff work for operators to send and receive information will bring the Regiment closer to the realism for those on HRR. Once implemented, these improvements are sure to set the operators and officers alike in good stead. With the ever-changing context of our Regt this exercise was key in realising one of our primary roles of UK Ops. Although hectic and at times stressful, the output of exercises like this one show the uniqueness of our Regiment.

Drapers Company Church Service and Network Lunch

2Lt I Dawes 265 Sp Sqn - Tp Cmdr

When you think of your average Reservist calendar of events, you would think... Tuesday drill night and a monthly weekend exercise, right?

Thankfully the Reserves is not that predictable or repetitive and on Wednesday 3rd July 2Lt Dawes, Cpl Young and Sig Wilsher took on the opportunity to represent the Regiment at the Drapers Association in central London. It was a stark contrast for 2Lt Dawes to leave board rooms and suites at lunchtime for a church service and lunch in No2s!

The London Worshipful Company of Drapers remains a vital link for Regimental stakeholder engagement. Not only is it a key benefactor to the Regiment through funding and direction, it forms part of the Regiment's identity and history. The Drapers has been around for nearly 600 years and so it is important for each heritage-rich organisation to develop in tandem together.

The event started with a church service at St Michaels Cornfield near the Bank of England. Behind the hustle and bustle of meetings and business lunches this quaint but impressive church hosted over 150 members and guests of the association, including officers and members of the RAF and Welsh Guards.

With the experienced St Michaels choir, the service did not disappoint, with an impressively sung anthem combined with a powerful organ. Father Andrew Moughtin - Mumby, the first Jamaican priest of the Church preached in his geography themed address the importance of caring for the complex and unique earth we live in but also the complex and unique diverse people that inhabit it. Nowhere is this more relevant in today's world with mounting environmental and social issues but it equally applies to the approach of the British Army.

Although relatively operationally inactive, the British Army cannot remain complacent in how it interacts on the globe both physically but morally. As the world changes, the Army must change and adapt in line with this. Equally, it must continue to fully support its most important asset; its people. The Army must continue to cherish the variety of backgrounds of those it employs and must continue to strive to diversify. This is to not only reflect the country that it serves but to also benefit it operationally. Much like the Reserves, recruiting from a wide background brings a range of professional, personal and physical experience which can only be good for all.

After the church service was a networking drinks and lunch at the Drapers Hall in the illustrious venue. It enabled essential networking and to showcase the work and link of the military, which was well received by all encountered. Despite the event happening in a short window, its impact was greatly important with members of the Drapers Company gaining a better understanding of our affiliation and the work we do.



Armed Forces Day – Woolwich – 29th June 2Lt I Dawes & LCpl A Lovett

265 Sp Sqn

On Saturday 29th June 2019, 265 Support Squadron (71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment) attended the Armed Forces Day event at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich; a day to celebrate the past, current and future roles of the regular and reserve Armed Forces. The day was an opportunity for the military to mix with the public, with Woolwich taking on a street party-esque atmosphere, with live music, food & drink, children's entertainment and activities & events to showcase the Armed Forces.

There were a wide variety of units representing, including the Royal Marines, Royal Artillery, Grenadier Guards and of course the mighty Royal Signals! 265 Support Squadron promoted the Corps by providing a working camouflaged Bowman FFR detachment, along with portable radios and recruiting gazebo, which all amounted to a significantly sized stand and it proved to be irresistible for visitors passing by to get stuck in and immerse themselves. Under 2Lt Dawes and Sgt Porter, Cpl Myers, LCpl Lovett, LCpl Liscoe, Sig Wilsher, Sig Uhl and Sig Man arrived mid-morning to set up. Despite such an early start it was already clear that the day was going to be extremely hot.

About midday, visiting members of the public began to increase along with the temperature. Families, children, veterans and serving military all stopped by to see who we were and what we do. Ex-military members shared their stories and experiences of using radios in their military career, who were used to far heavier and bulkier radios; emphasising how technology has changed so much in such a small space of time!

Having our Bowman detachment allowed people to get a hands-on insight. Kids loved to get in the back of the FFR and put on the headset, with some trying on LCpl Liscoe's helmet for size as well as putting the backpack on to see if they could hold the weight. Comms were made, with some interesting callsigns being transmitted (sometimes shouted!).

This was another huge success in promoting the Armed Forces and engaging with the public as well as to promote the Corp and Regiment. This was especially important for us, given our role in HRR which we pride ourselves on. This interest was shown by the Sqn receiving multiple requests from potential recruits for further information about how to join the Regiment. Importantly, also, the families gained a better understanding of how the Reserves works and how it enhances people physically, mentally and professionally; thus a double edged sword to the recruitment drive!



By mid-afternoon, the hottest day of the year was in full effect. The social atmosphere of the day meant that there was plenty of food and drink for all, especially ice lollies, which were very well received. Visits from the OC 265 Sp Sqn, SVWO and other dignitaries including Brigadier Robertson (an ex-signaller) as well as former members of the Regiment. All were fully appreciative of our work and the show of support from the general public was overwhelming. It was clear that the support for the armed services has, and should continue to, permeate at every level. Days like these are crucial in reinforcing the positive relationship between civilian and soldier worlds; a relationship the British Army is fundamentally built upon.

EX PHOENIX WARRIOR 2 19 - 21 JUL 19 – CPL HARRIES

It was that time again, the 2nd planned infantry weekend of 2019 which saw 265 put together a lean, mean fighting section of 265's magnificent 7 (Sgt Porter, Cpl Harries, LCpl Lovett, LCpl Stewart and Sigs Gurung, Majoros and Uhl). Friday night came, typically raining, though it was warm so not so bad. My first task was to ignore Mrs Harries' temptation of staying at home in the dry, with a bottle of wine and takeaway... temptation ignored. I made my way to Bexleyheath ARC to be greeted by most of the team eagerly prepping kit. Feet powdered, kit waterproofed, water bottles filled, and batteries changed, it was time to collect weapons, load kit and depart. Upon arriving at Pirbright, we were welcomed not only rain but the DS; we put our war faces on, took kit off the bus, lined up for NSPs and declarations and were put into sections.

At this point it was time to say farewell to L/Cpl Lovett who we found to be leaving us for the more "elite 1 section" (later to found out they weren't so elite). The rest of 265 remained as a section with the introduction of Sig Glass from 36 Sig Sqn and we became 2 Platoon 2 Section, with Sgt Porter as Plt Sgt, Cpl Harries as 2 Section Commander and L/Cpl Stewart as 2IC (Sig Uhl becoming section radio operator). With ammunition, CBA, radios (no PRR) and rations issued, it was a case of getting our heads down, so into the first tree line for quick bashers and into our dos bags. At this point a storm came in and it lasted all night, safe to say there was no sleep for anyone. Up at 05:00, food eaten and prepped for battle, we went to the first stand for 06:30 (due to the dry area there was a pyro ban), which was harbour drills. Once we were all happy it was a patrol down to the next stand, which was a revision of section level contact drills; something I hadn't done for a while, but I got back into it fairly quickly once we came into contact. For a section that's never worked together I was nicely surprised how well we worked together with no PRRs. Within 10 minutes the enemy was dead, a quick debrief and then on our way to an RV where both 1 and 2 platoons met up in all round defence. Orders received, we were to move out and occupy our harbour area for the night. 1 platoon moved off and we followed on and we found our area. Although, with only 2 sections of 6, the traditional V shape was replaced with a staggered line, and of course, down came the rain. After a quick bite to eat and we were off again to meet up with 1 Platoon, this time it was a Platoon level attack stand which was new to most of the guys and one which the guys tried to keep awake for. Lesson given, now let's try it. 1 Platoon lead off, 2 platoons off to the hill top to watch the attack unfold. Once 1 platoon had finished, it was 2 platoons turn. 1 Section led with 2 following and the inevitable happened. 1 section were pinned down with accurate

fire and 2 section were called up to carry out the attack. With point of fire down, Cpl Harries and Sig Uhl conducted the final assault to kill the enemy and we moved through and called the Platoon re-org. After a quick debrief and update from the CO, we moved to our harbour areas for further orders. The evening mission was a Reece of an area of interest. After the model was built, the Platoon Commander gave section commanders their orders who were then tasked to deliver orders to their sections with DC there to observe and provide valuable feedback. 2 section's mission was to conduct the night Recce with 1 section providing support. Orders given, rehearsals done and off we went. After being on target for 40 minutes we were back to the harbour area to writing up the recce report then off to bed for 01:30.

We were up at 03:00 for the Platoon Commander to give orders to section commanders for a platoon attack on the previously reced location. As before, Section Commanders gave orders to their sections under the watchful eye of the DS. It was Sunday - the last push. A normal platoon attack although as we approached our target we were attacked by no other than Sgt Crane who luckily for us is a bad shot and missed the whole platoon. 1 section supported whilst 2 section assaulted, so it was down to Cpl Harries and Sig Uhl to assault the position.

The enemy was destroyed (and robbed off Toblerone) and we re-grouped. This was no longer an attack though an advance to contact as no doubt the enemy now knew we were there. It was no longer a deliberate attack but an advance to contact, with 2 section leading. We moved to the previous night's OP to see if we could see the enemy but to no avail. We found a dried river bed to follow which we did until we were ambushed. The river bed provided great cover as we started to lay rounds down on the enemy (later

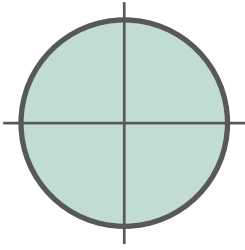


found to be 265s L/Cpl Liscoe). With L/Cpl Stewart ensuring the guys had full magazines we suppressed the enemy with our accurate fire, which allowed 1 section to attack and kill the enemy. Re-group was ordered, and it was back as a platoon to all round defence and to “bomb up” for any potential follow up. Orders given, we were to move back to our original FUP as another obj remained. 2 section led into open ground in arrow head formation. Once again, we came under attack in open ground, which became hard to control as with no PRRs and with everyone spread out. What seemed like ages (and literally no voice box left) a baseline was achieved, and fire control orders were given. 1 section assaulted the enemy with 1 lose, the Platoon Commander. Re-group was called, and Sgt Porter became Platoon Commander with Cpl Harries becoming Platoon Sgt; L/Cpl Stewart became section Commander and Sig Uhl 2IC. This lasted for about 5 minutes when we were ordered to patrol back to Saturdays original RV where we were informed that it was ENDEX.

We exchanged CBA, magazines, radios and BFAs for a sausage and bacon roll which went down well. Weapon cleaning followed which allowed L/Cpl Emma Stewart to get some sleep, which we were all amazed by as she seemed to be cleaning her rifle at the same time as sleeping....

After a final briefing by the CO, it was back on the bus...destination ARC via 40 winks.





C(KSY) SQN OC REPORT

OC – Major Godfrey Critien

2IC – Lt Robert Joles

SSM – WO2 Phil Mason

PSAO – Capt Adam Westwood

Trp Ldr – Lt Richard Darlington

Trp Ldr – 2Lt Lydia Badge

Trp Ldr – 2Lt Daniel Rowland

SQMS – SSgt Robert Goodwing

PSI Sigs – COH Jonathan Ware

PSI MT – Sgt Luke Bennett

After a busy 2018 for C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron, 2019 saw no let up in the pace with a calendar of training, deployments, sport, ceremonial duties and just enough time left for some excellent socials. The year started with the outgoing Officer Commanding, Maj Chris Chadwick, handing over to Maj Godfrey Critien. A Sharpshooter through and through, Maj Chadwick has spent most of his Army Reserve career serving the Sqn, starting out as a Trooper, stopping off at Squadron Sergeant Major along the way, and now moving on to become Quarter Master (V) for the Regiment. We wish him well and thank him for his tireless work in a year at the helm.

C Sqn put forward a strong contingent to the pan-Yeomanry Exercise Snow Fox XXV ski competition in the French Alps in January. This year saw a particularly impressive performance from LCpl Green, producing a top five racing result in the Regiment while still managing to maintain a full commitment to the Val D'Isere après ski scene. Green training got underway with exercises in February and March focusing on refreshing basic soldiering skills and shaking out Squadron Headquarters. Vehicle crews got the opportunity to put the RWMIK platform through its paces with a period of driver training on complex and challenging terrain. A further training opportunity presented itself in the form of the Sqn 2IC's command vehicle becoming bogged in, recovered swiftly and efficiently by a well-drilled mounted Troop. Meanwhile, dismounts focused on individual skills and drills as well as patrolling and Troop-level manoeuvres.

A progressive training plan on Wednesday evenings focused on light cavalry tactics theory, preparing the Sqn for two further exercises. The first, Exercise Sharpshooter Scout saw the establishment of subsurface Observation Posts on Salisbury Plain to gather intelligence before a targeted raid. The second, the Regimental Command Post



Exercise, tested SHQ operations in a challenging scenario. Needless to say, C Sqn was awarded the best SHQ in the Regiment and the best Sqn overall.

