



The sharpshooter



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Incorporating 18th, 21st & 23rd Bns (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry,
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www.ksymuseum.org.uk



Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association

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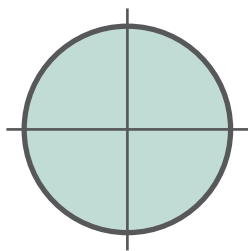
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Front cover: Colonel Bill Rankin and his driver, Corporal Quye with their scout car in
Auxy-le-Chateau during the Great Swan advance after the Normandy campaign.

INDEX

Chairman's Report	2
Secretary's Report	5
Treasurer's Report.....	8
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1939	10
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1939.....	11
Welfare Report	12
Royal Yeomanry 2019-20	15
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1940	18
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1940.....	19
265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Support Squadron OC Report	20
C(KSY) Sqn RY Report	25
The Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association Report.....	27
Operation Cabrit – A KCLY Junior Officer's first Op Tour in a multinational NATO HQ.....	29
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1941	40
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1941.....	41
Sharpshooters on Tour – Op Cabrit 8 2020 Winter Tour [Cassino Troop]	42
COVID-19 mobilisation with Londist.....	48
Ex Noble Skywave – 265 Support Squadron	50
12th/16th Hunter River Lancers.....	53
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1942	56
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1942.....	58
Empty Saddles	59
Derek Fransham.....	60
Gordon Holloway	62
Ernest Wilfred Oxley.....	64
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1943	70
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1943.....	71
Field of Remembrance 2020	72
Went the day well 2020	73
The 73rd El Gubi Dinner	74
Museum Trust – Chairman's Report 2020	76
Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum Trust – update and recent acquisitions	77
World War 1 Memorials in the UK	81
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1944	86
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1944.....	88
Sgt C A Stone MM 4th CLY Medal Group	89
Associations of the Kent Yeomanry	91
Book Reviews	94
The 39-45 Booze Cruise	99
Sgt John Parish	109
Obscure vehicles of the Sharpshooters	111
Bringing history to life – County of London Yeomanry, 1945	116
Bringing history to life – Kent Yeomanry, 1945.....	117
Ernest Dray – Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles	118
Second Lieutenant Norman Otto Frederick Gunther	123
The Salomons Cup.....	126
Trooper Robert Waugh, West Kent Yeomanry	132
Pte Charles Harry Derisely	139
110 years of Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry Fine Dining.Part 1.....	142
The Battle of Tafel Kop follow up	149
KSYA Donations 2020	152



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Lt Colonel Mark Hodson TD

A very warm welcome to the 2020 edition of the Sharpshooter journal – 2020 has been a year like no other. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has touched everyone in one way or another. As I have heard said many times, we're all in the same storm together. Personally I think it is more true to say that whilst everyone may be in the same storm, there are a number of different boats weathering that storm – and individuals and families have been affected in very different ways.

Like many organisations this year we have adapted how we operate and how we support our members. Whilst we had dabbled with video-conferencing in the past, the *KSYA* adopted zoom quickly (and other platforms) inevitably to hear the frequent cry “you're on mute”...

What has been important during this year, and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future, is checking in on one another to ensure that no-one is suffering in silence or simply because they have not been seen at an event that they would usually attend.

All of our usual key events have been cancelled this year. It has been especially sad not to have those moments of reunion – at the likes of Cavalry Memorial parade, Lord Mayor's Show, Field of Remembrance and Remembrance Parade. The El Gubi dinner was finally postponed due to the second lockdown, and we held an extremely successful virtual drinks party instead. Some 30 or so people attended, and we were fortunate to have joining us Commanding Officer Royal Yeomanry - Lt Col Thomas Bragg, Hon Secretary of the Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association - Lt Col Simon Mcmenemy, Lt Col Wolfgang Mann (recently retired) of the Bundeswehr, the Gillman family, and the Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers - David Sales, to name but a few. We were especially fortunate to have Sian Birtwhistle and partner Euan join us, Sian's father Clive, had served with the 4th CLY and fought through D-Day on Honeys. A thoroughly engaging and good spirited drinks party was enjoyed by all. As ever, thanks to Tim Rayson our Hon Sec for ensuring that this event happened. Despite not being able to dine as usual, I still sent a letter of Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty, and also sent our best wishes for the Queen's and Prince Philip's 73rd wedding anniversary which was the day before (20th November) our El Gubi this year. We received a very gracious reply, a copy of which is shown in the following pages.

We have been able to support officers and soldiers from both Sharpshooter squadrons deployed on OP CABRIT throughout this year whilst they operate in Poland and Estonia. CABRIT is part of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in Estonia, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Currently [December 2020], 265 Sqn has a chef deployed in theatre providing catering support to the troops, and C Sqn are operating with their regular paired regiment the 1st The Queens Dragoon Guards



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hodson TD,
Chairman,
Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association.

Please convey my thanks to the President, Honorary Colonel,
Vice-Presidents, Officers and Members of the Kent and Sharpshooters
Yeomanry Association for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of
the Seventy-Ninth Anniversary of the Battle of Bir El Gubi which is
being commemorated this evening with a virtual Drinks Party.

I was interested to learn of the range of activities undertaken by
Members over the course of the year and am grateful for the kind
sentiments expressed in your letter.

I send my best wishes to you all for a most successful and
enjoyable online gathering.

ELIZABETH R.

21st November, 2020.

(QDG). We wish them all well as they spend Christmas on duty away from families and loved ones, and are also unable to return to the UK to enjoy their two weeks R&R break due to the C-19 restrictions.

Support to our soldiers in theatre has been a truly collaborative effort between Squadron Associations, such as ours, the Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association and the QDG's own regimental association. Penny O'Hare, our Welfare Officer, has been at the forefront of the welfare support, leading and organising the sending of "morale" boxes out to theatre for Sharpshooters, the Royal Yeomanry and the QDG. With the restrictions imposed by the pandemic this has meant that rather than a team effort at the barracks, Penny and her husband Andy have been preparing boxes at their home. The boxes have been extremely well received and we are jolly grateful for Penny's and Andy's work on our soldiers' behalf.

The absence of the Lord Mayor's Show this year left a major void in this year's calendar. Terry Bodman has led our participation in the Show for over 20 years. Thanks

to Terry we have developed a strong relationship with Rex Cadman of the War & Peace Show who always kindly provides our float of an armoured vehicle on a low loader with a forward platform for members of the *Association* to stand on and participate in the Show. Terry has stood down from his LMS duties this year. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Terry for all his hard work each year ensuring that we have had such a significant presence in the Show. Terry is handing over the role to Ron Snowball and we are looking forward to the Show resuming in 2021.

We elected three new Vice-Presidents in the summer. All have contributed to the Sharpshooter family and esprit de corps in significant ways and I am delighted to congratulate Major Brenda Traylen MBE TD, Terry Bodman and Bill Lovell on becoming Vice-Presidents. I know that they will continue to support us fully and I look forward to liaising with them in their new capacity.

Whilst we were not able to gather collectively for Remembrance Sunday this year, our Hon Secretary, Tim Rayson, dispatched members of the *Association* to visit graves of First World War Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen buried in the UK. This was a great exercise and allowed us to record some gravestones that have previously been largely neglected by the *Association*. There are plenty more still to be visited so this will be an ongoing exercise.

I must take a moment to congratulate David Sales on becoming Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers. David has been our link man (Liaison Officer in mil speak) to the Livery for many years and he and his wife Karen have attended and supported many of our events over the years – we are delighted that David is Master for the coming year and offer him our hearty congratulations and full support.

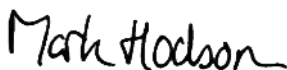
We are indebted to our journal editors, Lt Col Simon Malik and Tim Rayson (also our hardworking Honorary Secretary), who devote many, many long hours to crafting our journal each year. With every edition they manage to find ways to improve on the previous year's and it is always a thrill when the journal arrives through the letterbox and one gets to see how everyone's contributions and photos have been masterfully put together. Thank you.

As has become custom, I'd also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my fellow committee members and other supporters for all their hard work and dedication supporting the *Association* and Sharpshooters. The *Association* simply would not function as well as it does without their energy and passion for our cause.

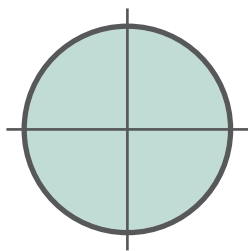
As I write this – with the country in various tiers of lockdown and currently a third strain of C-19 starting to infect our people, I'd like to wish everyone a safe, sane and covid-free 2021.

Please remember we are here to assist the entire Sharpshooter family – those serving, those who have served, and Sharpshooter families too; please do get in touch if there is anything we may be able to do for you.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hodson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the first letter and ends under the last letter.

Lt Col Mark Hodson TD



THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Tim Rayson

The year 2020 has to put it mildly been something of a disaster as the Covid19 pandemic took hold with grave impact for our programme of events. I can personally vouch for its impact having caught it and then spending six days in ICU and a further four days in a HDU and recovery ward.

However despite the lack of social events the *Association* has not sat still and has undertaken a wide range of work including most importantly providing S2O for *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomen* from both the RY and 71SR deployed on Op CABRIT. It would be fair to say that within the RY everyone's eyes turn to this *Association* as the past masters of this vital task and it is an essential part of our *raison d'être* demonstrating clearly that we are firmly embedded with modern day *Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomen*. It was therefore very satisfying to be able to support troops from both serving squadrons as they undertook their various commitments.

This essential piece of work was carried out by Penny and Andy O'Hare with some modest support from myself before the second lockdown took place and as you will see from their report delivery of these morale lifting boxes to not only *Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomen* but the other RY/QDG and attached arms components of Cassino Troop is very much appreciated by the troops on the ground both regular and reserve and indeed the families. Please do also read the RYRA report on the overall S2O piece and especially the creation of the family Christmas hampers using *Association* contacts and expertise. The money granted by this *Association* to the RYRA has along with donations from the other Squadrons been well spent and we are expecting a further call for funds in early January.

Our small band of World War 2 veterans has sadly reduced further with the loss of Wilf Oxley 3rd CLY. He was probably the last of that very brave and gallant generation of Sharpshooters to whom we will always be grateful and will never forget. The cancellation of VE75 events meant that our ability to honour of WW2 veterans was greatly reduced. Instead however the Editor and I with help from Dan Taylor have selected a series of photographs of our predecessors to form our tribute to them. For each year from 1939 through to 1945 there are photos of individuals that Simon Malik has meticulously colourised and brought to life.