Exercises and training nights throughout the first half of the year formed the build-up training for Ex Yeoman Overlord, the two-week Regimental battle camp on Salisbury Plain and in Normandy. This was the first time the Regiment had deployed as the lead unit of a RY battle group, on a complex and challenging exercise involving other units and attached arms. The 10-day exercise saw Sqn's undertaking light cavalry taskings and was a great opportunity for troops to spend an extended period in the field and operate at battle group level.

C Sqn was at the spearhead of the reconnaissance force, comprising the battle group main effort for the majority of the exercise. This saw us rolling through the area of operations in balance with another Sqn, identifying and marking possible enemy locations, before moving into a recce screen to build up the intelligence picture. Several decisive raid actions again saw C Sqn at the forefront as the raiding force as well as providing fire support for a PWRR company. Throughout the exercise phase every member of the Sqn worked hard and reaped the reward of valuable training as well as clear recognition amongst the wider Regiment and visiting senior VIPs.

The second phase of the battle camp saw the Regiment supporting the Normandy 75 commemorations across the region, centred on Bayeux. An advance party, led by SSM Mason deployed to Bayeux to provide the guard of honour for HRHs The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, as well as distinguished world leaders. Besides this, the Sqn undertook a battlefield tour to Villers-Bocage and Tilly-sur-Seulles, led by Tim Rayson and Dan Taylor who provided an excellent overview of the battles from



C Sqn Jackal team.



C Sqn VE75 AT Bayeux.

a tactical perspective as well as some of the personal stories of soldiers from antecedent regiments across the RY. A friendly football match of keen RY soldiers against Bayeux Town FC recreated a match held 75 years ago almost to the day between the local town and the Sherwood Rangers. Unfortunately, the score line this time around reflected the fact that Bayeux play in the fifth division of the French football league while the RY team had slightly less pedigree to call upon. The culmination of the RY Normandy 75 commemorations was a parade through the town of Bayeux, for which the turnout from local spectators was truly impressive. To see such a large C Sqn contingent form part of the RY contribution to the Normandy 75 commemorations was an honour, and a fitting tribute to the actions of our antecedent regiments.

With ExYeoman Overlord completed, the pace let off slightly over summer, with Sqn ranges and the opportunity for career courses to be completed. Autumn and winter saw the Sqn deploy on two exercises focusing on Operations in Built Up Areas (OBUA). Two excellent training packages provided a progressive (re)introduction to OBUA skills, starting from tactical movement in the urban environment and culminating in complex building clearance drills. An urban confidence course run by PTI LCpl Egleton ensured everyone was comfortable moving and operating in a complex urban landscape, including heights, tunnels and building entry methods.

C Sqn has traditionally punched above its weight in representing the regiment to the wider Army, and this year was no exception. Lt Darlington captained the Regimental



Major Chritien at bay!



Staff Sgt Faytaren.

Shooting Team for the fourth year running (a team mostly comprised of C Sqn firers) and came away with 1st Army Reserve team and 2nd overall at the 7 Brigade Operational Shooting Competition, beaten by just one shot. Lt Darlington himself was the top Reservist shot and 2nd in the Brigade. Meanwhile, LCpl Egleton and Tpr Mills put in an exceptional performance as part of the RY Cambrian Patrol team which won Silver at this year's competition.

Beyond Sqn training and regimental exercises, members of the Sqn have found time to complete further qualifications, participate in regimental sports teams and adventurous training. Our recruitment pipeline has remained strong, with eight new recruits passing out during the year, bolstered by a number of transferees from other regiments bringing a useful mix of new skills to the Sqn. We have continued to build upon our relationships with affiliate organisations, in particular the Worshipful Company of Insurers who continue to provide kind sponsorship to the Association and have forged close links with serving members of the Sqn through cycling and visits to exercises.

Looking forward to 2020, the Sqn is deploying 16 soldiers and officers to CABRIT 8 in Poland as part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence. This will be a whole-Sqn effort, with training build-up to deployment and ongoing support during the tour setting the tone for the year to come. I am happy to report the Sqn to be in rude health and having only touched upon some of the activities and successes of this past year, I must commend the continued dedication of serving Sharpshooters and thank family and friends for their ongoing support.

Trooper Mills

The two main challenges I set myself in 2019 were to be selected for the regimental shooting team and the Cambrian patrol competition. In addition to these two key objectives I needed to undertake trade training and take part in Ex YEOMAN OVERLORD in Normandy so it was going to be a busy year. And on top of this I have my civilian job to fit in and most importantly spending time with my family. I won't lie it's been a very challenging year having to sacrifice birthdays and family time but its been well worth it.

At the start of the year I started training with the shooting team run by Mr Darlington. The training and experience I gained from this got your skills and drills up to a high standard and even if you didn't make the team it is well worth doing and a lot of fun.

We had another four training sessions before the team was selected and I must add that the training provided by the shooting team staff was of a high standard and I can honestly say I took a lot from it. I managed to get into the team and got to experience my first competition which was in April. We came second overall (should have been first due to some dodgy scoring, not that we were bitter about it).

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Next was Cambrian patrol selection training which started in February so I had to juggle that along with the shooting team. Training started in Nottingham with Lt Mackie (our patrol leader) and Captain Stone briefing us on the year ahead of what would be expected of us to make the final eight – we started with 20 volunteers. There would be monthly selection weekends which were to be held all over the UK from Salisbury plain up to Catterick. Training would cover all of the MATTS and also a lot of tabbing starting with 20kg and working up to 40kg over tough terrain. I'm not going to lie but this would be one of the most physically and mentally challenging tasks I've ever done and anyone who relishes a challenge should get on this.

This was a pretty full on first five months of the year and at the end of May we deployed onto Yeoman Overlord on Salisbury plain which was our Annual Camp. Here we completed troop tests with our own squadrons and then formed up with the rest of the Cambrian team for more tabbing and more training on the MATTS that we had to cover. Along the way we also got a helicopter insertion on a CTR that we practiced.

After this selection event we lost quite a few lads so the pace was really stepping up now. We headed up to Catterick in July and stayed with the Royal Lancers and went through some more gruelling training.







The final team was pretty much decided after the July weekend and with only a few more training weekends left we didn't want any injuries. On top of all the Cambrian Patrol weekends we were also doing our own training and had to give weekly updates on what we were doing. The competition started in October and I made the team and was buzzing when we completed the patrol and covered about 70km in two days with over 40kg. We achieved a silver medal which was a very proud moment for myself, the lads and the regiment. I must add all of this wouldn't have been possible without the effort in training and organisation of Captain Stone and the leadership of Lt Mackie who was our patrol leader.





Looking forward to 2020 and what challenges lie ahead.

Tpr Mills

Lance Corporal Norman

I'm LCpl Matthew Norman, a member of 1st Troop, Mounted.

The last year has been busier than ever, with the preparation for our deployment on Op CABRIT in 2020 and the ever-expanding opportunities made available to us. I began the year with a Jackal Drivers Course, learning how to maintain and operate the new platform that the RY has gained in place of the RWMIK. In the following months, the Sqn ran a series of mounted and dismounted exercises in build-up to the annual troop tests.

In July we set off to Warcop for a Regimental Range package. This consisted of mounted shoots from both RWMIK and Jackal of GPMG and HMG, both at day and night and culminating in the completion of our Annual Crew Tests.

The remainder of the year for me was very course focused. I completed an All Arms Range Management Course in Brecon mid-August (still raining on Sennybridge), allowing me to run a range. In November I attended the All Arms Skill at Arms Instructors course, run in Brecon by the SASC. Although it was a reserve course, there were many Regular ATU instructors on it and a lot of ex-Regular, now Reserves. A



massive amount of knowledge and experience, however I did not feel at any disadvantage. Having had dedicated pre-course training from our own AASAA Instructors at C Sqn, I not only passed the course but achieved a Distinction, the only one on my intake.

As I look forward to 2020, I will be putting my new qualifications to use and getting involved in running gunnery courses to train new Sharpshooters. I am due to deploy with the Regiment on Op CABRIT in the summer.

EL GUBI DINNER

Worshipful Company of Insurers Presentation to the Sharpshooter who has contributed the most their Squadron or the Association

Every year the Worshipful Company of Insurers present either a pair of superb gilt cuff links or a pin to a serving *Sharpshooter* who has contributed the most to their Squadron or to a member of the Association who has contributed most to the Association. Nominations are invited from the Squadrons and Association makes a recommendation to the Insurers.

This year the nominations came from C Sqn and also the Association and the individual nominated was LCpl Isabelle Iratni who was duly awarded a gold pin. Her citation is reproduced below:

LCpl Isabelle Iratni RAMC, C (KSY) Sqn RY

LCpl Iratni joined the *Sharpshooters* in 2015, and since then she has been, at times an unstoppable force amongst the *Sharpshooters* at Croydon. As a Sqn Medic she has



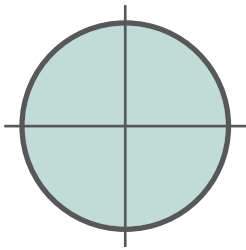
sought every opportunity to further her career and this year successfully completed all her CMT training by attending the Regular CMT 1 course with the RAMC, providing the Sqn not only a fully qualified medic but a Train the Trainer for BCDT and Team Medic instructor to boot. Utilising these skills LCpl Iratni is always the first to support all the Sqns across the Regt, the RY Band and at times even other Reserve units

providing vital medical cover for ranges and field training exercises.

Not just a Reserve Medic, she has also taken on the role of Lead recruiter at C Sqn, working three to four days a week as the point of contact for all our new recruits, supporting their applications and mentoring them through the challenges of selection, attestation and basic training. Her dedication and enthusiasm is clearly apparent in the number and quality of our latest additions to the Sharpshooter Family.

LCpl Iratni is also the go-to person to promoting unit Community activity, attending local Squadron and wider Regimental engagement events and supporting the current RSUSO by becoming the recognised face of the RY at various corporate and recruiting activities. Finally, as should every Sharpshooter, this individual still makes the most from the reserves, finding time to take part in the Wimbledon Tennis Championships last year, provide medical cover for Sqn and RY sports and next year is keen to step up and get the chance to mobilize with the regular Army. Overall a real pleasure to have in the team at Croydon and fully deserving of recognition for her efforts.





FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE: 2019

by Marian Hannam

The Field of Remembrance 2019 was held on Thursday 7th November on the lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. This year a total of 378 plots were laid out in the names of military associations and other organisations.

The first Field of Remembrance was organised in 1928 by George Howson, MC, an officer in the British Army in the First World War and Founder and Chairman of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory. There were initially only two memorials: one dedicated to "Tommy Atkins" and the other to Field Marshal Douglas Haig, the founder of The Royal British Legion, who had died in January that year.



The *Association* plot contained a large named cross – *KCLY (Sharpshooters)* and two further crosses representing the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *Sharpshooters*, together with thirteen main crosses and a number of smaller crosses commemorating *Association* members who had passed since the last Field of Remembrance.

The service commenced at 10.50 AM with the arrival at the Field of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of







Cornwall, Patron to the Poppy Factory, who was also due to attend had, regrettably on this occasion, to withdraw as she was unwell.

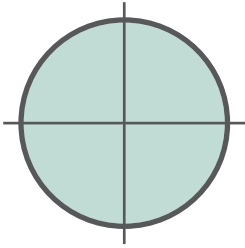
Prayers were offered by The Very Reverend David Stanton and the Reverend Anthony Ball, Canon-in-Residence of Westminster Abbey. Their Royal Highnesses then laid personal Crosses of Remembrance.

The 'Last Post' was sounded by Sgt. Rob Parry, a bugler from the Scots Guards, and the Exhortation to Remembrance was given by Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, CBE, DL, President of the Poppy Factory. The two-minute silence was then observed followed by 'Reveille', after which Their Royal Highnesses were invited to undertake a review of the plots. Our plot representative was our *Chairman*, Mark Hodson.

The following members of the *Association* attended: Barrie and Carol Corfield, Marian Hannam, Tony Jewell, Bill Lovell, Tim Rayson, Steve Shelley, David Whitehouse, Keith Wrate and Kevin Wright.

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”





WENT THE DAY WELL THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2019

by Terry Bodman

This year all went to plan, on arrival at London Wall we found the Low-Loader with the M10 Achilles with the driver Mark Megson (Ex PWRR), much further to the front of the Line up at serial No31 behind the Royal Yeomanry Jackal (AFV) with a marching contingent of 20 under the Command of 2 Lt Courtney Hallwood (WD) we are normally about Serial 71.

The parade moved off at 10.45 which was unusual, for all the years I have been doing it as we always moved off at 11.00 hrs. With an Eyes Left, raised Caps and dipped Standard at the Guild Hall and the New Mayor at the Mansion House, down past St Paul's Cathedral and up Fleet St to the Royal Courts of Justice then on to Victoria Embankment where we stopped for Lunch, while the New Lord Mayor swears the Oath of Allegiance before the Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales. I thought that the crowds lining the route was very thin on the ground this year noticeably along both sides of Fleet Street and no Invalid/disabled coaches lined up along Queen Victoria Street as in previous years.



After the lunch break we move off past Blackfriars and up Queen Victoria Street then past the Mansion House and on to London Wall, where we debus say or thanks to the driver and the re-enactors take a group photo and head for home.

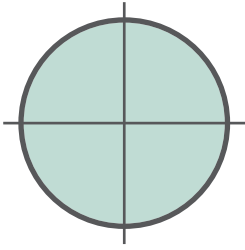
Our thanks to Rex Cadman and his team from the war and Peace Collection his driver Mark Megson and the Re-enactors led by Bradley Copper, Miss S Cooper, Mr & Mrs Cooper and Harvey Barnes. The Royal Yeomanry for providing a slot for us in the lineup,

Also to 2Lt Courtney Hallwood and her team from the Royal Yeomanry for their help and assistance and last but not least, Helen and the Pageantmaster, (Organisers Extraordinary) for all their help and assistance for the LMS.

The Sharpshooters Attending were Tim Rayson, (Hon Secretary), Kevin Wright our Standard Bearer, David Hower, MBE DL, Mike Swan and his helper Lee Wallis, Mick Hall, Alan Davey and myself. If there are any Association Members who would like to join us on the low-Loader we have room for another three (first come first served) contact me on terry.bodman@btinternet.com

Terry Bodman for **KSya**





AUSTRALIAN HRL

by Lt Col David Fisher

The 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers (12/16HRL) has had a very busy year and the Regiment finds itself currently active over the Christmas period. As at mid-December 2019, 12 members of 12/16HRL have volunteered/been called up to support the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD) as they battle the out-of-control fires in the record heat that is coming to define the summer of 2019/2020 in Australia. The RFS in both states is entirely made up of unpaid volunteers and over the last eight to nine weeks these dedicated civilians have left their families and jobs and fought the increasing number of fires that have threatened farms, towns and regional communities. The Australian Government authorised the call for reserve members to support the RFS and 12/16HRL is supplying additional transport and logistical support to the RFS. This will continue well into 2020.

During 2019 the Regiment has conducted three major activities. The first was Platoon Warfighter 1, a camp where reserve infantry Battalions in QLD trained and tested themselves in platoon level offensive/defensive tasks with blank ammunition and in section level offensive/defensive tasks using live ammunition. During these activities, 12/16HRL vehicles and crews acted in an APC role providing lift and support-by-fire during the live fire attacks. The second was a PMV Bushmaster drivers' course that saw 30 drivers trained. While 22 of these were our reservists,



EX PLATOON WARFIGHTER support by fire.

the remaining eight were from a regular unit that then deployed immediately for an 8-month tour in Iraq. 12/16HRL was obviously pleased to grow its own capability but also to support an immediate operational need. Our last major activity of 2019 was EX BROLGRA RUN. In this 2-week regular and reserve FTX we supplied APC lift to an infantry company and Cavalry Scouts/assault troopers to a tank squadron.

12/16HRL is going from strength to strength. Over the last two years we have increased in size by 48 trained soldiers and another 35 currently undergoing recruit or specialist training. We are currently in the final stages of securing a formal alliance with the Royal Yeomanry and hope that the success of EX MORLANCOURT 18 can be replicated in the future.

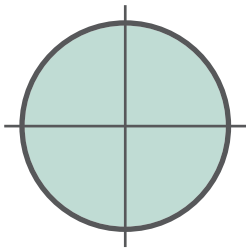
LTCOL David Fisher
Commanding Officer 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers



PMV Bushmaster drivers course.



EX BROLGA RUN Cav Scouts with Abrams.



BIR EL GUBI BY THE GERMAN AIR FORCE

by Frank Dirksmeier

Sometime strange things happen. People, places or events are connecting but one can hardly guess the link. Search “Bir el Gubi” in google maps and you just find a very small spot in the featureless dessert of North Africa. So why do I travel from my tiny hometown in the heart of Germany to blighty just to have a dinner? The link is comradery and friendship.



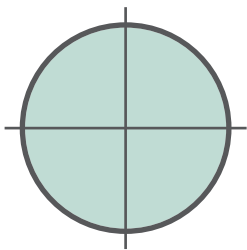
If you zoom out of the small spot of Bir El Gubi you will find places like Tobruk and Bir Hachim. These are much more familiar to the military aficionado. The desert warfare, and the struggle between the Afrika Korps and the 8th Army still attracts the military historians. It is said that it was fought rather fair and both sides had one common enemy: The desert itself. In the daily reports of November by the Oberkommando des Heeres, the

German Army high command, the battle at Bir El Gubi was mentioned as a minor skirmish. Surely the boys who fought the battle had a different kind of view.

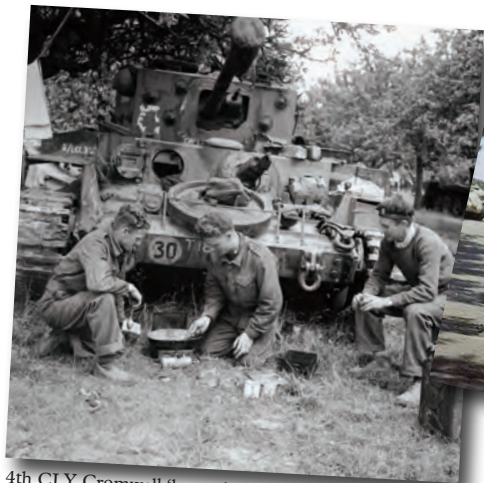
The 72nd all ranks dinner was to commemorate the battle and to remember the officers and men who fought in it. The good number of more than hundred guests does not only show that the Cavalry and Guards club is chosen as an excellent venue but also the strong bond in the *Sharpshooters* family. Although it is a formal (and high quality) dinner, the chatting wasn't and time really flew. It was my first Bir El Gubi, and I had the honour to be the duty piper of the day, piping the guests in and playing the lament after the toast to the fallen. We were greeted by everyone in a very friendly way and had a fantastic evening. My link to the *Sharpshooters* is that I had the great pleasure to meet the Honourable Secretary Captain Tim Rayson during the Armistice day ceremonies in Flanders two years ago. Last year he supported us at Langemarck again and made a very valuable contribution to the ceremony.

It is good to see that the number of guests is rising and younger *Sharpshooters* and their partners take part in the dinner, also good to see that the date for 2020 is set so there is a chance to book the flights to blighty well ahead.

Frank Dirksmeier LTC
Tactical Air Force Wing 51 “Immelmann”
German Air Force



SHARPSHOOTER SNAPSHOTS



4th CLY Cromwell 'brew time' Normandy 1944.



Local children crowd aboard a Sherman MkIII tank of the CLY in the village of Milo near Catania in Sicily, August 1943.



3rd CLY Cruiser tea break.



3/4CLY Rhine crossing.



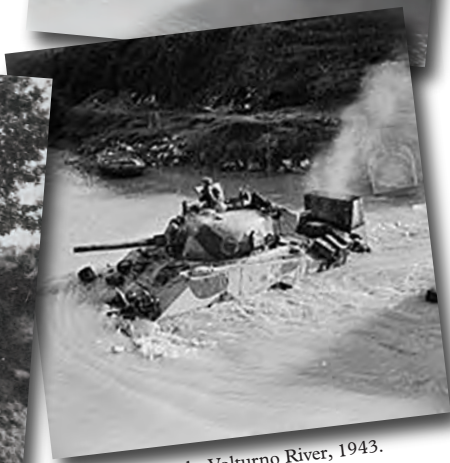
3rd/4th CLY, negotiating a road block in Brunen, while advancing to cross the Rhine.



4 Trp ASqn 3rdCLY gun cleaning tank park.



3 CLY Firefly Normandy C Sqdn

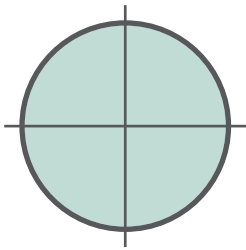


3CLY crossing the Volturno River, 1943.



Sharpshooters crews Tramproy Dec 1944.





THE ROYAL YEOMANRY IN 2019

by Lt Col Conn MacEvilly

Best to start this account of the year's efforts with the most important news of all. In the final week of July 2019, it was announced that the Royal Yeomanry will deploy a formed squadron of 126 officers and soldiers to Poland on Operation CABRIT. That order is proof of the regard in which the RY is now held by 7th Infantry Brigade and by 1st (United Kingdom) Division. It will be the RY's largest deployment since Operation TELIC 1 in 2003. It will be the RY's first ever operational deployment as an independent all-reservist subunit working directly to a brigade-level formation as opposed to coming under the care and direction of a regular regiment. It sends a powerful signal to the whole Army, regular and reserve, about the credibility, potency and usability of the RY.

The order, which came two days after the end of my command on 27 July 2019, was what the previous two and a half years of hard slog had been aimed at shaking out of the Army: a reminder of what the RY is capable of offering to Defence. To make the case for mobilisation and deployment of our soldiers we needed to:

- Match the battle rhythm and ethos of the Desert Rats (2017).
- Embrace pairing with our regular counterparts, the Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG), through operational deployments and exercises with them and by mastering the new Light Cavalry Battlecraft Syllabus (2017-18).
- Convert to the same vehicle platform as the QDG to enhance integration and to reduce the training burden required to deploy us on operations (2018-19).
- Demonstrate our ability to self-sustain and plan independently at battlegroup level (2019).

The RY fell into step with the Desert Rats and kept time with them. We sent 14 officers and soldiers with QDG on Operation CABRIT in 2018. As a result of huge



Officers and soldiers of the Royal Yeomanry on Operation CABRIT 3

efforts by the entire regiment, involving in some cases genuine personal sacrifice, we trained some 33 complete Jackal crews had been trained by the middle of 2019. By May 2019 it was apparent that the RY was (measured by number of trained soldiers getting bounty) larger than the other two Army Reserve light cavalry regiments combined: proof of the leadership that abounds in all six of the RY's squadrons and of the sustained commitment of our soldiers, and a demonstration of the huge resource we could offer the Army.

Tangible proof of what the RY is and of what we can plan and execute was provided by the success of Exercise YEOMAN OVERLORD (24 May to 9 June 2019), the most complex undertaking the regiment has planned and co-ordinated on its own for many years. It was split into two phases: the first was a nine-day battlegroup field training exercise on Salisbury Plain involving, at its peak, over 300 exercising troops; the second an ambitious deployment to Normandy.

During the first phase, the RY deployed and sustained in the field over 200 soldiers in three composite squadrons as well as a battlegroup headquarters, exercise control (EXCON) and opposing force (OPFOR). Realism and complexity were added by the involvement of:

- Attachments from 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment
- A Wildcat helicopter from 661 Squadron Army Air Corps
- A dozen US Army Reservists
- Thirty or so officer cadets from three University Officer Training Corps
- The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry
- A section of explosive ordnance disposal specialists from 101 Squadron Royal Engineers
- A section from 253 Provo Company Royal Military Police
- A Fuchs armoured fighting vehicle from the Royal Tank Regiment's Falcon Squadron



Ex YEOMAN OVERLORD – Royal Yeomanry providing intimate first support to infantry of 3 PWRR; a recce section awaiting insertion by Wildcat

After a very testing nine days, the regiment then embarked on the second phase of ExYEOMAN OVERLORD: taking a leading role in the commemorations to mark the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, in which our antecedent Regiments were heavily involved. An advance party of 90 soldiers from the RY (including 30 from the Band) spent three days rehearsing while the remainder of the exercising troops completed the field exercise, returned vehicles and kit to barracks, went to the Tank Museum for a briefing and then boarded a ship carrying them to Normandy on the night of 5 June.

On D-Day itself, the RY had the great privilege of providing the 90-strong Guard of Honour to HRH Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at the UK's main commemorative event at Bayeux War Cemetery; the marching party was led by the Regimental Second-in-Command, Major Matthew Webb. Concurrently, the rest of the regiment took part in battlefield studies across Normandy. On 8 June, the entire contingent of 200 members of the Regiment paraded through Bayeux behind the RY Band and the Regimental Guidon at the invitation of the City of Bayeux to mark its liberation by the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry (now A Sqn, RY) in June 1944.

In July 2019 following the initial tranche of Jackal conversion the RY planned and conducted its first Gunnery Annual Continuous Training weekend since the loss of CVR(W) in 1993. The weekend – my last in command – proved a complete success with a total of eight crews passing their ACTs, all at the first attempt.



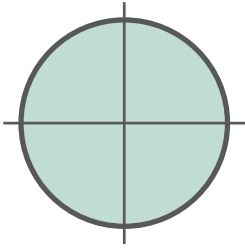
Jackal on ACT at Warcop and dismounted troops on the ranges concurrently.

Under its new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tom Bragg, the RY's focus has since August been squarely on identifying and training the force that will deploy to Poland in 2020. At a regimental concentration in September, Colonel Tom laid out his plans and wargamed the coming year, including giving detail on what role the RY would perform for NATO.

Conversion to Jackal continues. Following confirmation of new distributed course programmes by the Armour Centre, it will focus on those soldiers requiring platform qualifications prior to deploying on Operation CABRIT 8. The squadrons have been able to return this autumn to Light Cavalry Battlecraft Syllabus training under their own devolved direction on squadron field training exercises: a welcome change from so much centralised training. The regiment achieved an emphatic success in October, obtaining a silver medal in Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL, a world-renowned international dismounted patrols competition. With a dynamic new boss supported by an excellent team, with a clear mission for the coming year, and with the best soldiers in the Army Reserve the RY is in a powerful position to move on to even better things in 2020 and beyond.