On the historical front I have been involved in tracking down the story of Private Ernest Dray REKMR who fought in the Great War as an underage soldier and was tragically killed by the IRA in 1920. His full story including how the *Association* has helped to get a new monument to him is in these pages. I have also arranged for a memorial for Cpl James Dunsby to be placed at Sharpshooter House and although it is unfortunate that Covid19 restrictions have meant that the official unveiling has not

yet taken place there will be party when it does. I'd like to thank all those who generously donated to both of these worthy causes.

Chris Moden and I undertook a stock take of the membership in the early summer and as you will see from his report the *Association's* numbers took a bit of a dive but we are as result financially better off because we are no longer sending 120 copies of the Journal to unknown members.

It is a point often missed that membership of the *Association* is free for all those serving in either squadron and that all they need to do is to complete a membership form and supply a passport sized photo so that they can be issued with a membership card. By completing the form we can then ensure that a copy of the Journal can be sent to a home address both now and when they finish service.

The cancellation of Remembrance Sunday at the ARCs allowed serving and retired Sharpshooters from both squadrons to set out on a quest to find all of the known WW1 Kent or Sharpshooter Yeomen buried in the UK. Although organised at short notice there was quite a high success rate for those in South East/South West London and even one in darkest Cumbria! The results are recorded in the centre pages of this edition. We will make a better effort to visit those in North and East London plus those in Eire and the West Country in 2021.

The other major casualty was the El Gubi dinner where despite our best efforts which included changing it to a lunch to avoid the Saturday night crush we had to postpone it until next year. However I did host a virtual drinks party on Zoom and the Chairman did get a lovely response to our letter of Loyal Greetings from The Queen.

At this point I wish to acknowledge the outstanding support given to this *Association* by the Worshipful Company of Insurers who together with the 50 or so members donate to the *Association* on a regular basis. These donations allow us to undertake the wide variety of tasks that we do including especially S2O. This year's donation from The Company was very firmly earmarked for S2O and that has allowed the *Association* to contribute towards other such as James Dunsby's memorial and Ernest Dray's together with supporting other *Sharpshooter* friendly organisations and charities.

However we need the rest of you to contribute as well because deployments are not going to go away but increase and we need to be ready for the unexpected. Please donate £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 25% to £25.00. 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. The form is enclosed with the Journal and I would strongly encourage you to complete, sign, scan and email it back to me.

All donations should 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*.

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account no: 00593399

Sort code: 30-11-75
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 together with a completed Gift Aid Form. Please note that we can only claim Gift Aid if you are paying income tax of at least the same value as the Gift Aid itself.

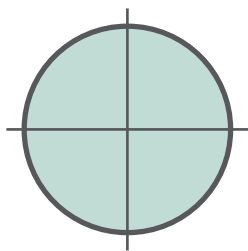
And what of the future?

The impact of Covid 19 in 2020 was significant and for this year is yet to be assessed and so the only event confirmed for 2021 at present is the El Gubi dinner which will take place on Saturday 21st November at the Cavalry and Guards Club. This will be the 80th Anniversary of the Battle and we will be trying to make it special. At the time of writing there are no early indications as to whether the usual events that take place in May including Cavalry Sunday will actually take place. Please keep an eye open for announcements on our Facebook page and for those who we have email addresses for you will also get an email as well.

I look forward to seeing you at as many of the events as possible and wish you all the best for 2021.

Tim Rayson
Hon Secretary





TREASURER'S REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31st March 2020

At the start of this year I took over as Treasurer, after a break of approximately ten years since last being involved with *KSY Association* and Museum Trust activities.

In terms of figures, using current (31st March 2020) valuations of investments the *Association* had net assets of £67k (£79k prior financial year). The fall in net assets is attributable primarily due to significant market volatility caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, which affected our M&G Charifund investment. However, at the time of writing the Charifund units have recovered nearly a third of their lost value, following the recent news of the breakthrough with vaccines. We are confident that the Charifund units will continue to recover towards their £16.50 (approximately) per unit value, at the beginning of 2020.

A large change in asset holdings occurred this year, with the purchase of an additional £20,000.00 of M&G Charifund units, funded by the disposal of the equivalent amount of NS&I investments. The *Association* has since benefited from a better investment return (approximately £3k per annum), but our spread of investments risk will need to be reviewed in due course.

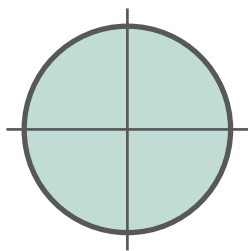
Income in the period significantly increased, particularly with the very generous support of the Worshipful Company of Insurers and the excellent response to the crowdfunding requests to support the purchase of artefacts for the Museum Trust. Donations to general funds and towards the cost of the annual journal continue, some 50 individuals having made donations this period. This income is essential to allow the *Association* to continue to produce the annual journal and fulfil its charitable obligations (£4k and £1.3k respectively). Donors are listed elsewhere in this Journal.

Another source of income that needs to be tapped into is from Gift Aid, whereby we can claim back from the Government tax paid by individual donors. This has the potential to enhance donations by 25% and will provide the *Association* with a significant additional source of income (whilst stocks last). To take advantage of this income stream, it is imperative that individual donors complete a gift aid declaration form and the *Association* is in possession of it, otherwise advise us that you do NOT qualify. If you have not recently completed a gift aid form, the *Association* encourages you to do so. Please contact either the Secretary (secretary@ksya.org.uk) or the Treasurer (treasurer@ksya.org.uk) to obtain a current gift aid form. But please remember you must be a UK tax payer and that if you pay less Income tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donation in a tax year, it is the individual donors responsibility to pay the difference.

Finally I thank my predecessor John Gunn, who undertook the role for almost ten years and who continues to give time to the Museum Trust as Treasurer.

Tony Bentley, Hon Treasurer

Balance Sheet For The Financial Year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020						
		Current Year		Previous Year		
		31st March 2020		31st March 2019		
Investments at cost		£	£	£	£	Comments
M&G Charifund Units purchased 1/3/88, 21/8/89, 20/8/05, 30/4/08, 1/5/19 & 31/10/19		Total for 4,101,437 units	39,727.00	Total for 2837.270 units	19,727.00	See Note A below
Current Assets		31st March 2020		31st March 2019		
NSI Investment Account		1,941.00		0.00		NSI Investment Account balance at 31/3/19 was actually £1,877.00. Not reported at financial year end 31/3/19.
Cash at bank accounts		16,455.00		35,148.00		The financial year end 31/3/19 balance included £20k proceeds from the disposal of £20k of the NSI Investment Account for future investment in M&G Charifund units. Cash at bank on 31/3/19 was actually £35,153.00 = £5.00 error
Sundry debtors		0.00		68.00		Sundry debtor(s) reported since at least financial year end 1/4/10. £68.00 Debt written off in current year.
		Total	16,396.00	Total	35,216.00	
Less Sundry Creditors		0.00		(936.00)		Sundry creditor(s) reported since at least financial year end 31/3/14. £936.00 Liability reversed in current year.
		Total	0.00	Total	(936.00)	
Total Accumulated Fund		58,123.00		Total Accumulated Fund	54,007.00	
Represented by		31st March 2020		31st March 2019		
Balance brought forward			54,007.00		51,932.00	
Plus / minus surplus / deficit			1,317.00		2,075.00	
Other adjustments - refer to comments above			2,799.00		0.00	Includes £49.00 NSI Investment Account interest received but not reported @ financial year end 31/3/19
Total Accumulated Fund		58,123.00		Total Accumulated Fund	54,007.00	
		31st March 2020		31st March 2019		
Note A	Market value of Charifund investment at financial year end	4,101,437 Units at unit price £11.9547	49,031.00	2837.270 Units at unit price £15.62	44,331.00	Fall in 31/3/20 unit price due to significant market volatility caused by the pandemic.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

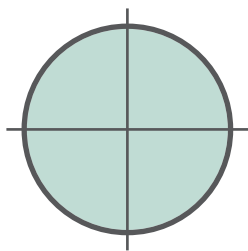
County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1939



Four NCOs sightseeing in Ilfracombe, 3CLY's first wartime billet.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

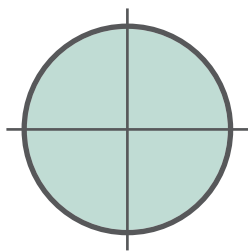
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and
recognition markings.

1939



97 (KY) Field Regt, Okehampton, July 1939.



WELFARE REPORT

by Penny O'Hare

It has been a busy year this year with ten members of C squadron being deployed to Poland for a winter tour. Not to be outdone members of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn at Bexleyheath deployed two of their squadron also to Cabrit but to Estonia rather than Poland and we have looked after them as well. Having been called up in April/May, they have been away from home and loved ones since travelling to various sites around England training. With Covid-19 they were unable to come home at times.

They were deployed at the end of September to Poland on a tour lasting until April. With the on-going Covid-19 situation they are not able to have any R&R during their tour. This means they will not see their families and loved ones until they return in April, at the earliest.

To keep their spirits the Regimental Association together with other Yeomanry associations have sent out two care packages.

The first parcel went out at the beginning of October. This was called a 'forgot something' parcel. The parcel elves – Penny and Andy O'Hare, Bill and Julie Lovell, Marc Stoner and Tim Rayson met up at Croydon Barracks and packed and wrapped 100 parcels to send to Poland.



The parcel consisted of tea bags, drinking chocolate, biscuits, stationary, a Polish translation book and sweets. The most important item put in box was hand sanitizer!

The regimental associations got together again later on in the year and made up 147 Christmas parcels. These were made up by the O'Hare elves in the "O'Hare grotto" because of the Covid-19 no mixing rules. These parcels were bigger and filled with Christmas goodies. We sent them out a woollen beanie hat each (got to keep the head

warm) and some goodies from Buckingham Palace. Also, in each parcel was a Christmas stocking with a cracker, party popper, party blower, some battery lights, and some Christmas chocolates as well. My colleagues from school donated money to buy them Christmas decorations to cheer up their common rooms.

I have had some lovely emails back saying thank you to us all. I have even received a bouquet of flowers from the REME team thanking us.

We had several messages from the recipients:

I'm sending this email to personally. Thank you for the hamper/morale box you sent to me out in Poland.

I wish you and your kin a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards.

GNR Ryan Moore.

It's **Bdr Pearcy** would just like to thank yourself and Andy for the kind morale box you sent me thank you very much hope you have a good Christmas Many thanks Dan

I am **Sgt Maj Damien Fisher**. At this moment in time I'm currently the CASSINO Tp Sergeant Major out on OP CABRIT. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for these wonderful boxes, we have received. I have done a number of operations over the Christmas period within my 18 years in the Army, and I have never seen so many smiling face when these boxes have been opened.