The RY's medal-winning Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL team.



THE ROYAL YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

by Simon McMenemy

This has been an important year for the Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association (RYRA). Nearly all the serving soldiers in the Regiment now contribute through the one day's pay scheme, a tax efficient way to maximize their annual donation to the Regiment's main charity. This year was the first full year of contributions being received by the RYRA and it has brought increased activity, visibility and requests for support (it has to be said that at the moment only a very small proportion of funding comes in from veterans).

The RYRA gave significant financial support to Exercise Yeoman Overlord in Normandy allowing the Regiment to visit the battlefields of our forebears, including, most prominently, the Sharpshooters, with the incredibly knowledgeable Tim Rayson as its guide. The RYRA also paid for the Regiment to dine with veterans in Bayeux, an occasion to reflect on the past but also very much on the present. The military has, no doubt, changed enormously in the last 75 years, but the camaraderie and respect for the men and women who serve together does not change, and sets us apart. This event was a timely reminder for those Royal Yeoman who have volunteered to serve on OP CABRIT in Poland next year (a more benign environment, we hope, than the Normandy of 1944) that they will be able to rely not just on their comrades but on the wider Royal Yeomanry family of associations. The RYRA will be playing a centralized





coordinating role in the support that we will all want to give to the soldiers on this high profile deployment.

There are, of course, many individual cases for welfare and support that come to the RYRA, but it is a confusing landscape for the soldier or veteran in need, with so many organisations and charities at Squadron, Regimental, Corps and National level. Many of you will have seen the badly timed article in ‘The Times’ just before Remembrance Sunday suggesting that there were too many military charities and that many of them were sitting on vast sums of money. This is not an allegation that could be levelled against either the RYRA or the SYA. Both have long understood the primary responsibility of a charity is to further the objects for which it was established, which normally (and quite rightly) means raising and spending money!

Sharpshooters have been at the fore of exploring how, together, all the Squadron Associations and the RYRA can deliver more. Cavalry Memorial Parade sees ever-increasing numbers with the RY now consistently the largest contingent. The RYRA provides the consistency and the coordination for the Regiment (again with Tim Rayson and Chris Chadwick in the lead) with the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association. The same can be said of the Officers Dining Club where the Sharpshooters have ‘thrown in their lot’ with the RY and, by doing so, reinforce

(and in fact organize!) the event. Again with the RYRA Advent Carol Service with Sharpshooters Jo Thompson and Charlie Field providing administrative support, this wonderful opportunity to hear our Band at their best grows in popularity by the year.

An association 'battle rhythm' has emerged which, though not set in stone, appears to work well, with Remembrance Sunday and annual dinners commemorating Squadron battle honours. whether it be El Gubi, Monte Cassino or Jerusalem, being the proud reserve of Squadrons and their associations.

But looking to the future, the questions we should now be asking are; what can we do better together? Should there be a 'bumper' joint Regimental journal which shares fascinating current and historical articles across a much wider audience? Can we come together to hold a Regimental Families and Veterans Day?

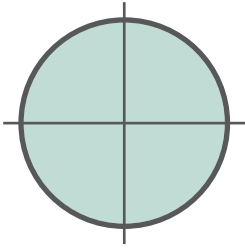
A scan of the Charity Commission's register of charities shows that between the 15 or more Associations supporting Squadrons of the RY there are funds well in excess of £1 million. Is there an argument to pool resources, even if just to get better returns? Are we duplicating effort when it comes to accounts, reports and returns? Together could we afford a fully manned members' office, shop, database, website, welfare officer and other beneficiary resource?

All of this is possible but is something which must be done by agreement and at a speed with which we all feel comfortable. The history, traditions and geographical context of our predecessor Regiments must be nurtured and preserved, but other parts of the military, such as the Royal Navy, have managed to build a single charitable and administrative 'umbrella' to make life a bit easier for their constituent associations which otherwise continue much as before.

While, no doubt, there will be many firmly held views, perhaps this can be beginning of a conversation which we need to have now that the RY is over 50 years old and those of under 70 years of age have all served as Royal Yeomen. As the wider Regimental family we have a vital part to support our serving soldiers, veterans and families and we are, as we have proved time after time, much stronger together.

Simon McMenemy
Lt Col
RYRA Secretary





COMMANDING OFFICER ROYAL YEOMANRY Lt Col Thomas WH Bragg VR

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bragg assumed command of the Royal Yeomanry (RY) in July 2019. He was educated at Malvern College and then attended the University of Birmingham where he read medicine, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Plastics) as in 2013.

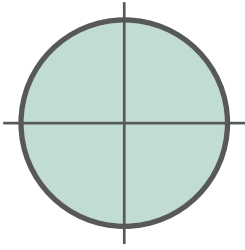
He commissioned into The Kings' Royal Hussars in September 1995 on a Short Service Limited Commission. He was a Challenger (Main Battle Tank) Troop Leader in Munster, Germany deploying for six months to BATUS as OPFOR. After full time service Tom transferred to the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, concurrently with starting his medical degree at The University of Birmingham.



At Regimental Duty Tom completed tours as Troop Leader in both Challenger 2 and Light Reconnaissance. He spent 3 years commanding the Royal Armoured Corps Wing of Oxford University Officer's Training Corps spending much of his time sub-aqua diving in the Red Sea. On return to Regimental Duty he completed a tour as Squadron Second-in-Command and then four years as Squadron Leader of a formation reconnaissance squadron.

On disbandment of RMLY Tom was re-subordinated to the Royal Yeomanry and joined the directing staff at the Defence Academy Shrivenham, delivering and developing the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Land Reserve). He took multiple syndicates through the complete course and authored the revised Battle Group Planning module. He then went to the All Arms Staff Pool on promotion as SO1 Reserves at 1X.

In his spare time he works as a Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Sarcoma Surgeon at Morriston Hospital, Swansea. Tom is married to Hannah and keeps fit running after his children; George (9), Lilly (8), Lexi (6) and Rosie (4), in the Brecon Beacons.



THE BATTERY AT HARTY FERRY

by Dave Whitehouse

Throughout the year, the KSY Museum Trust receives numerous requests from military historians, academics and members of the public asking for help with their research. In most cases these relate to individuals who may have served in the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry or one of its ancestors. Many of those that relate to the Kent Yeomanry come to me to investigate.

Occasionally I receive a request which is a bit different. A recent example of this is an enquiry about a place known as ‘Harty Battery’ and how it might relate to the regiment. The enquirer included a quote from an undisclosed source thus;

“The A Troop of the A Squadron of the Royal East Kent Imperial Yeomanry (Duke of Connaught’s Own) (Mounted Rifles), and a detachment of the 1st Kent Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers), consisting of No. 3 and 4 Companies, numbering about 113 men, have their headquarters here; the battery is at Harty Ferry, and the drill hall and armoury, together with the gun repository and drill room, in Preston street; in connection with these corps there is a club.”

The use of the term ‘Imperial Yeomanry’ suggests a period just after the Boer War and this was confirmed by further research which showed that the paragraph was taken from the 1903 edition of Kelly’s Directory of Kent. I already knew from our archives that a squadron of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles was based at the drill hall in Faversham. However, I hadn’t appreciated that the Drill Hall was shared with a volunteer unit of the artillery.

The 1st Kent Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers) are descended from the Kent Artillery Volunteers (KAV) of which there were several corps (or what became companies and eventually batteries). The 2nd Corps formed at Faversham on 15 November 1859, was first commanded by Captain William Hall, who was the owner of several gunpowder mills in the area, and partially funded the building of Harty Battery.

The 9th Corps KAV, formed at Plumstead some months later, is the ancestor unit of 265 (Light Air Defence) Regiment Royal Artillery from which the serving squadron at Bexleyheath gets its number! Thus both units at the Faversham Drill Hall are linked to the Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry!

So what is Harty Battery? Well in order to answer this question, I began my research online, and discovered a forum which yielded valuable information regarding its origins and purpose, mostly from contemporary newspaper articles¹.

From this forum I learnt that the battery was constructed in late 1860 just outside of the village of Oare, near Faversham and close to the Harty Ferry which connected the Isle of Sheppey to the mainland. Built for the protection of the mouth of the Oare Creek

¹ <http://kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=15744.0>

as it opens out into the River Swale, the battery comprised of earthworks surrounded by brick and concrete with stone hard-standings for two guns together with an associated magazine.

Maps produced after the battery was completed show that there were two out-buildings. Although we can surmise that one of buildings is a magazine, it is not clear what the second one would have been used for.



Extracts from Ordnance Survey maps published in 1877 (left) and 1897 (right).

A newspaper article which appeared in 1879 stated that the building at Harty Battery used as a magazine was found to be unsuitable and that the War Office had contracted Messrs Foord and Son, Rochester to erect a brick building “parallel with the present gun shed on the opposite side of the battery”.² Unfortunately, whilst the work was in progress, the building foreman was found hanging in the shed at the site! During a subsequent inquest, the Coroner’s verdict was “suicide during temporary insanity”.³

As I continued my research I was surprised to learn that much of the original structure appears to have survived as can be seen from this modern aerial view.

Now with my curiosity piqued, I was keen to pay a visit, despite the fact that it was now likely located on private land. Fortunately, a planned family walk around the Oare Marshes would take us very close the battery. Consequently on a fine August morning, I found myself outside Harty Ferry Cottages, and after enquiry with one occupant



Aerial photograph of Harty Battery.

discovered that the battery was located in the garden of the end house. Fortuitously, just at that moment, a young woman came out of the house in question, and after introductions, eagerly admitted into her garden, at the same time calling to her husband to show me around. Tom and Emma, who had moved into their coastguard cottage (built in 1893), a couple of years ago with their two young children, kindly gave me a guided tour.

² Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald 29 November 1879

³ Folkestone Express 22 November 1879, p8 col 2

This showed that the battery was in a remarkable state of preservation, its exposure to the elements and the fact that it had been given over to private use. Only one building was extant with only the concrete hard standing remaining of the other building. It was easy to relate the various structures to the maps and the ariel photograph I had previously seen.



Stone hard standing for guns.



Brickwork at end of earthworks.



Cartridge store.



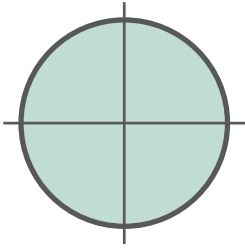
The present owners of battery have a copy of a photograph depicting a group of artillerymen at Harty Battery, which they kindly shared with me. It is captioned “The K.A. Volunteers at Harty Battery in 1850”. The date is clearly an error because, as we have already learnt, the battery wasn’t built until a decade later. Nevertheless, this is the only photograph of the battery in use I have been able to source so far.

The battery at Harty Ferry regularly featured in articles in the local newspapers over a period of at least 30 years. However, I have been unable to find mentions of military activity after 1892 which coincides with the building of the coastguard cottages. That does not mean that the battery fell out of use. There is some evidence of military activity at the site early in the 20th century, although when it was given over to civilian use is not known.



Harty Battery offers a fascinating inside into mid-Victorian defensive architecture and I am co-ordinating with the owners and the Historic Defences Committee of the Kent Archaeological Society to carry out a survey of the site, hopefully in early 2020.





THE BATTLE OF TAFELKOP

**Orange River Colony,
South Africa
20th December 1901**

by Tim Rayson

The Boer war campaign in which the Sharpshooters (and indeed the Kent Yeomanries) took part was characterised by lots of hard riding, convoy escorts and carrying out sweeps of the veldt with the aim of pushing the Boer commandoes up against the lines of block houses that were being constructed by the army. It was during one of these sweeps that the 91st Company, 23rd battalion Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) were engaged and almost wiped out. This article is a short version of a much longer one that can be found on the internet at the following website: <https://www.angloboerwar.com/forum/11-research/27820-tafelkop-captain-h-j-p-jeffcoat-s-will#58223>:

At dawn on the 20th December after a difficult night march from Frankfort in thunder, rain and hail, two British columns were a little to the north of Tafel Kop, a very conspicuous conical hill rising 600 feet above the plain and commanding a wide view of the Wilge River valley. Interestingly at least two members of the 6th Dragoons were killed by lightening during the approach march ! A report was then received that a commando of 300 Boers was between Tafel Kop and the River Wilge. The column Commanding Officers (Cols Rimington and Damant) arranged to wheel round the kop and to sweep on a broad front towards the river. The two columns swung around the eastern shoulder of the hill and then separated, but, unfortunately, without keeping touch. Damant's force was a small one, comprising only three weak squadrons of Damant's "Tigers" [as Damant's Horse were known] and three companies of Yeomanry (30th, 31st and 91st), about 550 rifles in all, together with two guns of the 30th Battery and a pom-pom. When Damant halted, his line had become inordinately extended. He himself, with his staff, the three guns, a Maxim and an escort composed of a very understrength 91st Company of the Sharpshooters and 45 Damant's Horse were nearly at the summit of a long flat-topped hill with a steep descent to the west, overlooking the Wilge.