Please pass on my gratitude to all involved. Thank you. Damien

Just a quick note to you and the association to say thank you for our parcels. They have been just what we needed and a little taste of home.

The wooly hats were very well received and we wore them as spectators and players when we played the Americans at American football over Thanksgiving.

Thank you again.

Michael Greenwood, LCpl, C Squadron

To the O'Hare Elves,

Thank you so much for the wonderful box of goodies you created and packed. The Stollen bites are absolutely delicious!

Your box has really brightened up my week and put me in the Christmas spirit ready for December!

I hope you are both keeping well in the UK and that COVID hasn't been causing you too many troubles.

Best wishes and Seasons Greetings!

Rosie

Capt Rosalie Heller RAMC

My name is Tpr Moore from 1st Queens Dragoon Guards

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for the work you have been doing for the lads while we are deployed in Poland.

With the difficulties faced with not being able to have R&R, the morale when we received the boxes was brilliant and for most of the QDG lads we would like to thank you.

From myself I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a new year for yourself and your family.

Many thanks again

Tpr Bradley Moore

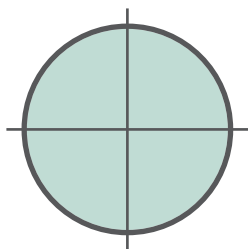


The beanie hats have become 'issue wear' while around camp. They have also been wearing them when supporting sports events against other nations. A big thank you goes to all the Associations that have raised money to make this all possible. Andy and I have enjoyed putting this all into action. Also, a big thank you to my local postmaster who has put up with us coming in with at least 40 parcels at a time and also for arranging a quick pick up from his post office to the main London sorting office to get the parcels off quickly.

Due to Covid-19 we have not been able to have face to face get togethers but I have been in touch with families via email or WhatsApp and the occasional Zoom meeting with other wives, girlfriends and families of the Regiment. We are hoping to organise other events/face to face get togethers. We are looking forward to seeing them all coming back safe and well.

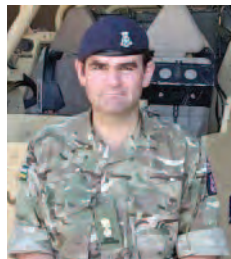
Please remember I am here for anybody that needs support or a chat:
07702354009/pennyohare@hotmail.com





ROYAL YEOMANRY 2019-20

by Lt Colonel Tom Bragge,
CO The Royal Yeomanry



The last twelve months have been simply awesome and extraordinary by anyone's standards. Events have put beyond question the regiment's thirst for operations. The numbers volunteering for both CABRIT(P) and RESCRIPT were humbling. It was a shame that we never got to mobilise as a Coronavirus Support Force (East), but what mattered was the 109 people who were ready at seven day's notice to do their bit for the country. At the same time, we mobilised 70 as the first Army Reserve sub-unit deployment to the Enhanced Forward Presence in Poland, as part of a US Battlegroup in a Polish Brigade under the NATO banner. Currently we have Royal Yeoman serving in Estonia, Poland, Japan, Kenya, Cyprus and the UK.





The complexities of the qualifications pipeline and mission specific training were proving considerable in normal times and then COVID-19 struck. Overnight the routine became difficult and the difficult near impossible. Testament to the quality of our people was the extremely low failure rate through the mobilisation process. The deployment has been a whole regiment effort with people from across the organisation helping to deliver training. Defence recognises the significance of what we have achieved as the vanguard of a new Army Reserve even closer aligned to operational outputs, fulfilling Commander Field Army's mantra of 'flexible, credible and usable'.

Whilst collective training for Operations continues to be the focus there has been plenty of other activity going on across the regiment. We are continuing to convert onto the Jackal Platform and develop our battle craft reconnaissance skills both mounted and dismounted. The majority of courses are now distributed and able to be delivered regimentally by our own instructors. Warmest congratulations must go to the Cambrian Patrol Team who scooped a Silver medal, completing the 48-hour arduous dismounted



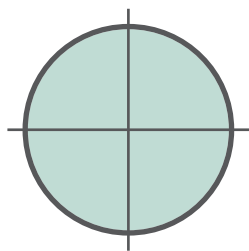
patrols serials better than the majority of regular infantry battalions competing. Richly deserved given the appalling weather conditions in the Brecon Beacons that weekend.

The Polo team have continued their run of success. The RY competed in the Inter-Regimentals but lost in the semi-finals. We did however win the AGC and Captain's & Subaltern's tournaments for the second year in a row. With 35 active players from across the regiment, we are growing talent to sustain success for seasons to come. Yeomen from across the regiment continue to represent the Royal Yeomanry at alpine skiing, football, hockey, boxing, sailing, kayaking and mountain biking.



Special mention to the Squadron Old Comrades Associations, via the Regimental Association, who have come together to support the CABRIT(P) deployment, both financially and through their considerable welfare expertise. I look forward to working with the wider regimental family to benefit those deployed and their families here in UK.





BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

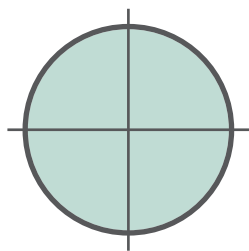
County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and coloured by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1940



During the move from Rushton to Cambridge.
John Oldfield, Jimmy Sale, Stanley Rice,
George Wada enjoying a refreshment break.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

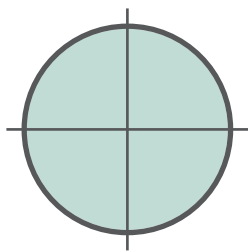
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and
recognition markings.

1940



97 (KY) Fd Regt RA, Dunkirk, 4th June 1940.



265 (KCLY (Sharpshooters)) Support Squadron OC Report

OC – Major David Lakin
2IC – Capt Michael Mahoney
SSM – WO2 Simon May
PSAO – Capt Steve Slaney
Trg Offr – Vacant
Trp Ldr – 2Lt Ian Dawes
SQMS – SSgt Rob Marshall

I think that it will come as no surprise to readers of the Journal that 2020 has been an unusual year in which to be soldiering. The constraints of lockdowns and tiers have changed the approach to training – possibly in ways which will remain in effect for some time to come. Equally, military support to the government response to Covid 19 has provided opportunities for some soldiers to mobilise for full time service. Meanwhile, in the background members of the squadron have also participated in the ongoing operations in eastern Europe.

The year at least started as planned. The key event in the first part of the year was the Privileged Regiment Parade which saw the squadron marching through the City of London on 25 January to be reviewed at the Guildhall by the Lord Mayor of London.



265 Squadron marching contingent at the Guildhall.



The Worshipful Company of Insurers briefing in February at Bexleyheath.

This was of course preceded by plenty of drill practice and polishing. The parade was a great success and enjoyed by all the friends and family who attended.

In February the squadron hosted a briefing evening at Bexleyheath ARC which brought together the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association*, the Sharpshooters Museum Trust, the Worshipful Company of Insurers, 107 ACF detachment (our collocated cadets) and local veterans. The briefings provided an opportunity for all elements of the squadron family to gain a better idea of each other's roles and interests and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The evening was of course topped off by an impressive spread of refreshments laid on by our own LCpl Akerbil.

March is the RFCA awards season and this year Sgt Woo got a well-deserved Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service. Well done Sgt Woo!

From that point on however events took an unexpected turn as the nation went into lockdown in response to Covid 19. All collective training was cancelled and courses in progress were curtailed as the army went into 'protect the force' mode. The regiment quickly stepped in to arrange 'virtual training' pending the return to face to face training (which in the event was not to happen until August – a hiatus of five months). Virtual training proved to be popular and to a greater or lesser extent has continued to the time of writing. Indeed, I strongly suspect that it will continue in some form for the foreseeable future such are the advantages it brings.

The army response to Covid 19 has been organised under the title of OP RESCRIPT. Reservists were invited to volunteer to help and many did, including several members of the squadron. Sig Oldham deployed to Horse Guards to provide IT support to London District, Sigs Uhl and Gurung were (eventually) deployed to

support a Mobile Testing Unit and Pte McNally mobilised to ply his trade in the kitchen at Aldershot.

Meanwhile Lt Ranny Wei mobilised to take up the role of SO1 Social Media on OP CABRIT in April. This role was a challenging one in a NATO HQ but Ranny rose to the challenge in his inimitable style returning from Estonia late in October. Clearly bitten by the soldiering bug Pte McNally demobilised from Aldershot only to remobilise straight away for CABRIT heading out to Poland in September – we will see him again in the spring of 2021. Meanwhile he will no doubt catch up with his fellow Sharpshooters of C Squadron Royal Yeomanry.

The squadron returned to face to face training with a repurposed Ex PHOENIX WARRIOR in August. Held at Bexleyheath ARC the exercise concentrated on equipment care and refresher training in communications both of which were much needed after a long time away from the kit. Detachments shook out under the watchful eye of Sgt Andy Weight the PSI(T) and detachment drills were practiced with advice and guidance from SSgt Denney (whose luck it was to return to the squadron after a long stint away in Africa just as Covid 19 struck).

The squadron built on the foundation achieved in August with Ex PHOENIX MAINTAIN in October. Crews, under the guidance of squadron seniors and their detachment commanders set up their detachments and progressed onto using encryption and setting up a communications network between each crew. Each lesson was designed to have learning incremental to the lessons given in August, in order to force brains to start whirring and get back into the world of communications. All of which was undertaken in the light of the regiment's new role supporting 3 Division, the army's deployable war fighting formation.



PSI (T) conducts quarterly detachment checks in a Covid secure manner.



Cpl Harries becomes Sgt Harries (left) thanks to the intervention of the CO (right).

Amongst the communication business the squadron had a socially distanced visit from the Commanding Officer of 71 Signal Regiment, Lt Col G Darke. Of course it was the fine details that caught his attention. One such detail was that Cpl Brett Harries was wearing an incorrect rank slide! Much awaited, Corporal Harries was finally promoted to Sergeant – without handshakes, but many congratulations nonetheless.

October also saw a squadron team participating in Ex NOBLE SKYWAVE for the first time. As the title suggests the exercise was designed to test skywave communication skills. As an international competition NOBLE SKYWAVE pitted teams from Canada, USA, UK and six other countries against each other in an attempt to communicate with as many other stations as possible over the course of 48 hours. The team came nineteenth out of 118 competitors and was the second highest scoring UK team – a very creditable first effort.

Just as we thought things were returning to normal and the squadron was on a high following its performance on NOBLE SKYWAVE a second national lockdown was announced. All training reverted to the virtual environment and plans to mark Remembrance Sunday were thrown into disarray. Government guidelines did not allow a marching detachment to be fielded this year and the squadron was represented at a much reduced ceremony at Bexleyheath war memorial by Captain Steve Slaney.



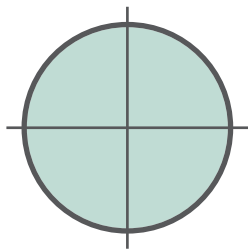
Antennas – key to success in NOBLE SKYWAVE.

The easing of lockdown at the beginning of December allowed the momentum achieved in the exercises in the autumn to be continued with Ex SHARPSHOOTER PROGRESS a squadron level communications exercise held at Mereworth Woods – the first time the squadron had exercised in the field in 2020! Notwithstanding the chilly weather it was good to be re-acquainted with cam nets and cam cream.

This year closing down for the Christmas leave period won't see the usual parties and the planned award of squadron prizes is postponed pro tem. It has certainly been an unusual year and I'm sure that we are all looking forward to something that looks a bit more 'normal' in 2021. However, all things considered the squadron has come through the year in good shape and good spirits. One feature which provides hope for the future is the strength of the recruit cohort waiting to join the squadron. We have 18 potential squadron members at various stages in the process of joining which is very encouraging. This positive situation is in large measure due to the pro-active steps taken by the squadron recruit mentoring team, led by LCpl Liscoe, who have kept the recruit cohort engaged throughout this difficult period.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to note the arrivals and departures from the squadron. The 2IC post was vacated by Captain Dave Alleyn who goes on to the ARRG. SSgt Gary Ward stepped out of the SPSI post on leaving the army in July for a new job in teaching – he will be much missed and we wish him well in his new career. In return we welcome Captain Mike Mahony as our new 2IC and SSgt Martin Tancock as SPSI. Also welcomed to the squadron this year were LCpl Angus (from 63 Sqn) and Sig Chalk (from 68 Sqn).





C(KSY) SQN RY REPORT

by Major Julian Moore

I took command of C Squadron in September, from Maj Godfrey Critien, who finished after two years in command, including leading the Squadron during the battle group Exercise YEOMAN OVERLORD last summer — where the Squadron outperformed others by some distance. Maj Critien handed over C Squadron in good health and running on rails, despite all 2020 had thrown at us.

That said, twenty-twenty, for obvious reasons, was a relatively damp squib for C (Kent & Sharpshooters) Squadron, Royal Yeomanry. Training was curtailed for the majority of the year: anything that resembles lockdown forces the Squadron into virtual training over Zoom, a format now well-rehearsed.

But even a pandemic hasn't stopped the Sharpshooters delivering significant output for UK Defence throughout the year. We have contributed ten soldiers to Operation CABRIT, as part of a wider-Regimental effort to deploy a Squadron for six months to wintry Poland. We have twice offered (albeit not have been required) around 40 volunteers to Operation RESCRIPT, the military contribution to the UK Government's coronavirus effort. And we've still managed to continue a significant amount of business as usual: a number of field training exercises, including two navigation exercises, a

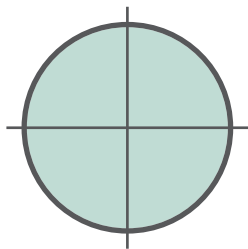




dismounted patrols weekend, and ranges; courses; and even some social activities (when the rules/threat have permitted).

Pushing into 2021, the Squadron's priorities are to continue with our platform conversion from RWMIK to the Jackal armoured vehicle; double-down on our training for role (i.e. Light Cavalry) mastering the basics in particular, such as navigation and fitness; recruiting (difficult during lockdown!) and retention to bolster our numbers and especially increase regular attendance; and of course welcoming home our Squadron brethren from Op CABRIT in the Spring.

Already it seems a number of our planned exercises for quarter one are scuppered, including a range package, but these will be flipped to virtual training utilising the Army's advanced networked military simulation software, more Zoom, and dare I say potentially even some Call of Duty. However, I have no doubt the Squadron will be looking forward to breaking out from the virtual: as soon as we can train physically again, we will do so, with all the Croydon-esq gusto for which C Squadron is renowned.



THE ROYAL YEOMANRY REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

A very large part of every Regimental Association's remit is to support the serving soldiers when they are deployed on operations. As you will read elsewhere in 'The Sharpshooter' The Royal Yeomanry currently has one of its largest deployments in years, this time to Op CABTIT in Poland and Estonia.

One of the lessons learned from the deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan is that soldiers rarely serve in composite Squadrons or even composite troops and so it is important to remember the effect on morale when soldiers from one Squadron receive a welfare package or communication and others do not. This does not mean that there is no place for Squadron Associations, quite the reverse as you will read below, it is just crucial that these Associations liaise with each other and ensure that the serving soldiers and their families have the same welfare 'experience'. This has very much been the role of the Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association this year, to act as the co-ordinator of the groundswell of support there is from the Squadron Associations.

As anticipated the *KSYA* has, quite literally, done the 'heavy lifting' on behalf of the RY and all the other Squadron Associations. With their son Brennan on his third (or even fourth?) operational deployment the past masters of putting together the welfare parcel are Penny and Andy O'Hare. Working closely, as ever, with Tim Rayson and a number of others (and an understanding Postmaster!) they ensured two welfare parcels were sent out to all soldiers in Cassino Troop in the first two months of their arrival in Theatre. These went to all in the Troop including the attached arms, so 140 in all.

I would like to thank Penny and Andy O for doing all the purchasing, packing and posting of these parcels to the troops. It was just as well that Brennan has deployed as his bedroom at home was full of parcels for many weeks! The QDG Association also sent a further parcel to all troops in time for Christmas.

We had also been planning a series of get-togethers and entertainment events for the families of those deployed. Because of the wretched coronavirus none of the events were able to take place, other than online. The disappointment at this was only compounded by the news that the soldiers would not be able to take any R&R mid-tour to see their families over the Christmas period.

So we wanted to make sure that we sent the families something at Christmas to make clear to them just how much we appreciated their moral support to their loved ones and the sacrifice they were making. So again, we planned for every family of the 140 soldiers in Cassino Troop to receive a hamper. This was a great team effort by Squadrons and Associations and, of course, all funded by the money contributed by all the Associations in the Regiment. In particular, I would like to thank Tim Rayson for



sourcing the Arran whiskey liqueur and its splendid label (see attached), a distillery set up and run of course by a veteran Sharpshooter, sadly no longer with us.

We turned to the Windsor-Clive family who own the Ludlow Farm Shop (and have historical links with the Shropshire Yeo and Worcestershire Yeo) to make up the hampers. As you can see from the photos, we wanted this to be a very special hamper and something which would be not only as a gift but a memento. The team at the Ludlow Farm Shop were great but even more impressive was how the Squadrons and their Associations set about delivering hampers the length and breadth of the country, and even abroad, to make sure no-one was left out.

Last but by no means least, The Regimental Operational Support Officer sourced an online Children's entertainer to play Santa for the children of those deployed, and this took place at the weekend on 'zoom' and was paid for by the RYRA.



From the feedback received I believe the families feel appreciated and know we are thinking of them even if we can't meet with them in person.

We have now spent the lion's share of the money from the original round of funding. We will take a breath to see what is needed next as we enter 2021 still uncertain about what we will be able to deliver to families in terms of 'live' events. But I will certainly be in touch in the New Year with plans – and the begging bowl!

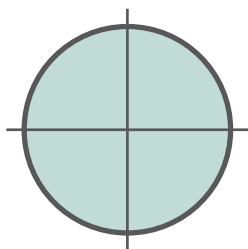
In the meantime thank you all for your continued support, which I believe shows what we are capable of doing as a collective rather than as individual associations.

Lt Col Simon McMenemy

Secretary

The Royal Yeomanry Regimental Association





OPERATION CABRIT – A KCLY JUNIOR OFFICER’S FIRST OP TOUR IN A MULTINATIONAL NATO HQ

by Capt Ranny Wei KCLY, Jan 2021

The beginning of 2020 feels like an era ago. Arguably it was, for it was impossible to foresee what was to come in the year ahead, no more so than when I received a fork-in-the-piste message whilst skiing in the Bavarian Alps in March. An “urgent” job referral.

On behalf of Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) – the tri-service command from where all overseas military operations are planned and controlled – the Army’s Land Operations Command (LOC) were seeking to fill a key post for Operation CABRIT, with immediate urgency. They required a Media Officer to be deployed to NATO’s enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Command HQ in Estonia – and in the spirit of the Whole Force concept, this C1 civil service role could be undertaken by a Regular or Reserve Officer who is “SQEP” (suitably qualified and experienced personnel). By chance, previous Digital and Media work for Corps and Army HQs, as an extra-curricular pastime encouraged by my Regiment, saw my being nominated as the LOC’s candidate to assume this role on operations.

Op CABRIT is the name given to the UK’s largest overseas deployment, where nearly 1,000 British service personnel have been deployed to the eFP in longevity since 2017 (in six-month operational tour rotations), as a result of the 2016 Warsaw Summit pursuant the annexation of Crimea. The British contribution consists of a hybrid Armoured Infantry Battlegroup in the northernmost AOR (area of responsibility), NATO Battlegroup Estonia, as well as a Light Cavalry Squadron under the command of the US Army, who are the “Framework Nation” of NATO Battlegroup Poland.



NATO’s eFP consists of four multinational Battlegroups spanning across the Baltic States and Poland, to demonstrate the determination of the Alliance and ability to act as one in response to any aggression against its members. It is the biggest reinforcement of NATO’s collective defence in a generation, and Op CABRIT is the UK MOD’s priority commitment to NATO and our Allies.

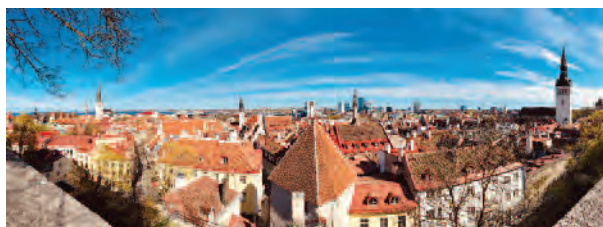


All of the above was what I'd quickly learned upon being committed as the "Individual Augmentee" to deploy into this role – but pre-deployment study was certainly not extensive, for the timeframe was a matter of days compared to the usual few months of PDT for a Reservist mobilisation! The turnaround from enquiring about the job specs with LOC to enquiring whether my civilian employer had a relevant HR policy felt like overnight – and before my employer even had a chance to formulate a new HR policy to facilitate their "wholehearted support" (not that their Armed Forces Covenant Gold Award had any persuasion!), I had received my "call-out notice" (owing to the helpful advice and efficiency from the APC). Report date – Monday immediately after.