From where Damant stood, he and his staff could see the valley of the Wilge, spread out before them and the river itself flowing in its deep fissured bed some three miles to the west. Parties of Boers were seen to be making their way across it or riding up and down the banks. In the plain, about a mile to the right front, five small bodies of mounted troops could be seen formed up in the formation used by Yeomanry and all assumed that they were! The formation began to move in a leisurely way towards the hill occupied by Damant, deploying scouts and skirmishers who appeared to be dressed in khaki, and actually firing occasional volleys at the Boers near the river. Their course led them close to "B" Squadron of Damant's Horse who were posted at the northern foot of the hill on which the guns and staff were situated. Scott felt no suspicion until the squadrons drew near. Then it was suddenly realised that they were



Boers and although they opened fire it was too late. The Boers broke into a gallop at the first shot, and, still keeping their general direction, passed Scott's front and disappeared behind the steep slopes of the hill.

Directly to Scott's front a portion of the crest rose to a rugged irregular cone, covered with rocks and long grass and commanding the lower ground where the guns and their escort were posted. The limbers were safe in the rear, on lower ground still. Guessing that the Boers were climbing up the slope to gain the commanding crest, Damant collected some Yeomanry and hurried across to forestall them. However the Boers got there before him and some 200 men had already reached the summit. In a few minutes the advanced British party, the guns and the rest of the escort were engaged in the open at short range from behind the excellent cover. The fight that followed was a gallant but hopeless defence against heavy odds. The guns were worked until the last gunners were shot down at their posts – "they lay," said an eye-witness, "in heaps round the

guns." The Sharpshooters fighting no less gallantly, were nearly exterminated.



Danie Van Vuuren.

The British casualties were 78 33 killed and 45 wounded – out of a total of 90. Of the forty officers and men of the Sharpshooters composing the gun escort only one officer and one man were unwounded: all the rest were killed or wounded. There were nine Mentions in Dispatches for the Sharpshooters of which seven were posthumous awards.



Sgt Greenshill grave.



Captain Gaussen memorial.

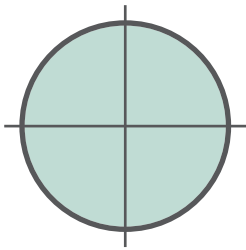
The battle and its aftermath were widely reported in the press especially as the Boers were alleged to have used explosive bullets and committed war crimes by shooting wounded soldiers. One press article was particularly pleasing:

‘What pleased me, and I hope will be noticed by those papers at home who indulge in scoffs at the Yeomanry [was] that the gun escort – the 91st Sharpshooters – were all killed or wounded, barring one man who assisted to save the limbers and one officer whose life was saved by Botha as the Boers were putting him up for execution.’

Those of the 91st Company who died in the action were buried in Frankfort cemetery and have individual grave stones and are commemorated on a very large memorial stone – we actually take the bottom third and the top of the reverse. One day I’ll get there and plant a cross and wreath for them myself but in the meantime I managed to persuade Mr Danie Van Vuren a local private historical researcher <http://www.boerenbrit.com> to undertake the task. He very kindly drove some three hours from his home to Frankfort cemetery and as the pictures show laid wreaths of lovely local flowers (proteas which are interestingly Sharpshooter colours!) for which the Association is very grateful indeed.

Lest we Forget





THE CREASE BROTHER

By Dave Whitehouse

Tucked away amongst the suburban sprawl of southeast London, between Beckenham and Elmers End, is a small triangular shaped park known as Crease Park. It is named after tradesman and local councillor Somerset born James Crease, who moved to Beckenham shortly after his marriage to Edith Joanna Cooper in 1884.

However, it is not James Crease that this article is principally concerned, it is with his five sons who have the distinction of all having fought in and survived the Great War, with four of them serving with the West Kent Yeomanry (WKY).



The Crease brothers: standing (left to right) Gilbert, Sidney, John and seated (left to right) Edwin and Percy. This photograph was taken in 1915 at the Railway Hotel in Beckenham.

The five sons were all born in Beckenham — Edwin Hugh on 21st November 1885, Percy Vivian on 15th November 1887, John Stanley on 25th September 1889, Gilbert on 2nd April 1891 and Sidney Herbert on 15th March 1893. Three of them worked for the council: John was deputy borough treasurer, Gilbert was deputy borough education officer and Sidney was physics master at the Beckenham & Penge Grammar School.

I have been unable to establish when three of them, Edwin, Percy and Gilbert, joined the West Kent Yeomanry

and our archives do not throw any light on this. They are however listed in Ponsonby's regimental history of the West and Yeomanry and the 10th Battalion The Buffs.

Records held at the National Archive reveal that John enlisted into A Squadron of the WKY on 6th September 1910 as 566 Private J S Crease. I have not been able to locate service records for the other brothers and it is possible that they are amongst the many WWI soldiers records that were destroyed during WWII in the Blitz.

From other surviving records such as medal index cards I have determined that Gilbert's regimental number was 565. Being only one digit different to that of his brother John, I think it is highly likely that they enlisted together. As for Edwin and

Percy with the earlier regimental numbers of 229 and 230 respectively, it is probable that being slightly older, they joined together a couple of years earlier.

At the outbreak of war, the fifth and youngest brother Sidney enlisted into the 28th Battalion The London Regiment, also known as the Artists Rifles. He was later commissioned and served in the North Loyal Lancashire Regiment and the Royal Engineers.

By this time the four brothers with the WKY would have been experienced Territorials with at least four years' service. Without surviving service records, it is difficult to piece together the details of their service. However, Ponsonby's history tells us that Edwin, Percy and Gilbert served in Gallipoli and Egypt, with Gilbert additionally serving in Palestine. This is confirmed in part by their medal index cards which shows Edwin entering the Gallipoli theatre on 23rd September 1915, Gilbert entering the Balkans (2b) theatre on 24th September 1915 and Percy entering theatre '2b' on 7th October 1915. The 2b denoted the theatre as Gallipoli (Dardanelles). John does not appear to have left the UK and therefore we can assume that he served in the second line regiment of WKY (or 2/1WKY).

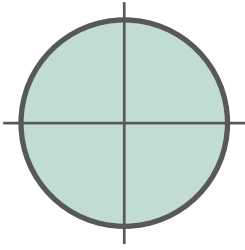
When the WKY was amalgamated with the East Kent Mounted Rifles in April 1917 to form the 10th (Royal East and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs, Edward and Gilbert were given new regimental numbers and posted to C Company. Percy and John, however, were not destined to join their brothers. Ponsonby's history indicates that Percy was invalided home and joined the second line regiment. We do not know the reason for this or when exactly this happened but can only speculate that he had received an injury of contracted a disease whilst overseas.

Likewise it would appear that at some point John had also left the WKY, as on 14th August 1916 he joined the Royal Engineers as a Dispatch Rider (DR). Two months later he was promoted to Corporal. Bizarrely, his enrolment documents record the fact that he had previously served five years with 1/1 WKY but had been discharged on 6th September 1915 as 'time expired'. Presumably his older brothers would also have been 'time expired' but chose to stay on with WKY. His service record does not show any service overseas, and this coupled with the absence of a medal index card suggests that he only served in the UK.

After the war the brothers returned to Beckenham and were still living there on the outbreak of WWII, which proved to be more hazardous for some of them than the previous conflict. On 18th October 1940, Percy received a severe head injury from shrapnel when a bomb fell at the junction of Crystal Palace Park Road and Thicket Road. Then on the night of 16-17th April 1941, whilst Gilbert was removing incendiaries from the roof of a house during an air raid, a bomb exploded in Court Downs Road, killing four fireman, and slicing off his foot.

I am indebted to Pat Manning and the Bromley Borough Local History Society for permission to reproduce some of the material from their website in this article.





THE BETTS BROTHERS IN WORLD WAR I

by Tim Rayson

David Whitehouse's article on the five Crease brothers, four of who served together in the West Kent Yeomanry has brought to light a further two brothers both of whom served in the Kent Yeomanry and both of whom were awarded the Military Medal within the space of a few months!

Laurence and Jack Percy Betts were serving in the 10th (V) Bn The Buffs in Palestine when they were both awarded the Military Medal for gallantry during the advance towards Palestine and Jerusalem. Laurence was awarded his during the Battle of Beersheba whilst Percy was awarded his during the advance to Jerusalem. The London Gazette entries for both are minimal – there were so many awarded that it was impossible to single individuals out. However their company commander wrote to their parents to describe both of the awards as below:

Dear Mr Betts,

As both your sons are in my company and have both given the Military Medal on the field on my recommendation I feel I must send you my heartiest congratulations.



Laurence Betts WKY.



John Percy Betts.

The medal was awarded to your son Laurence for his share in the Battle of Beersheba where he not only, most gallantly, bound up a wounded man and brought him in under heavy machine gun fire, but also for the valuable assistance which he rendered to his Company Commander in keeping in touch with the next unit, rallying and leading forward without the least regard for personal safety.

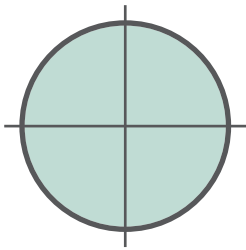
In the second battle near Jerusalem we had to attack some trenches at the top of a large ravine, it was a bad climb particularly for Lewis Gunners, but your boy Jack showed great pluck and determination in getting his section up even after he had been twice hit, insisted in going on with the trenches though he was streaming with blood.

I am glad to hear that he is going on very well now. I need hardly say how very proud I am to have such gallant men in my company and that they should receive their decoration "on the field" which General Chetwode pointed out is of far more value than one granted later.

Laurence Betts transferred to the fledgling RAF in June 1918 where he was commissioned. His brother Jack remained with the battalion serving in C Coy and died on 6th August 1918 in France. He is buried at ST. VENANT-ROBECQ ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, ROBECQ which is located in Pas de Calais, France in grave reference III. C. 24.

Laurence Betts farmed Church Farm, at Offham near West Malling in Kent before the Great War and returned there after it was over. Laurence J Betts Ltd was formed as a company in 1930. Hop production ceased and vegetable growing began. The farm today is run by the fourth generation of the Betts family – Stephen J Betts as CEO and Ian S Betts as Arable Production Manager. The medal groups for both brothers are held in a private collection.





MAJOR SIR PHILIP SASOON GBE, CMG, MP, ROYAL EAST KENT YEOMANRY AND TRENT PARK

by Hugh Jones

Sir Philip Albert Gustave David Sassoon, 3rd Baronet, born in 1888, was a British politician, art collector and social host, during the 1920s and 1930s. He was a member of the prominent Rothschild family and became chairman of his family's company, David Sassoon & Co, known as "the Rothschilds of the East" with interests in India and China. While he retained shares, Philip's participation in the management of the company was nominal.

Philip was educated at Eton and read Modern History at Christ Church, Oxford University. He was one of only 25 Jewish undergraduates, but his wealth and connections meant that he was invited to join the Bullingdon Club. He joined the Royal East Kent Yeomanry in 1907 while still at Oxford and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. The REKY recruited in his father Edward's constituency of Hythe and Edward, always thinking of a future career for his son in public life, told Philip that such a move would be "useful in other ways later on".

Although he held such a junior military rank, Philip's numerous social and political connections led to his appointment in December 1915 as private secretary and general fixer for General, later Field Marshal, Haig, who was Commander in Chief of the British forces in France and Flanders. Today, we might recognise his role as that of a special adviser. His duties included liaison with allies, organising Haig's diary and correspondence with newspaper proprietors, particularly Lord Northcliffe who was critical of the conduct of the war and used *The Times* and *Daily Mail* to set out his opinions.

Philip was also a fluent French speaker and was present at the summit on 1 December 1914 at the Chateau Demont at Merville in France, when King George V and Edward Prince of Wales met Poincaré, President of France, and Generals Joffre, Foch and Rawlinson. The allies showed their determination to fight Germany and the Central Powers.



Philip Sassoon as Commanding Officer of 601 Squadron, Auxiliary Air Squadron.



Philip Sassoon with General Haig.

Sassoon left the REKY as a Major when the war ended, but was involved in negotiating the terms of a pension and an earldom for Field Marshal Haig from the Prime Minister David Lloyd George in August 1919. In particular Philip's role was to undertake discreet discussions to prevent the need for Haig to submit direct correspondence. Lloyd George was so impressed that he offered him a position as his own parliamentary private secretary in 1920.

Philip Sassoon had replaced his father as MP for Hythe in 1912, sitting as a Conservative. In parliament too his talents as a networker came to the fore, combining his deep knowledge and appreciation of art with impressive political skills. He regularly hosted lunches at his Park Lane mansion after Cabinet meetings, using these to lobby and build bonds with his fellow MPs and ministers. His other homes, at Port



Philip Sassoon with Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

Lympne Mansion, Kent, and Trent Park, near Cockfosters in North London, were often used for political meetings and international summits. Philip also had a reputation for being one of the greatest hosts in Britain. He entertained members of the Royal Family, including the future Edward VIII and George VI, and celebrities such as George Bernard Shaw, TE Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and Winston Churchill at his lavishly decorated properties. Fellow MP Robert Boothby wrote of Trent Park “It became one of the houses of the age, “a dream of another world – the white-coated footmen serving endless courses of rich but delicious food, the Duke of York coming in from golf... Winston Churchill arguing over the teacups with George Bernard Shaw, Lord Balfour dozing in an armchair, Rex Whistler absorbed in his painting... while Philip himself flitted from group to group, an alert, watchful, influential but unobtrusive stage director – all set against a background of mingled luxury, simplicity and informality, brilliantly contrived...”