Just as COVID was beginning to "trend" in the UK and London becoming deserted to trial-and-error mass working-from-home, I, too, returned home to the Peak District the day after bidding farewells at work to await mobilisation at MTMC(I) Chilwell (where individual Reservists are prepared for deployment). Such an "unprecedented year" continued to set new precedents. Mobilisation at MTMC(I) was reduced to only the bare essentials, as the Army was beginning to explore new ways of working and the RAF were quickly shutting airbridges all over the world. Within a week, I was on the last flight out to Estonia, embarking on my first real adventure – unlike any of the numerous trips around the world in previous years but rather, in hindsight, the most extraordinary experience far beyond what I could have possibly imagined. I'd unknowingly grasped this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to contribute to a key strategic operation – exactly what I'd signed on the dotted line eight years ago to serve for.



The excitement was matched with, but never overshadowed by, the anxiety of not knowing who's who and how business is conducted in this industry. But every second would prove to be a new learning experience to be cherished. Soon upon arrival, I was



introduced to the 20-strong eFP HQ, all of whom, with the exception of me, were Regular Staff Officers (SO2s) spanning across the J1-9 Staff functions, each heading up their own department

with the support of a few NCOs. Based on such composition alone, the dive certainly felt like the deep end from the start! Or perhaps, this unique background (comparably lacking in military experience in rank or Staff) may prove to be the secret weapon that perfectly suits the role I was due to assume?!

The first two weeks of settling-in was a game of adapt-and-overcome not just for me but for everyone, as the operational HQ, being the forward representatives of PJHQ and careful to comply with UK guidelines to protect our force, was just starting to conceptualise the now so familiar “remote-working” and “social-distancing”. Luckily for me, I was able to “quarantine” from the comfort of the accommodation (warm shelter from the snowstorms!) whilst attending the inaugural fully-virtual Defence Communicator’s Course (DCC) which was expertly tailored and delivered by Steve



Priestnall and Robin Griffiths from the Joint Information Activities Group (JIAG). This course would provide invaluable foundations for me to embrace the new challenges of the new role – I would strongly recommend any junior officer to attend such

JIAG courses to not only broaden our perspectives but more so to peek into the increasingly prevalent direction of military operations (daresay, warfare) in the information and “grey space”.

This is perfectly illustrated by Op CABRIT. There is no imminent threat against any NATO Allies but on the frontline of potential threats, the “soft” power of influence and overt demonstration of “hard” capabilities becomes the very top of strategic effects to achieve. Media operations are integral to delivering impactful “Strategic Communications” (STRATCOM) whilst working in close collaboration with the British Army’s intriguing Information Activities and Outreach (IA&O) operations. I was extremely fortunate to have been taken under the wings of Major Paul Machnicki (PWRR) and Major Pete Ward (1RRF), both of whom were young Infantry Officers leading Information Activities operations, who had embraced the versatile but innovative nature of our Army’s modern outlook of strategic operational effects. With their pastoral and professional support, I very quickly settled into the style of working in a Regular British-led HQ and started marching to the high-octane Battle Rhythm as a one-man band, assuming responsibility for all J9 Media operations.

Admittedly, even I shared the expectation as 99% of the Army – that this job was purely taking and posting a few pictures every so often



on social media! But far exceeding expectations, J9 Media was endless in both variety and time! It was a privilege and eye-opening to be able to work directly to PJHQ J9, learning first-hand key policy and strategic direction from UK MOD down to our deployed operations. Contributing to policy interpretations and representing J9 considerations in strategic reviews were new heights of ownership and exposure. Operational Staffwork (OSW) became second-nature, but not after some constant red-penning to help my learning and development, thanks to the patience and candid guidance from Major Chris Wane MBE, referred to only as “the COS” (Chief of Staff), of course!

With responsibility naturally came a more solemn duty to uphold – that of “crisis communications” where any incident management needs to take into account the mission- and time-critical sensitivities of (potentially hostile) Media activity. There were several occasions where “lines to take” and “defensive news briefs” fell on my shoulders to sanction as formal advice to the Commander, but count myself lucky that these accounted for only a tiny fraction of all my experiences. A summary of the much more colourful spectrum of magical memories follows.



Whilst PJHQ were one of the most crucial stakeholders for whom to deliver, it was a welcoming link to maintain the connection with “home”, not least with the frequent Media requests to support our key workers who were on the COVID frontline. Or indeed, in planning and coordinating these productions, finding any excuse to call in some fighter jets from our nearby European Allies or have our own tanks “make some noise” (C Sqn Queen’s Royal Hussars maintaining the “heavy armour” capability with their Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks).

However, even the Chief of Joint Operations (CJO), figurehead stakeholder who commands PJHQ, emphasised that our most important stakeholder is actually the “operational audience” – the people and communities within our AOR. NATO’s eFP is a visible show of unity and readiness – ready to defend – so the most effective way to reassure the local population that they continue to live in peacetime is to engage and educate on why we are there. This is where STRATCOM becomes a literal playing field of creative opportunities. Especially with the multinational nature of NATO and the



eFP, STRATCOM was a shared priority amongst our Allies and offered the most unique and rewarding exposure to such international relations.

Fortunately, we had a ready-to-go green proposition. The most credible deterrence is undoubtedly our British tanks, a key component of the NATO Battlegroup that is fully integrated into the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF), who themselves do not have “heavy armour”. Whether it’s the annual flagship Exercise SPRING STORM (the culmination exercise of the EDF conscription cycle in which the British-led NATO Battlegroup play full-scale opposition forces) or monumental cross-border Brigade-level live-fire exercises in neighbouring Latvia or Lithuania, the value is only truly extracted when these are seen and understood by the local population, through hosting VIPs or press, or producing media outputs for mass publication. STRATCOM becomes the main effort, as that is the means by which the target audience can see the reassuring defensive capabilities, as well as deterring potential adversaries from materialising any threat. Of course, those who work in STRATCOM are also the biggest beneficiaries being rewarded with the sensual explosion of tanks firing live rounds close-up and a photo in a tank ride for memento!



STRATCOM showed off capabilities that reflected the overarching strategic collaboration between NATO partners, from yet more exciting live-fire demonstrations of Javelin anti-tank weapon systems (a strategic new procurement by the EDF) brought by our Infanteers, to the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) brought by the US



Army in Europe all the way from Germany – in very few jobs would I have had such a privilege to see such a broad military variety. And it’s not just grounded to the land components. With some of the busiest airspaces (of potential threats) in NATO’s defence, the multinational JTACs (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) from up and down Europe would gather to take advantage of the combat-ready fighter jet detachments based in Estonia, with whom they



can develop air-land integration. Following a tour in which our own RAF led the enhanced Air Policing (eAP) Mission as part of the Baltic Air Police (BAP), the French Air Force (with their Mirage-2000s) assumed responsibility in 2020 and were always happy to take part in STRATCOM collaborations – even the tiniest cooperation would contribute to a longer-term higher effect, for the French Army will become the only other “Troop Contributing Nation” in the British-led eFP Battlegroup from Spring 2021. The intricacies of international diplomacy!

But it is never quite enough to just follow the busy schedule of routine exercises, as that level of engagement with the local population will eternally be through the media of television, radio or print. Estonia is a country with an incredibly rich and colourful history, from the initial independence more than a century ago to the final formation of the current Republic only three decades ago, with countless iterations of occupation and cultural adaptations in between. Therefore, its people are perhaps some of the proudest in the world to boast their hard-fought freedom and current influence as a global leader in the technology industry. With one the most open and free presses in the world, we were fortunate that both press and population have largely friendly-leaning sentiments towards NATO and the eFP. This set the conditions for IA operations to focus heavily on reaching the locals the traditional way – British uniforms in public with an impressive vehicle or two to act as the flag bearers. As with any Media or public engagement, planning was crucial. Never has this proven more important than in a high-tempo multinational operation, with so many stakeholders and strategic effects at stake each time. The hottest topic of all, in everything we did, was to ensure compliance with COVID-19 measures, especially adhering to the Host Nation government direction whilst aligning with the UK’s own force health protection measures.

With the situation effectively stabilised in Estonia (a population of merely 1.3 million with extraordinarily low infection rates), major public events quickly began to open up in time for summer, which was to become the warmest in history. Naturally, this also meant the opening up of STRATCOM creativity, which was advocated most by the Commander CABRIT, Colonel Paul Clayton MBE, who



always wholeheartedly supported and believed in imaginative ideas and “disruptive” solutions. We were lucky to have fully integrated STRATCOM collaboration with the British Embassy, who had long-established relationships with local schools and charities, who were always keen to work with British soldiers in community projects. These were equally embraced by our soldiers, for it offered a chance to venture beyond the barrack-life in order to contribute physically or subliminally (by just being seen or speaking with the friendly and welcoming locals) to the reassurance that we are here for the long run and proud to maintain long-term relationships. These projects often utilised the expertise from our sub-units with specific trades for a more meaningful contribution – from the Royal Engineers helping to move and build orphanages or revitalise community gardens, to the Royal Military Police forming new relationships in establishing training weekends for the local Army Reserve equivalent, Estonian Defence League (EDL) MPs.

The Reserve component in Estonia is truly inspirational. The EDL accounts for a majority of the whole Defence capability, and actively included in any measure of strength and readiness, for their country has proven such concepts of mass Reservist mobilisation with success. I discovered that their Reservists are similar to ours in that there is a full-time primary employer, but their training are less frequent and less set in doctrine, as they are expected to maintain readiness, and motivation, at will. Admirably, this does not pose a problem because most men would have completed conscription service for at least a year after leaving school, coupled with their shared fundamental belief in a unifying purpose – whatever it takes, to never lose their independence ever again.



I could not have learned about the above fundamental Estonia Defence strategy from a more credible source than personally from the Estonian President, Kersti Kaljulaid. A keen athlete, Her Excellency joined in one of our most ambitious and large-scale engagement projects ever! In the peak of summer, 30 Allied soldiers embarked on “NATO Velo” – first of its kind, seven-day, 1000km cycle “tour of unity” across all corners of Estonia to illustrate just how beautiful this land is, and how kind and welcoming its people are. Beyond the



impressive sporting pursuit – brainchild of, and meticulously planned by, Major Dave Pooley (Royal Signals Officer in charge of CEMA who had brought his professional road bike with him as deployment baggage!) – we were responsible for extracting maximum STRATCOM value out of the adventure by hosting engagement events in major cities up and down the country to coincide with the cycling team’s arrival at each leg. This was a major collaborative project to learn the ways of working of our Allies, namely, our Danish partners (whose ARMADILLO and VIDAR Mechanised Infantry Companies served as the only other partner nation forces within our eFP in 2020) as well as with our Icelandic partners (who actively contribute to NATO missions, even without a standing military capability of its own!).

And the cycle route really did span across every single corner! From the “student capital” Tartu to the “summer capital” Pärnu, from the idyllic home-island of the President, Saaremaa (tour guided by Her Excellency personally) to the actual capital Tallinn, and ultimately reaching the momentous finish line in Narva, where the very Easternmost border lies – a stone’s throw (quite literally a fishing stream) across from neighbouring Russia. The extensive coverage of both cycle tour and civic engagements on local, national and regional media (arising from forward pitching and media production), was a huge sense of achievement – not least the warm feeling to be part of, and reassure, the friendly communities who would usually not see our soldiers (and our heavy armour) and that the UK is wholeheartedly committed to defence and deterrence as part of NATO’s eFP.

With the epitome of defence and deterrence – tanks – readily available, summer certainly concluded in style. No better excuse than STRATCOM to have some fun with heavy metal – both armour and music types! With its international reputation of





effective containment of the pandemic, Estonia hosted the grand relaunch of the FIA World Rally Championships, so of course we had to enter this international stage with our own vehicles. In collaboration with the organisers, we provided the coolest backing dancers and smoke machines for one of the most popular metal bands in Estonia, Metsatöll, on their primetime slot in the COVID-compliant virtual opening ceremony watched by millions worldwide. No better way to fly the flag and gain some serious exposure on screen. Oh, and the home team won this Rally Estonia (“Palju õnne Eesti!”)!

Of course, amongst all this action we cannot neglect a significant part of Op CABRIT serving in Poland, and I was constantly blown away by the impressive media capture and production submitted by LEGION TROOP (the name given to C Sqn Light Dragoons within the US-led Battlegroup). My work was made infinitely easier as the light cavalry soldiers seemed to have an instinctive talent (endlessly featuring in celebratory stories of the multinational reconnaissance exercises which kept the small unit extremely busy), not least owing to the double-hatted Squadron Second-in-Command, Capt Sam Davies, and his Troop Leader, Lt Sam Addison, whose passion for media editing and professional production would put those who actually had media-training to shame. Their work also shed light into fascinating new insights of the modernisation of the British Army’s Light Cavalry, as much of LEGION Tp’s activities on Op CABRIT were captured for the “THUNDERCAT Trials”. These trials are led by the British Army’s Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) to work directly with Industry in a coordinated programme to explore innovative ways to fulfil technological improvement, focused on three main areas: “Eyes” (surveillance), “Ears” (communication), and “Teeth” (lethality). LEGION Tp were replaced by CASSINO





Tp, composed primarily of fellow Reservists from our very own Royal Yeomanry, in yet another historic moment in this unprecedented year.

With the joy and pride of seeing fellow Reservists deploying as a formed unit on operations, I was given one last tasking before my end of tour was due. I was lucky to have been chosen to represent the UK in the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR)'s annual "Late Summer Congress" – an open dialogue and cooperation conference with Allies from across NATO and beyond.

It was an impressive feat by the organisers to host this hybrid week (delivered in person and with virtual dial-ins from across the globe), as well as the first time CIOR has co-sponsored the internationally recognised "Annual Baltic Conference on Defence" (ABCD) symposium of European Defence Ministers and academics, hosted by the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS). And how befitting a theme: "Strengthening Societal Resilience and Defence Cooperation." To quote President Kersti Kaljulaid: "I'm very glad that this ABCD is very much about the role reserves play in our security environment." Of equal weighting in the regional security environment is the role of NATO and the eFP, which would provide the perfect backdrop for the prominent international media who attended the ABCD. Since operations take priority, a short-notice Media Tour was laid on to demonstrate a variety of capabilities brought by the British-led eFP Battlegroup, highlighting our close partnership with the Royal Danish Army and seamless integration into the EDF to provide a credible defence and deterrence force.

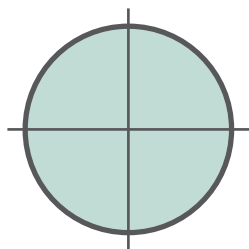
And back from the training area just in time for the highlight of the week, which was definitely a private tour of the Estonian Parliament in Toompea castle, guided by none other than former Prime Minister,

Taavi Rõivas, who was the very leader who had welcomed in our first ever eFP Battlegroup in 2017! Now still serving as a Member of Parliament, but more surprisingly, and admirably, he had recently joined their Reserve forces (as a fellow subbie)!



As Chief Media Officer, function head of public affairs and media engagements for NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in Estonia, I'm indebted to the internal and external partners and stakeholders who have taught me the true meaning of multinational integration, cooperation, and friendship. I can only be grateful for the immersive experience throughout my first operational tour – a never-ending steep but invaluable personal and professional development and so lucky as to have had exposure to the most external engagement. I just hope that I have made even a little tangible contribution to increasing the profile of this magical country and most importantly, the UK's leading role in defending our Allies, especially this relatively young operational deployment called Operation CABRIT which has quickly become the UK's largest commitment. Not for a single second could I have hidden the excitement of this opportunity, having enjoyed each second as a cherished memory.





BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

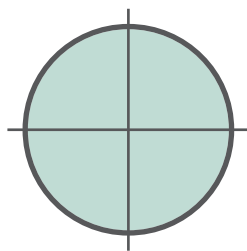
County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1941



3 CLY Troops watching native Bum Boats from the deck of SS ORION in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

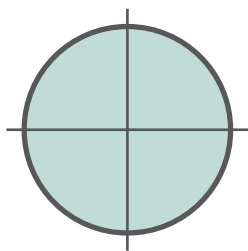
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and
recognition markings.

1941



97 (KY) Fd Regt, Iraq.



SHARPSHOOTERS ON TOUR

Op CABRIT 8 2020 Winter Tour [CASSINO Troop]

by Sgt Rich Dunning

Mobilisation

I am writing about my journey so far on Cabrit 8. I was late to join the party having had an extremely busy winter in my role with the Met Police and there was a risk that



I would not be released to join the op. Being the Met Police Armed Forces Association Army Rep, I was eventually given permission to mobilise for the overseas tour.

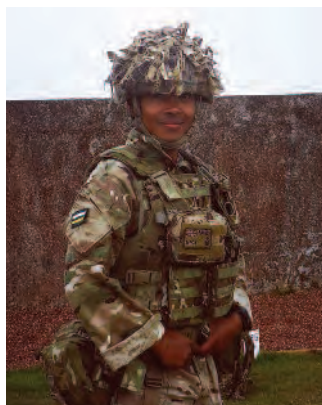
It was a sunny day when I drove up to Chilwell for mobilisation. I had last been mobilised in 2010 for Herrick. The familiar apprehension of what was to come was there, but the process was completely different. I went through an administrative couple of days signing on instead of the all-singing-and-dancing two-week package that they use to do. This was the beginning of the army starting to work under COVID, and all the control measures were being tested and adjusted everywhere we went. I was to be mobilised in the G4 chain as the Troop Sgt.

On completion of mobilisation, I was allowed on leave for a short period before being recalled to complete my Jackal Commanders Course.

Jackal Commanders Course

This course was run by SSgt O'Hare and SSgt Gilbert and I was joined by many of the vehicle commanders for the mobilised troop including Capt Joles and SSgt Faytaren. It was a great two weeks, allowing us to get hands on with the vehicle and get used to handling it in many different scenarios. We took the vehicles off road, practicing troop recovery, general maintenance and the use of the vehicles in different surface conditions.

Highlights included the obligatory road move to the beach, where I enjoyed an ice cream and fish and chips, after a quick dip in the water.



Pre tactics Course

After the Jackal Commanders Course, it was straight on to the intense pre-tactics course. On the first day we were straight in with several tough military knowledge exams, and then straight on to navigation theory and practice.

This introduced us to the infamous Bovington training area and its many bogs. On the night nav, I plotted my route from the start to end points as the crow-flies. What I couldn't see on my 1:50 map was the many streams and bogs on my chosen route. I was that guy from the Salisbury plains video falling face first into the bog. In one bog I sank into up to my waist and still couldn't touch the floor. I only managed to pull myself out thanks to a tuft of grass and swam out using the Bear Grylls technique for quicksand! I called out for help but the person who came to help me also plunged into the bog. I got out and managed only to lose a pair of gloves, but I didn't half smell! I continued on my journey only to discover my route was barred by a river and had the choice of going back the way I came or crossing the river. Being soaked through and with nothing to lose I chose the latter. As I waded through the waist-deep water I also had the benefit of being able to clean the worst of the bog off me.

Another highlight of the course was the CTR that turned into a raid. We stumbled onto the enemy position who then surrendered and were captured, and then released. They promptly set up an ambush and what followed was a crazy fighting withdrawal! The course finished with a six-mile tab with 40kg. The Sharpshooters shone during this race; my pair led the way, Capt Joles got the fastest time, and SSgt Faytaren's pair came second. After this excellent but intense pre-course we had a brief day off to turnaround our kit and then make our way to the actual course.

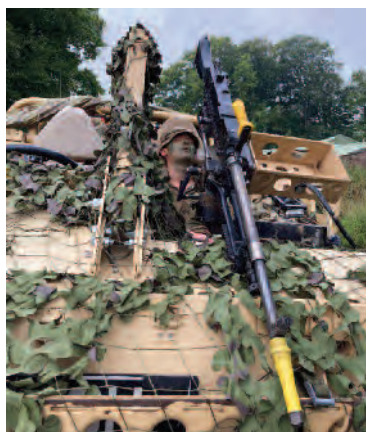


RATD Light CAV Tactics Course

It was my second time at RATD. I knew what was coming on the course and had to mentally prepare myself. I was not the only one there for a second time. The attrition rate is very high on this course with 50% generally failing it. But all the RY commanders needed to pass this course to deploy and command in theatre – so failure wasn't really an option.

The course followed the same format as the pre-course – lots of exams day one, followed by strenuous navigation exercises. I failed the first night navigation as I couldn't find the second check point, although it turns out I must have been standing right next to it. I had to pass my night navs or it would be game over for me. I managed to buckle down and get it smashed with ten minutes to spare.

Over the next ten days we took part in the exercise phase. We conducted missions such as OP mounted and dismounted; ambush; screen CTR's; raid and advance to clear ie. all the roles that are bread and butter to a light cavalry regiment. It was intense – in the five days we all had barely any sleep.



It culminated in the final 48hrs, with an advance to contact, and identifying the enemy command and control centre. A vehicle OP monitored the positions, while troops conducted CCTR's on the location, followed immediately by a final raid. I led my section on the assault, killing all the enemy, to then be killed myself. The casualty extraction that the lads did was extremely hard as they had to extract me for 4km over large rolling hills. A special mention has to go to all the drivers and support staff from RY for the tactics course including LCpl Norman and LCpl Greenwood who were drivers but could have easily been on the course itself.