Philip served as Under Secretary of State for Air between 1924 and 1929 and again from 1931 until 1937. In these posts he played a prominent role both in preserving the newly-formed Royal Air Force as an independent service and making it “smart” and an attractive career for bright young officer cadets. As a keen aviator and qualified pilot Philip carried out the first general inspection of British overseas air stations, flying his own aircraft on tours out to the Middle East and India, ranging as far as Khartoum and the North West Frontier. He was also responsible, with Lord Trenchard, for the Auxiliary Territorial Air Force Bill of 1924, which created what are now the University Air Squadrons and raised 21 Auxiliary Air Force (AAF) squadrons for national defence.

The pilots of AAF squadrons generally came from the wealthier classes, as applicants were expected to already have, or be prepared to obtain, their pilot’s licence at their own



Trent Park, POW Generals go for a walk.

expense, at a cost of £96, about £5,000 today. They were expected to join for a period of no less than five years, and were required to fly a few hours every quarter and attend annual training for 15 days. Many, like Philip, kept their own aircraft and the AAF were often referred to as “the yeomanry of the air”. Each squadron was provided with a town base for training, and facilities at an aerodrome. Philip became honorary commanding officer of 601 (County of London) Squadron. The squadron was nicknamed ‘The Millionaires’ Mob’ because it was reported to have six millionaire members. Philip sought to enhance this cachet by hosting garden parties at Trent Park and at Port Lympne during the squadron’s annual training, which was held at nearby RAF Hawkinge.

Philip’s longstanding efforts to build a modern air force paid off. Whereas his efforts in the 1920s had been blocked by financial constraints, by the late 1930s the threat from a resurgent Germany was more widely seen and the RAF’s expansion and arrival of new equipment was well underway. A third of the force that would fight the Battle of Britain was AAF.

Philip was a prominent patron of the arts. His Park Lane home had a large ballroom which hosted annual exhibitions of old masters, often drawn from private collections through Philip’s connections, in support of charities. He was Chairman of the Trustees of the National Gallery from 1933 - 1935, and as Minister for Works in the 1930s he was responsible for embellishing many of London’s monuments and parks. In 1937 he was responsible for the erection of a statue of his old patron Field Marshal Haig in Whitehall, close to the Cenotaph.

Philip’s final public service as First Commissioner was the planning and oversight of the state visit to Britain of the French President Albert Lebrun in March 1939, less than a week after German forces had occupied Prague. The visit was designed to show the strength of the alliance and Philip designed a series of set-piece events for the three day visit, including a state banquet at Buckingham Palace, the opera, an address to both Houses of Parliament and a farewell dinner at the Foreign Office, which concluded with the actors Peggy Ashcroft and John Gielgud performing the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* in the adjoining India Office’s Durbar Court.

Throughout the visit, however, Philip had been suffering from a throat infection and after it he was ordered to rest. The virus, however, spread to his lungs and, although only 50 years old and physically fit, the modern medicines that would treat such a serious streptococcal infection were not available in 1939. He died on 3 June 1939. His ashes were scattered by 601 Squadron as it flew over his home at Trent Park.

Siegfried Sassoon

Philip’s second cousin, Siegfried Sassoon, has become known as one of the defining voices of the conflict with his searing poetry of the waste of human life involved in trench warfare. The two did not meet until after the end of the war and Philip seems to have had little sympathy with Siegfried’s decision to protest publicly against the carnage in July 1917. As a staff officer, Philip would have been unlikely to have appreciated Siegfried’s poem, “The General”, written in April 1917.

Yet, in the 1920s and 1930s, Philip was much more prominent than Siegfried in public life. It was not until later in the 20th century that Field Marshal Haig came under criticism for the huge casualty rate.

Trent Park

Philip's home in Park Lane has been demolished and replaced with a hotel and his mansion at Port Lympne will be familiar to many as a wildlife park run by the Aspinall Foundation.

His third home, at Trent Park, in North London, is undergoing restoration from a campus for Middlesex University to residential use. The site will include a museum on the two lower floors of the mansion, to explain its essential, but as yet not widely known, role in the Second World War, when it was requisitioned for use as a centre to extract information from captured German officers.

During the Battle of Britain in 1940, captured Luftwaffe pilots were held initially at Trent Park. The rooms had been equipped with hidden microphones that allowed the British to listen in to the pilots' conversations. This provided information about the aircrews' views on a number of matters, including the relative strengths and weaknesses of German aircraft.

Later in the war Trent Park was used as a special prisoner-of-war camp for captured German generals and senior staff officers. The camp was carefully-managed to play on the prisoners' vanity and preconceptions. They were met by the ostensible owner of the property, the Scottish Lord Aberfeldy, who was sympathetic to their plight. In truth no such person existed: the name was taken from a brand of whisky and adopted by the commandant, Colonel Thomas Kendrick. The accommodation was luxurious with special rations of whisky and regular walks in the grounds. The prisoners were even taken to dinner at Simpsons in the Strand until Churchill spotted one party and complained: future diners were taken to the Savoy, which he did not patronise.

The formal interrogations were deliberately perfunctory and inept. This, and the convivial environment, were intended to lull the subjects, encouraging them to relax and talk freely to each other. The microphones hidden in the house and grounds now



Trent Park Today.

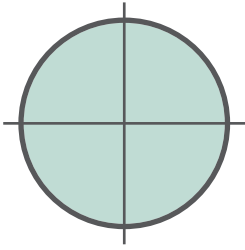
allowed the British military (MI19) to gather important information and an intimate insight into the minds of the German military elite. The cellars concealed a team of listeners who were native-speaking Germans, most often Jewish refugees, and whose existence remained unknown to the inmates.

Historic England has put the importance of the information collection on a par with the codebreaking at Bletchley Park. This included the existence and location of the German V1 and V2 rocket development programme at Peenemünde Army Research Centre, when General von Thoma discussed what he had seen there. This led to the area being targeted for a heavy bomber attack by the RAF. Intelligence was also gained on war crimes, political views, and the resistance in Germany that led to the attempt to assassinate Hitler. Eighty-four generals and a number of lower-ranking staff officers were brought to Trent Park.

Today a charitable trust is working to raise funds and it is hoped to open the museum in 2022.

The principal work on Philip Sassoon is the biography “Charmed Life” (2016) by Damian Collins MP, Philip’s successor as MP for Hythe.





GHQ AUXILIARY UNITS

by Chris Pratt

In the previous issue of *The Sharpshooter* Huw Jones wrote of ‘Defending Hever in 1940’. In writing of the Home Guard, he mentioned that “Some, especially near the coast had a guerrilla role...” Although it is believed that later on in the war some form of Home Guard guerrilla unit was created, the main ‘guerrilla’ role was, in fact, undertaken by a completely separate and totally secret organisation officially designated GHQ Auxiliary Units (AUs). With invasion imminent the AUs came into being on 17th June 1940. Their role was twofold. Firstly, as saboteurs, with Operational Patrols of six or seven men trained in sabotage and demolition behind enemy lines and secondly, the role of the Special Duties Section (SDS) was one of espionage. Whilst, in this article, I will concentrate on the role of the AUs in Kent it is, perhaps, worth a very brief look at its origins.

In 1936 the War Office set up a new department, General Staff (Research), whose role was to look at administrative improvements within the army. In 1938 Lt Col John Holland RE took command and the designation was changed to Military Intelligence (Research) MI(R). One of Holland’s first staff officers was Lt Col Colin Gubbins RFA. Also, in 1938 MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service) set up a new section to address the issue of espionage and sabotage in any forthcoming continental war. This section was designated Section ‘D’ and was commanded by Major Laurence Grand RE. At the outbreak of war in September 1939 the south east coast of England was defended by XII Corps commanded by General Andrew ‘Bulgy’ Thorne. General Thorne quickly realised that there would be a need for ‘stay behinds’ prepared to go underground ready to surface behind the invading forces’ lines to create chaos and mayhem. On 17th June 1940 these various elements came together in the form of GHQ Auxiliary Units with the first CO being Col Gubbins. The three elements of the AUs were the Scout Sections who were regular army officers and men whose role was to train the newly recruited civilian guerrillas in sabotage, Close Quarter Combat and firearms, the Special Duties Section (SDS) whose espionage role had morphed out of Section ‘D’ and, finally, the Operational Patrols, the saboteurs.

As we begin to look at the role of the AUs in Kent bear in mind that these civilian members of the SDS and Operational Patrols will, if invasion comes, be liable to summary execution as their activities would be illegal under the Hague and Geneva Conventions.

Scout Sections

The officers and men of the Scout Sections were detached from their regular army units in order to train the newly recruited civilian guerrillas. By 1942 the AUs were doing a

lot of the training themselves and 50% of the Scout Sections were returned to their units. Unfortunately, little is known of the men of the Kent Scout Sections but we do know that the two Sussex Scout sections had their HQ in Tottington Manor at Small Dole. The east of the county was covered by thirteen men of the Queen's Royal Regiment under Lt William Ashby and the west by thirteen men of the Royal Sussex Regiment under Lt Rot Fazan. In February 1942 both these sections were disbanded and the men returned to their regiments.

Special Duties Section

The origins of SDS lie in Section 'D' of MI6 and therefore a great deal of their activities is still classified. There were two main elements to the SDS. The men and women 'above ground' who were trained in German army unit insignia, tank and vehicle types in order that, come invasion, they could relay information on the invading forces, by radio, to the female radio operators in their underground radio bases. These men and women were recruited from many different walks of life including doctors, vicars, midwives and district nurses. The radio bases that they reported to were manned by women, usually ATS officers, whose role would be to transmit information received to the local army HQ for whatever action was deemed necessary.

In his book 'Churchill's Underground Army' John Warwicker writes of Victor Hogben of Foulmead Farm, Sholden Deal who was believed to be an SDS agent. After Victor's death his son, Stephen, found some notes concerning his father's career. Victor's secret service career appears to have started during World War 1. His skills in horsemanship, sharpshooting and Arabic led him to be a guide and interpreter behind the Turkish lines



Interior of abandoned Hollingbourne Zero Station – courtesy of CART.

in the Middle East conflict. Warwicker states that he met Lawrence of Arabia. It would appear that Victor remained on SIS lists as in World War 2, aged 41, a civilian 'from the War Office' visited his farm and invited him to join 'Civil Defence'. With extra petrol coupons and a travel pass he was able to roam around the countryside on the lookout for anything suspicious. Victor's radio base was in woodland near Nonington. There is no official record of Victor's WW1 and WW2 service. Stephen told Warwicker that both his father and Norman Steed, the Patrol Leader of the Manston Patrol were appointed magistrates in the early 1950's. Was this a reward for their wartime service?

Little is known of many of the men and women who served in the SDS but, to date, we do know that there were OUT Stations in Hamstreet Woods, Nash Court Farm, Thanet, Folkestone and at Charing which was manned by Adrian Monck-Mason, a poultry farmer who kept his radio in the chicken shed. Messages from these OUT Stations were forwarded to IN Stations – sometimes called ZERO or CONTROL Stations. We are aware of five of these at Hollingbourne, Bilting, Canterbury, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells.

A very important role that we do know the SDS played was in the 'D' Day deception plans of Operation Fortitude in which the German's belief that we would invade Europe via Norway and or the Pas de Calais was reinforced by the creation of two phantom armies. The British 4th Army in and around Edinburgh, Northern Ireland and Iceland and First United States Army Group (FUSAG) in East Anglia and the south east of England. Although the majority of FUSAG unit HQs appear to have been in East Anglia, troops, real and imaginary, were stationed all over the south east of England as well. Within FUSAG dummy airfields, tank parks and all the paraphernalia of an invasion force were created to support the premise that Normandy was just a feint. The role of SDS was to go out with our armoured regiments recording radio traffic and then feeding it into the atmosphere to give the impression of a major build up of forces ready to invade. Thanks to these deceptions as well as, of course, the work of the various resistance organisations, SOE and SAS 250,000 German troops remained in Norway until the end of the war and, in France, reinforcements to the Beachhead were slowed down to such an extent that 2nd Panzer (Das Reich) Division took seventeen days to make what should have been a three day journey. It was also seven weeks before 15th Army was allowed to release four Panzer Divisions from the Pas de Calais.

The Special Duties Section was Stood Down on 4th July 1944.

Operational Patrols

As previously mentioned, the role of the Operational Patrols was to cause chaos and mayhem behind the enemy lines with attacks on railway lines, airfields, ammo dumps etc. The men were recruited by local regiment officers appointed as Intelligence Officers to go out into the countryside looking for likely candidates. The majority of the men recruited would have been in reserve occupations e.g. farmers, gamekeepers and engineers but also those too young to be called up, some as young as 15, and also those too old to be called up. The Home Guard was an early target for recruiting the youngest and fittest.

Training by the Scout Sections took place in and around the Operational Bases and at Coleshill House, the Regimental HQ near Swindon. Many of the Kent Patrols were trained at The Garth in Bilting.