First Orbat

On completing the tactics course I was briefed that I was now to be the first Troop Sgt of a sabre troop. There was no pause to take stock as it was off on a ranges week to Devon to qualify for the ACMT on the GPMG, SA80 and GLOCK .

The following week saw us in Warcop for an intense Mounted and Dismounted Ranges package – one that the RY has not done in many years. All gunners completed the platform weapon operators' course and then joined the vehicles to complete the mounted crew shoots up to level 4 (including the annual crew tests).

At this stage, my troop, 1st troop, was still newly formed with varying levels of experience. However, we did really well with the lowest score being my car with 80% and one car even achieving 100%. Warcop was its usual self though with lots of rain and some very short glimpses of sunshine, while the rest for the country bathed in a heatwave. There were some amazing sunrises, and the night shoots were fantastic and enjoyed by all. For many this was their first time at Warcop, their first time shooting, their first time shooting off vehicles and first time carrying out section attacks with live ammunition. The notorious Warcop muddy river reared its head for many on the final section attack. The saving grace at Warcop was definitely our attached chefs who cooked amazing food throughout the week.

Thetford CT0

Next, with no rest, we went straight to Thetford as advanced party for vehicle movements prepping for the sqn's arrival. This was a busy period, with lots of basic training stands planned. The weather was glorious. Many of my troop were fresh out of basic training, having never done a dismounted exercise, let alone see a Jackal or worked off one.

We did all the lessons nice and slowly as it was important that each individual knew how to do their roles. It was back to basics, how to pack your kit, how to pack kit on a vehicle, how to live off the vehicle, vehicle maintenance, halt parades, sentry duty, shovel recce drills, how to cook food, talking on the radio, radio stag, duties of a sentry etc –

all the basic skills and drills that a seasoned campaigner does automatically and are regularly glossed over as there is never enough time.

The basics then advanced to vehicle movements, conducting CTR's, conducting Ops etc. I rather enjoyed this period as we were in the field and it reminded me of my early days with the Reserves. There were of some highlights, a night nav that I set up a nice little cylvume route as a shortcut across the river that I knew was there, which helped the team by knocking off several Km's. There were many opportunities for nav practice and daily we were putting the drivers through different terrains to build up their confidence in driving the Jackals.



It was the first time the Jackals had been taken out as well, and we discovered that the many gremlins they experienced had a tendency to come out rather quickly. However, it was great learning for crews on maintaining the vehicles. The highlight at the end of the week was a blank firing battle run with live enemy, to hone together some of the skills we were building. My crew again did very well to spot the enemy early and reacting accordingly.

We finished off the week with a smoker and a handover to the QDG.

Time off at last! We had a brief period of leave before returning to WESTDOWN camp. The amazing food is still as good as ever, but we now had cutlery!

What now followed was a week in the simulators. Unfortunately, someone had an exercise cough and the troop was isolated. After one day of



simulators, we then moved again for a couple weeks in the field working on vehicles and to continue to build up the confidence of the crews. This involved moving from troop drills up to sqn drills – for advancing, screening, raiding, and other recce related tasks. Salisbury’s weather was its usual varied self, boiling hot some days, thick fog, cold nights and rain the next.

The “Battle of the Berril Valley” continued with the squadron conducting several raids on “enemy” positions. The best one of which had my troop tasked with distracting the enemy. The enemy were so convinced we was the whole squadron preparing to attack that they allowed the main assaulting forces to get within 50 meters of their position as they had abandoned it to assault our troop! On another occasion with 1st troop again leading the way we had the enemy passing within meters of our position and not being detected due to the excellent camouflage of the positions and vehicles. It was a tough couple of weeks, but it was very good learning and experience for everyone.

After this tough phase, we then went into the mission rehearsal exercise for assessment. My troop was split between working with 4th troop [the anti-armour troop] and as a reserve. Our task in the advance was to set up ambush sites and identify killing zones and then watch the crossing waiting for the enemy to come. During the withdrawal phase we knocked out many of the enemies’ armour and recce vehicles. It was a long tough and intense withdrawal, but we did it, and the squadron was now mission ready.

On completing this exercise there was just one more thing the squadron had to achieve – live firing mounted drills. This was a great couple of days with tons of ammo.





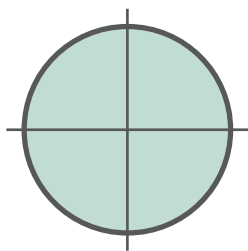
Each vehicle would move down firing lanes firing live rounds, building up to pairs, sections and then finally troop advance to contact. This was a highlight for all! The battle runs in Warcop are great fun but doing this across the Salisbury Plains firing 50cal and GMG live was an awesome experience which was enjoyed by everyone that took part.

With the mounted ranges complete we began the hand-over/ take-over of the vehicles. It was a laborious task, but one that had to be done. Our MFO boxes were sent away, kit was prepped – the time was drawing ever closer for us to deploy. Westdown was closed with a smoker, and everyone went home.

CASSINO SQN assemble!

We all met at Nottingham barracks with kit and paperwork to hand. Some people were not lucky enough to have had their COVID result and they were delayed. The rest of us flew to Poland where a lovely eight-hour coach trip awaited to take us to camp where we were to be deployed on ops. However, it felt different already – we still had our phones, we were given pack lunches and when we got to the camp we found the isolation camp was better than Westdown! Our two weeks isolation had begun, stand by for forced fun!





COVID-19 MOBILISATION WITH LONDIST

by Chris Oldham

Having finished my Phase 2 CS Ops trade training at Blandford just before the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, I was keen to volunteer to assist with LONDIST's efforts to offer support during the pandemic. After only a week of putting my name forwards through my SPSI and waiting, I was called up for five months to support the G6 operations in central London, as part of a team of eight other Signallers and JNCOs.

Due to the fast-moving and unprecedented nature of the pandemic, those first few days were confusing and more than a little intimidating as our SNCOs were still grasping at what needed to be done. Nevertheless, everyone in the team was in the same boat and the evolving situation at work only served to bring us closer together. We quickly developed a regular working rota, alternating between the G6 Office at Horse Guard Parade and the London Military Operations Centre (LMOC) close by in Wellington Barracks.

I really enjoyed the variety of working in two very different operational environments. Whereas my work at Horse Guards Parade involved the setting up and maintenance of the Network Equipment Rooms and issuing and setting up laptops and phones to enable remote working, the LMOC gave me the experience of supporting a buzzing command centre, staffed by senior Officers. From the confidential nature of the high-level conversations we were party to, I got a real sense that our IT support was valued, ensuring that the network and communications systems used by the commanders ran smoothly, allowing them to maintain their focus on leading the Army's relief efforts. Typically, some of the support at the LMOC involved connecting and tuning Airwave radios, resetting Bitlocker codes and connecting new peripherals. When we were not troubleshooting immediate connectivity issues, there was enough downtime for me to continue my online IBM Cyber training to develop my coding skills.

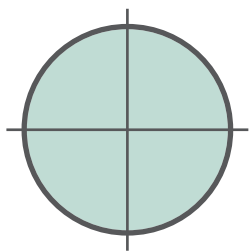
Regarding my civilian employer, my PSAO acted as the first point of contact with them and talked them through some of their concerns and the practicalities of my mobilisation. As a result, I was very relieved at how supportive my employer was with my work for the Army; fortunately, they are a Gold Armed Forces Employer so were keen to accommodate. Likewise, when I explained to our G6 commander some of the interim tasks and work phone calls my employer required while I was mobilised, the Ops Major was very flexible with allowing plenty of time to get these tasks done. For me, this was a huge win-win and I have every confidence that my employer would be supportive of other future deployments. Likewise, the supportive chain of command and responsive flow of information was a huge help for my wife at home to ensure that she understood the changing situation and the implications for her. Throughout the process, my PSAO provided a solid link for my spouse to work through any pastoral issues and uncertainties with sympathy and good humour.



For me, it was a real privilege enjoying the beautiful scenery in Hyde Park and St James's Park and it made for some picturesque runs and walks on my days off to make up for the gym being closed! It was also fascinating getting a behind-the-scenes look at the Household Calvary, including the daily change of the guard and seeing first hand the hours of equine grooming and kit prep involved. Overall, the highlights for me were the chance to get some hands on experience of the IT equipment used in an actual operational environment in support of the Regular Army, a far cry from my Bowman training at Blandford.

Without a doubt, I would strongly recommend mobilisation for any other Signallers who have completed their trade training and are looking for the next step in their career progression. I doubt that the skills and experience gleaned over the course of my deployment could have been picked up over a course or annual camp, and it is now my aim to impart these benefits back at my detachment and build upon this skill-base as my career in the Corps progresses.





EX NOBLE SKYWAVE – 265 SUPPORT SQUADRON –

26TH / 29TH OCTOBER 2020

by Sgt Brett Harries

As you can imagine **COVID19** has had a big impact on training, since our way of life drastically changed in March, moving most of our training to virtual learning, however, **Exercise Noble Skywave 2020** gave us the great opportunity to move away from virtual training, dust off the communications kit and get stuck back into our trusted HF steed.



Antennas on the common.

What is Exercise Noble Skywave?

Exercise Noble Skywave is an annual two-day, global HF competition, run by the **Canadian Armed Forces**. The exercise is broken down into several phases where military and civilian enthusiasts from nine different countries, including (UK, US, Canada, Latvia, Germany, Peru, Spain, New Zealand and Australia) compete against each other to get as many RCs as possible over the period. Recording all our communications traffic on a data base spread sheet for the competition organisers to see at first sight.

This was the first time 265 (KCLY) Support Squadron has entered the competition, though eager to compete and show the world what a “Support Squadron” can really do, only came second fiddle to actually being able to get out of our homes and into a field for a few days.

First came the recce, it was not practical to operate out of the ARC, and we knew the rough location of where we needed to aim and the frequencies we could use, though



Working hard on the communications.

we now needed to consider social distancing and other COVID19 restrictions. So, thinking outside of the box I approached a local farm that fitted the bill, and I knew was closed to the public due to COVID, the farm offered a great location in terms of space, height, clearance and proximity.

Reece and farm “booked” it was time to get a first-rate team, and with no surprise, a large team with mixed experiences was soon established, roll on the competition.

A week prior to deploying, COVID19 cases rose in and around London resulting in a “tier 2” lockdown, daily updates followed, was it on or off? waiting for a nod or shake of the head seemed like a lifetime, but finally the news I was waiting for, **it’s on...**

The day arrived, recce report shared, det packed and a quick COVID19 and situation brief given we were all out the door, moral was high along with expectations of the team. Then it started to rain ...