Interior of replica Operational Base at Parham – author's collection.

To date it has been established that Kent was made up of nine groups with a total of thirty-nine patrols. Captain Peter Fleming, Grenadier Guards, brother of the James Bond author Ian, was the first Intelligence Officer for Kent. In late 1940 Captain Norman Field, Royal Fusiliers, took over and split the county into two. West Kent was commanded by Captain George MacNicholl with Field commanding East Kent. In late 1941 Field left and MacNicholl took over whole of Kent.

The names of many auxiliaries are now known and are too many to show here. Details can be accessed via the British Resistance Archive on www.coleshillhouse.com. However, I have shown the Group Commanders and the Patrols for the nine groups:

No 1 Group – Captain Thomas Neame and Lt Frederick Foster: -
 Patrols: - Badlesmere, Doddington, Dunkirk, Oare and Lynsted

No 2 Group – Captain John Foreman who had been recruited by Captain Peter Fleming and Captain Mike Calvert, Royal Engineers (later to find fame with the Chindits), in the first week of June 1940. Foreman was assisted by Lt HJ Highwood. There were three patrols in The Weald: -

Patrols:- Goudhurst, Cranbrook 'Pepper', Smarden and East Sutton

No 3 Group – Captain Bill Gardner. Within his group three patrols were based on the Isle of Thanet: -

Patrols:- Blean, Herne Bay 'Blackberry', Monkton 'Gherkin', Manston 'Savoy' and Manston 'Maize'. RAF Manston was an obvious likely target come invasion and,

when post war, it was being extended it is believed that a number of caches of explosive were discovered at various strategic points around the airport. Although there were then people alive to explain why, the Official Secrets Act precluded anyone speaking out.

No 4 Group - Captain John Marchant and Lt Guy Steed: -

Patrols: - Wickhambreaux 'Mustard', Bekesbourne 'Mint', Ash 'Marrow', Sutton 'Stoat' and Bridge 'Swede'.

No 5 Group – Lt Alfred Chester-Beatty: -

Patrols: - Molash 'Badger', Challock, Charing, Westwell Leacon 'Onion' and Biddenden

No 6 Group – Lt William Johnson: -

Patrols: - Queensborough and Minster

No 7 Group – Lt Fenwick Luke – There were three patrols on Romney Marsh: -

Patrols: -

Rolvenden, Gibbet Oak, Snargate 'Mushroom' and New Romney 'Truffle'

No 8 Group – Lt Jack Graves & 2nd Lt Charlie Graves: -

Patrols: - Dymchurch 'Toadstool', Aldington 'Fungus', Elham, Hastingleigh 'Haricot' and Crundale 'Carrot'

No 9 Group – Lt G Lines:-

Patrols: - Wootton, Acrise, Drellingore and Guston

As you will see many of the patrols had cover names to enable discussion without giving anything away to outsiders.

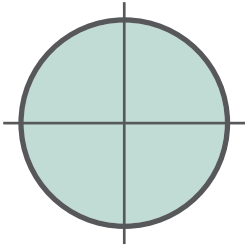
Training and recruitment continued throughout the war as men left to join the regular forces and in 1943 many auxiliaries joined the SAS and took their skills over to France on and after 'D' Day to help in its liberation.

With the breakout from the Normandy Beachhead, in August 1944, there was clearly no longer a threat of invasion and the Operational Patrols were Stood Down on 30th November 1944. Some of the men received a letter acknowledging the work they had done and pointing out that because of the secret nature of it there would be no acknowledgment of their role or of the existence of GHQ Auxiliary Units. In 1992 the government finally acknowledged the existence of the AUs and, in 1997, the first of very few Defence Medals were awarded to veterans.

For further reading:

'Churchill's Underground Army' by John Warwicker and
www.coleshillhouse.com – Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team

Chris Pratt, Curator
Museum of The British Resistance Organisation, Parham, Suffolk
formerly 4 Troop C(KSY) Squadron



OBSCURE VEHICLES OF THE SHARPSHOOTERS

by Dan Taylor

Humber Scout Car

To supplement production of the Daimler Dingo scout car, the Rootes Group was asked to produce a similar liaison/reconnaissance vehicle of their own. The result was the Humber Scout which was based on their 4 x 4 chassis already successfully used on a Heavy Utility and a Light Reconnaissance Car. In order to keep the weight down, it was more lightly armoured than the Dingo, so was limited to the liaison and communications roles. It was agile and manoeuvrable and, despite the cramped interior, the usual crew of two could, in special circumstances, be increased to three using a tip-up seat. It carried a No.19 Wireless set and, for armament, it was equipped with a PLM mount on the roof, which allowed either one or two light machine guns to be mounted and fired from inside the superstructure.

Humber Scouts were first used operationally in Northwest Europe in 1944. The official allocation was for nine to be issued to each armoured regiment (or tank battalion) in a communications troop, though different units distributed within the



Just after delivery, the 'liaison troop' is lined up in Windsor Road, Worthing. Despite the fact that they are new, they already sport a variety of different tyres. They will need to be personalised with additional stowage facilities and home comforts.

KSYM-SAL-16-224

Data Sheet

Car, Scout, Humber Mk I

Length: 12 ft 7 ins (3835mm)

Width: 6 ft 2 ins (1880mm)

Height: 7ft (2134mm)

Weight: 3.4 tons

Crew: 2 (with a temporary bucket seat for a third person)

Armour: Up to 0.55 inch (14mm)

Armament: One or two .303 LMG (Bren or Vickers K Gun)

Engine: Rootes 6 Cylinder 5V water cooled (87bhp)

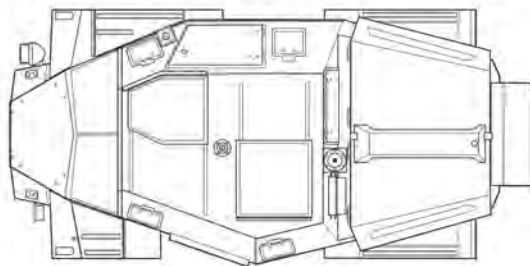
Speed: 62mph (road) (100kmph)

Range: 200 miles (320km)

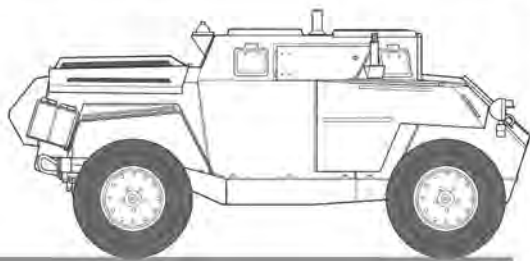
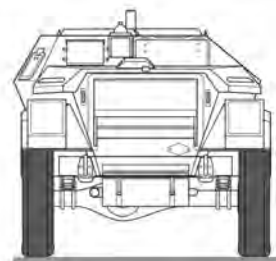
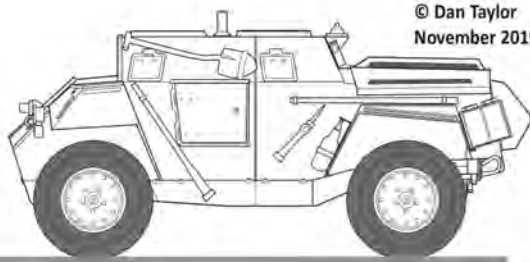
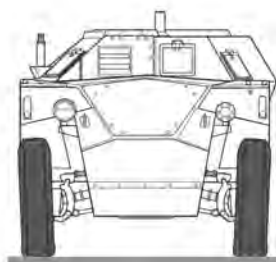
Production: Over 4,200 between 1942 and 1945, of which approx 1,700 were Mk I



with Bren Light machine gun fitted on PLM Mounting



© Dan Taylor
November 2019



1/48 SCALE



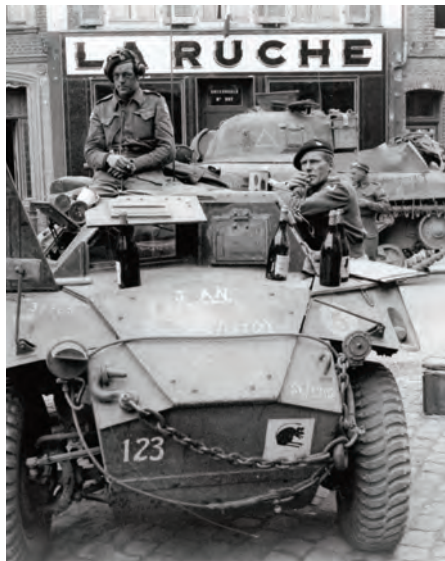
A column of Humber Scouts advancing during Operation Bluecoat, August 1944. Nearest the camera Major John Aitken MC, OC B Sqn, and SSM B Sqn 'Boy' Jewell sit atop their vehicle. This is the last picture of John Aitken before he was killed when his Humber Scout went over a mine during the advance to Antwerp a couple of weeks later. KSYM-SAL-19-047



A good rear view of a Humber Scout during the advance into the Falaise pocket. It is noticeable that Humbers often had a lot of stowage on the engine deck. This implies that the crew had confidence in the vehicle's reliability and that they therefore did not need quick access to the engine. KSYM-SAL-19-091

regiment according to their own tactical requirements. Both Sharpshooters Regiments, 3rd and 4th CLY, were issued with their allocation of nine Humbers when re-equipping prior to D-Day. The accompanying images give a good idea of the Humbers in use by the Regiment where the allocation appears to give one each to the CO, the Technical Adjutant and the Intelligence Officer, one to each of the squadrons, leaving three for other duties.

During the War, Humbers were issued to Allied troops serving alongside the British Army including the Czechoslovakian, Polish and Canadian Forces. It was quickly withdrawn from British front line service when the war ended and though many were used by Belgian, French, Norwegian and Dutch forces, the remaining stock was largely destroyed as hard targets on ranges in the 1960s. Despite that, the design of the very successful Ferret Scout Car has much more in common with the Humber, than the Dingo.



This is my favourite picture of a Humber Scout. It shows Lt Col Rankin and his Driver, Cpl Quye in Auxy-le-Chateau during the 'Great Swan' advance across Northern France. The collection of local produce on the glacis seems most appropriate.

KSYM-SAL-19-153



Nearing the Belgian border, at Roubaix, 'Boy' Jewell entertains some local children on his Humber Scout. KSYM-SAL-19-163



The 'Hairy Man', Lieutenant Peter Henningham, was the Regiment's IO. This shot was taken soon after crossing the border into Belgium. Note as you look through the pictures the variety of chemical smoke dischargers jerry-mounted on the front of the vehicle. Their handy turn of pace in reverse, combined with deploying the smoke, allowed them to get out of trouble as quick as they got into it.

KSYM-SAL-19-180



The Technical Adjutant, Capt Douglas Jackson – Jacko to his friends – on his rounds with the 'black gang' of the LAD in their half track. KSYM-SAL-20-013



The Sharpshooters went into reserve in Holland after Operation Market Garden at a town called Weert. The rest of the pictures in this section were all taken in and around the town. Here the OC A Squadron, Major Ollie Woods, is in his Humber Scout with Sgt Doug Endacott sitting on the vehicle's roof, alongside and his driver, Tpr Whalley in front. KSYM-SAL-20-136



B Squadron's vehicle with SSM Jewell in command, accompanied by Tpr Williams. Note Tpr William's jackboots – a popular acquisition within the Regiment at the time, as a number of people appear in the photograph albums wearing them.

KSYM-SAL-20-165



The fitters at work, supervised by Jacko and Peter Henningham. The V shaped struts on the rear were part of an alternative location for the spare wheel, usually carried on the right side of the hull.

KSYM-SAL-20-222



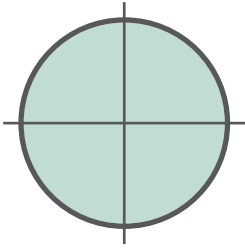
Tpr Hoyle, driver for Sgt BG Saint DCM in the C Squadron Humber Scout.

KSYM-SAL-20-230



Peter Henningham with his driver, L/Cpl Branchley atop their Humber Scout.

KSYM-SAL-20-225



NORMANDY 75 OR, “BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR!”

by Major MT Webb, 2IC RY

In May 2018 I can remember having a great idea and pointing out to CO Royal Yeomanry that in just over 12 months it would be the 75th anniversary of D-Day. I suggested that given the significant role of the Royal Yeomanry’s antecedent Regiments on D-Day itself and throughout the Normandy Campaign we needed to be involved in what would be the last major anniversary with a large number of veterans taking part.

There I was thinking “Well done 2IC, we’ll get a nice little Battlefield tour and some involvement in the commemorations out of this...” Oh no, within a matter of days the CO had decided that it was such a good idea that he’d brought our Annual Camp forward to May so that we would do a major 9 day Regimental FTX and then shift straight to Normandy. Not only that, but Force Troop Command (FTC) had agreed to that the Royal Yeomanry would provide the Guard of Honour (GoH) to their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and the Duchess Cornwall on the 6th June itself. The whole operation would be known as ExYEOMAN OVERLORD.

The planning then began in earnest. In simple terms it meant identifying 60 volunteers and 30 members of the Band to form the GoH, ensure they all had Blues, transport them to France within 24 hours of the FTX finishing, and ensure their kit and drill was up to the standard required of a Ceremonial Warrant Officer from the Coldstream Guards. Oh, and on the side organise a Battlefield tour for the other 110 members of the Regiment in Normandy and a Regimental Dinner for 200 on the night of the 6th of June. Be careful what you wish for!

In practice that plan had to survive a lot of contact with the enemy! The composition of the GoH changed almost up to the point we deployed to France. Many of the Squadrons strangely claimed not to have enough sets of blues to equip the 10 or so men they were each providing, even though only a couple of years before they’d each had 40 sets for the Guidon parade. We had several planning meetings and two recces to France with FTC who, while they constantly asked whether the RY could definitely provide what was required, were unable to confirm the parade format until after we deployed to France. Meanwhile the side projects of Battlefield Tour and Regimental Dinner required venues, caterers and itineraries to be identified. No problem, except that none of this could be confirmed without a formal agreement between the Regiment and the Bayeux’s City Council. And that couldn’t be confirmed until the arrangements for the Normandy “exclusion zone” were confirmed, which required vehicle and people passes for every member of the Regt attending. No problem, except the website for the organisation responsible for the passes wasn’t to go live until April 2019. Oh, and meanwhile the goal posts had quite literally moved again. We had now been contacted by a local historical society in Bayeux and agreed to take part in

Regimental parade through Bayeux on the 8th June, followed by a football match against Bayeux FC.

And so it continued right up to D-Day itself. Ferry crossings were only confirmed in May due to the absence of WOI responsible for movements and the difficulty in confirming coach drivers (the MTWO finally had to drive one himself). Passes were delivered to the wrong address and collected only once Ex YEOMAN OVERLORD had begun. The parade format was only agreed once we arrived in France and the Ceremonial Warrant Officer looked visibly concerned that the GoH was to be provided by Reservists and Yeomanry at that! Rehearsals were carried out in the wind and the rain. Blues had to be moved around tents to avoid the constant leaks. Correct buttons were attached in between rehearsals etc. etc.



The GoH after 9 days on SPTA and getting down to drill rehearsals in Normandy 24 hours later.

Then on the 6th June itself the sun shone the crowds came out and the GoH performed perfectly. The Regimental dinner in the evening was a great success and the biggest in my 33 years in the RY, even though we only got keys to the venue hours before the dinner and we'd never met the caterer. The parade on 8th was also bathed in sun and went off perfectly even though there had been no rehearsal and there had been torrential rain until 10 minutes before we stepped off. The only downside was to lose 18-3 to Bayeux FC in the football match.

By the end of it all the Regimental 2IC had definitely aged somewhat, indeed I celebrated my 50th Birthday on the ferry over to Normandy. I literally have no idea how Monty managed to condense the plans for D-Day itself to one side of A4! It was, however, a great privilege to lead the British military's GoH for an international



GoH at Bayeux Cemetery on 6th June and the Regt 2IC regaling the RY at the Normandy dinner.

commemoration on this scale and I believe that for all those that took part it will live long in their memory. I must also thank those that helped me get it all over the line without dropping any ball; WO2 (SSM) Phil Mason who worked tirelessly to deliver the men and equipment for the GoH, Capt Karl Stone who brought the GoH to a peak of perfection during three days of unrelenting drill practice and Tim Rayson who planned and delivered two days of Battlefield Tours across most of Normandy.



RY parade through Bayeux on 8th June, followed by football match v Bayeux FC.



RY by Bayeux Cathedral post parade.

For those not aware the antecedent Regiments of the RY provided the following units to the Normandy campaign in 1944:

A Sqn (Nottingham) – The Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry landed in DD Tanks at H Hour on Gold beach.

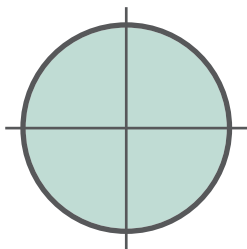
B Sqn (Dudley) – The Staffordshire Yeomanry, landed on Sword beach while the Worcestershire Yeomanry (211 Bty) landed in 27 gliders near Caen, as Division Artillery for the Airborne Division.

C&S Sqn (Fulham) – The Westminster Dragoons, landed on Gold beach with flail tanks.

The Band (City of London) - The Inns of Court & City Yeomanry, landed on Juno Beach. They were the Division reconnaissance unit for 3 Canadian Div.

C Sqn (Croydon) – The 3rd and 4th City of London Yeomanry (CLY) went ashore on D+1. The 143rd (Kent Yeomanry) Field Regt Royal Artillery went ashore on D+6.

E Sqn (Leicester) – The Leicestershire Yeomanry fought through Normandy as Artillery, part of the Guards Armoured Division. The Derbyshire Yeomanry had a regiment as Division Reconnaissance with the 51st Highland Division.



TWO SHARPSHOOTERS MISSION TO VILLERS BOCAGE IN A 1944 WILLYS JEEP

6th JUNE 2019

by Cpl Tatnell

Having set off from Portsmouth to catch the night boat on 5th June we arrived at Ouistreham at 06.30hrs on the morning of D Day +75 only to find that the Gendarmerie had erected a exclusion zone around the entire Normandy beach areas. It took us four attempts to break out towards Villers Bocage.



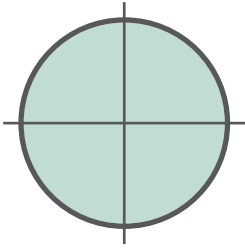
We arrived just in time to meet up with my fellow Sharpshooter, Tim Rason who was conducting a large group of Royal Yeomany members on a battlefield tour. They joined us and the town mare to lay our Wreaths at the Villers Bocage Sharshooters Memorial.



Then with the help of my copy of *Villers Bocage through the lens* and having the author present (Dan Talor) we were able to see the locations where the Sharpshooters were engaged by HPTDTUF Michael Wittmann Tiger tank resulting in the lose of all 15 A sqn's tanks. Whitman and his crew were taken out a few weeks later.



Cpl Tatnell (5th Trp / LAD) Trp Doxford (3rd/6th Trp) C,Sqn RY



BOOK REVIEWS

Suvla 15



Suvla 15 is a very easy book to get into and it very quickly becomes a source of a number of stories and facts that as a Sharpshooter informed and delighted me.

For example, very early on the book refers to 3rd County of London Yeomanry Regiment (Sharpshooter Hussars). Where did the Hussars come from?

However it is the anecdotes that really brings the Regiment and the time to life. For example, the Colonel was offered the use of a Rolls-Royce as his staff car by one Lewis Theodore Marmion Pennington. He accepted the offer but to make it quite legal and above board he commissioned Pennington into the Regiment with the rank of second lieutenant and appointed him to be his personal driver. Reading this it is tempting to reflect that those were the days, where a Commanding Officer could make such instant decisions!

There were some unexpected characters serving alongside the 3rd County of London Yeomanry Regiment during Gallipoli, including one William Wedgewood Benn (later 1st Viscount Stansgate, becoming a decorated RAF officer and politician and father of Tony Benn) a Second Lieutenant in the 1st County of London Yeomanry.

Much of the early part of the war the Regiment is held in reserve, much to the frustration of officers and men alike. When they do finally get sent to the frontline in Gallipoli it is as infantry having been made to leave their mounts in Egypt. They were issued with new kit and were only allowed to take limited luggage, for officers the allowance was some 35 lbs. Being Yeomanry that did not restrict the nature of what they took with them as is best illustrated by the account of a medic Captain Teicham: “As we steamed out of the harbour the crew of a battleship gave us a cheer and wished us good luck, and a Yeomanry officer responded with a “Gone Away” blast on his hunting horn”.

As they arrive at Gallipoli and prepare for their first engagement their diary entries are filled with confidence and high morale. This was soon replaced by despair, described in detail within the book by extracts from the diaries of the doctors and medics. The book avidly describes the chaos and confusion of the battle and the lack of knowledge of the soldiers on the ground as to what their objective was and the harsh reality of the battle.

During the course of the battle at Suvla, the 3rd County of London Yeomanry lost some 45 men killed, wounded or missing. As the account explains for much of the time they were in reserve and their losses not as great as their sister units. One notable loss was a Lt W.E.G Niven of the Berkshire Yeomanry and father of the actor David Niven, killed during this action. Despite the losses, none of the accounts showed that the officers on the ground appeared to realise it was a defeat. However at the end, the Turkish still dominated the high ground overlooking Suvla.

The battle continued having now reverted to more traditional trench warfare. Interestingly the Turkish enemy were held in respect by the British, with one soldier commenting: They were a decent lot, Turkish soldiers. Admirable, clean fighters, they were good lads. Another said “The Turks are splendid soldiers and fight clean, not like the Germans. They are kind to our wounded...”.

The Yeomanry were pulled back from Suvla in November 1915. During the time on the peninsula there was 80 percent “wastage” in little over two months, much due to sickness rather than the offensive. The commanding officer of 3rd County of London Yeomanry Lieutenant Colonel Weston Jarvis survived the campaign with barely a scratch or suffering illness, despite turning 60 at the end of 1915.

An informative, easy to read account of the Yeomanry in Gallipoli. The use of diary extracts brings a very personalised touch to this book. You can use this book as a basis and refer to *A Great War Sharpshooter – The Great War Diary of Colonel Alexander Weston Jarvis* (volume 1) to fill in more of the detail.

Be careful – it is too easy to get fully immersed in this account and want to carry on researching even more!

Penny J Malik

The Badges and Insignia of The Essex Yeomanry. A guide for collectors



by Michael Wood. Published by the Essex Yeomanry Association 2019, 94 pages, A4 sb, colour illustrations, £14.99 plus £3.00 P&P to UK addresses. Books on regimental insignia are rare, ones on yeomanry are even rarer and Michael Wood must be congratulated on taking on the task of compiling all the known insignia of this unit. It is split into 10 chapters with two appendices, bibliography, and lineage. It starts from the formation of the unit right up to modern times. All the images are in full colour and described in the text, which covers helmet plates, cap badges, collar badges, shoulder titles, TRFs, belt plates, buttons and much more. The author has also gone into what to look out for regarding fakes and reproductions. At the back of the book are charts indicating the rarity of the items shown, what they are made of, size, construction, fixings and back marks which is most useful. This book is a limited edition run and can be obtained by email expatyeoman@essex-yeomanry.org.uk or by writing to M. Wood, 52 Downsway, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6TU. Cheques made payable to M. Wood. All proceeds after expenses are donated to the EYA. Highly recommended.

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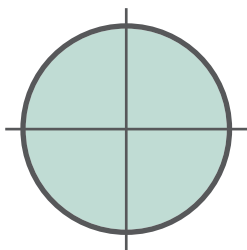
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If you want further information on any of the items for sale please email David.



KENT AND SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION FORECAST OF EVENTS 2020

February

1st 102nd 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

7th 102nd 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 226th 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

3rd Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Parade and Service Hyde Park. Sponsor Regiment: The Royal Wessex Yeomanry followed by lunch (tbc) at The Atheneum. Please contact the Hon Secretary on 15th March for further details.

8th VE 75 Commemorations.

14th Visit to Orwell Park School. 7th Armoured Div Assn service and lunch. As part of 22nd Armd Bde 4th CLY embarked from there for D Day and there is a memorial in the school grounds to that effect. Lunch is not free and has to be paid for. Further details from the Hon Secretary.

June

6th 76th Anniversary of the D Day Landings.

7th Federation of London OCA Parade and Service. Please contact the Hon Secretary in April for further details. Date TBC.

13th 76th Anniversary of the Battle of Villers Bocage in 1944.

14th 7th Armoured Div Assn service at Thetford memorial at High Ash Camp.

July

- 10th** 77th Anniversary of the invasion of Sicily (3rd CLY) in 1943.
- 23rd** ***Founders Day. 119th Anniversary of the 3rd CLY being formally established in the London Gazette in 1901.***
- 26th** 110th Anniversary of the second annual dinner of the Brigade of Sharpshooters OCA in 1909.

August

- 15th** 75th Anniversary of the end of the war against Japan.
- 30th** 78th Anniversary of the Battle of Alam El Halfa (1st Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942.

September

- 22nd** 77th Anniversary of 3rd CLY landing in Italy at Taranto in 1943.
77th 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** 78th Anniversary of El Alamein (2nd Alamein) (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1942.

November

- 5th** Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. Please apply to the Hon Secretary for tickets in July. Early booking essential.
- 7th** The Lord Mayors Show.
- 8th** Remembrance Sunday.
- 19th** 79th Anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi (3rd and 4th CLY) in 1941.
- 21st** The 73rd All Ranks Bir El Gubi dinner. To be held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly. See flyer for further details.
- 24th (tbc)** 2 RGH Bir El Gubi service at Badminton. Please contact Dave Carter in October if you are going.

December

Inputs for the 2020 Journal are required before the end of Dec.

- 11th (tbc)** RY Carol Concert. Further details to be published.
- 20th** 120th Anniversary of the Battle of Tafel Kop, South Africa (23rd Bn Imperial Yeomanry – the original Sharpshooters) in 1901.
- 31st** ***120th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sharpshooters in 1899.***



Sharpshooter Chefs 3CLY 1915