Once at our chosen location it was time to site 5 x 12m masts and lay out the coax, it really was great to be back in the field again. Time for some free play, attempt to communicate with fellow competitors and to prove our kit works to some of the junior soldiers. A successful comms check to Germany, Latvia and Canada confirmed we were good to go.



World wide coverage.

Within no time, the competition was upon us. A hectic two days saw us often change frequencies, braid length, VSWR check, re-adjust and check, re-adjust and check and finally, re-adjust, and check again. The team worked tirelessly throughout the day and night, braving the cold and wet, however, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves with the experience.

Competition and results in, how did we do?

Well, overall the Squadron team came 19th out of 118 competitors, though 2nd out of all the UK teams that entered.

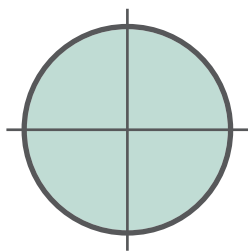
A very successful first attempt, certainly looking forward to the rematch in 2021.

265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn team, SSgt Denny, Sgts Woo, Porter and Crane, Cpl Lovett, Sigs Uhl, Majoros, Hickson and Chalke.

PSAO 265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn prize for the “most outstanding operator of the exercise” went to Sig Chalke, well done

Special thanks to Sgt Glass for entering the 265 (KCLY) Sp Sqn, we will be back next year...





12th/16th HUNTER RIVER LANCERS

by Lieutenant Colonel
David Fisher

The *planned* outcomes of 2020 had been embedding two Troops of Cavalry Scouts within our paired regular unit (the 2nd Cavalry Regiment) and lifting a Reserve infantry Company on EX HAMEL in August of 2020. Instead, it quickly became operationally focused.

In December 2019, members of the Regiment started deploying on OP BUSHFIRE ASSIST (OP BA) in the Armidale, Glen Innes, and Inverell regions of Northern NSW. The initial commitment consisted of a seven-person Logistic Support Detachment (LSD) supporting the Rural Fire Service and 10 Lancers embedded within the Engineer Support Detachment in the same region. Early in January another 10 Lancers also deployed onto OP BA efforts in Queensland and OC A Squadron, MAJ Wayne Clarke, worked in the 2nd/17th Battalion Task Group HQ further south in NSW. In February SGT Byron deployed on a nine-month tour on OP MAZURKA in the Sinai as a UN observer.

As OP BA efforts wound down in late February and early March, the indicators were that the Australian Government would use the military in the effort to combat COVID 19 if it became a problem within the community. In mid-March it was announced that OP COVID-19 ASSIST (OC19A) would be a Reserve led and manned response. The Reserve 2nd Division was to become the Joint Task Force (JTF) 629 HQ with a Joint Task Group (JTG) of up to 1200 Reserve personnel in each state. As a result, in late March the Regiment started to deploy onto OC19A with a Troop attached to JTG629.1





in NSW and the CO, half of RHQ and a Troop attached to JTG629.3 in QLD. To support the normal raise, train and sustain functions of Brigade training at the same time, the RSM (WO1 Grant Gripske) and OPSO (MAJ Grant Donald) became the acting Brigade RSM and Brigade Major respectively.

Later in June, PTE Chloe Booth deployed on Transitional Security Element (TSE) 98 as part of their logistic support detachment. The TSE is a Reserve Company that deploys onto Royal Australian Naval vessels that patrol and provide a presence in the sea lanes to Australia's North. The soldiers often act as search and boarding parties.

While OP BA and OC19A were the visible part of the 2nd Division's response to domestic operations, all reserve RAAC units have a training and capability liability for DISFOR – Domestic Incident Support Force. This requires each Reserve Brigade in Australia to be able to generate an enhanced Combat Team (Company plus) within 24 hours to reinforce the police and emergency services in the event of a major incident within a capital city. The Regiment – through B Squadron at Caboolture – has provided PMVs (Protected Mobility Vehicle) and their crews to three DISFOR exercises in and around Brisbane in QLD; Exercises ARRAS, YPRES and MENIN GATE. The PMVs and the communications suites within the vehicles enhance the ability of the combat team to stay networked and hardened as they face any number of scenarios.





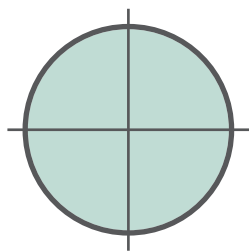
Both Squadrons ended the year with a Brigade Courses period where the focus was on training and re-certifying personnel on DISFOR courses like the ACP 1+2 (basic unarmed combat), Army First Aid, Tactical Care of the Combat Casualty and the new suite of shooting and range qualifications. Soldiers from both Squadrons, often after months of service on OC19A, turned up to the weekend training to ensure the Regiment achieved over double its directed DISFOR qualifications outputs.

We end 2020 with the Regimental 2IC, MAJ Andrew May, deployed as the OC of TSE 99+100 with nine soldiers joining him for TSE 100. The Regiment wishes them all a safe deployment.

In all, 97 members of the Regiment, from the CO to soldiers just off their IET (Initial Employment Training) courses, deployed on overseas and domestic operations during the year.

The focus for 12/16HRL over the last three years has been to grow as a Regiment to provide capability as part of the 11th Brigade. In 2018, B Sqn was re-raised at Caboolture and since then has grown to 92 personnel. The RSM, WO1 Grant Gripske, and many hardworking NCOs and soldiers have devoted their time to recruiting events and to staying connected with soldiers as they advance through their recruit and IET courses. As I finish my three years as CO, the Regiment is in excellent shape for any future taskings and for continued growth.

Lieutenant Colonel David Fisher
Commanding Officer, 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers
Virtutis Fortuna Comes



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1942



A Grant tank of A Sqn 4th CLY Bombing up at Knightsbridge.

Extract from Home News 12 June 1942 - 6.00 pm

Despatch from Richard Dimbleby

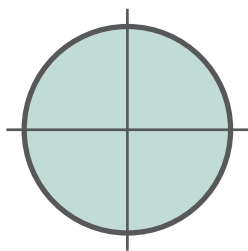
“I’ve been talking” says Dimbleby “to a bank clerk, a seller of Bibles and a manager of hotels. We were sitting against the track of a cruiser tank, which had just come out of action for quick repair in the workshops of an armoured brigade. The three men lived and fought in the tank and had done continuously for the two weeks of this Libyan offensive, crashing and bumping and rearing over the desert from the first hour of light until long after dark, sometimes fighting running battles, sometimes waiting for enemy tanks to come up to them while their shells were falling closely round.

Every day they endured fourteen hours of heat, sweat, dust and din. Late at night they formed their strained and yellow tanks into a Laager, just as they did with the carts in the Prairie days, and filled up with water and fuel and ammunition; and then, if they didn’t have to stand guard against surprise attack, they snatched two, perhaps three hours’ sleep before they set off again. They were showing the strain, in their seamed faces, dyed a deep yellow by the unwashed sweat and sand of a fortnight. But they looked to me far tougher, and far fitter, than any German tank prisoners I’ve seen.

Above all, they had a great confidence.

I spoke to a good many drivers and crews yesterday – all of them Territorials of the County of London Yeomanry. Many years ago they trained with old armoured cars that they took for weekend club runs, and startled London by driving up Oxford Street in the days when fighting vehicles were rare monstrosities. Today they have a mixture of cruisers and Grants, those strangely unwieldy looking tanks that pack such a heavy punch in their guns. They have a great admiration for both; the veteran cruisers that came from the factories of Britain, and with their speed and mobility have done such valuable work in the desert war; and the General Grant from America, which carries the answer to the German tank gun that troubled us during the November offensive, and which the tank crews insist, caught the Germans by surprise. They tell us how captured enemy crews had no idea they’d lost their superiority in gun range and driving happily forward, out of range of the cruiser guns, were upset to receive direct hits that knocked their tanks out from a British tank lying hull down and quite a long way away. It looks as though the close secrecy about the presence of Grants in the Middle East served its purpose.

The Grants have done something else as well. By their long-range activities, they enable the fast cruiser to come in to the enemy while they are engaged, and to fight them at close quarters, which is what cruisers like. Altogether, the Yeomanry and all the other famous Territorial Regiments, and the Regulars too, who are fighting in tanks in this battle bless the General Grant.”



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

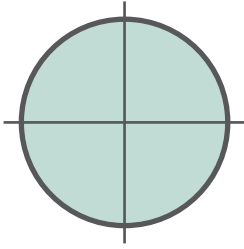
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and recognition markings.

1942



97 (KY) Fd Regt, Quad (Morris C8) towing a 25 pounder and limber, Libya.



EMPTY SADDLES 2020

**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.

Wilf Oxley, late 3rd CLY and 3rd/4th CLY

Derek Fransham, late 3rd/4th CLY, KCLY and C Sqn RY

Gordon Holloway, late 884 Tp, 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn

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

DEREK FRANSHAM

2nd April 1942 – 21st January 2021



Derek Fransham's military career

Derek Fransham, or Del as he became better known in his military life, started his military career in what was then the Territorial and Army Reserve (TAVR), in B Squadron, 3rd/4th County of London Yeomanry based at Tavistock Road, Croydon, in 1960. There he drove a Dingo Armoured Scout Car for the first time at camp in Castlemartin. He progressed through the ranks and the merger with the Kent Yeomanry in 1961 to become a key member of C Squadron of the Kent and County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) who subsequently relocated to Mitcham Road Barracks, Croydon. A further reduction in the TA in 1967 saw the new regiment reduced to become C Squadron of The Royal Yeomanry where they continue to serve today. Del became Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant (SQMS) which also meant that he had the honour of commanding the guidon party and carrying the guidon on formal parades. He was always immaculately turned out and in keeping with the 'fashion' of the day his red hat was appropriately tweaked – sadly Covid 19 restrictions mean that I cannot get any photos from the Sqn albums of him.

Del subsequently transferred to the Royal Corps of Transport (RCT), joining 280 Movement Control (MC) Squadron based in Grantham, Lincolnshire, which then became 287 Sqn RCT on another merger. The Sqn regularly operated closely with 29 Movement Control Regiment RCT from South Cerney, near Cirencester. Here he took part in a number of real-time deployments of the UK army on actions such as the Falklands War and the Gulf Wars, as well as various exercises. He also became SQMS in this Sqn and became well renowned for his ability to source any equipment or parts

necessary to do the job. You can imagine that his nickname of Del was frequently linked with Del Boy from the well-loved Only Fools and Horses TV programme.

Del was a very highly regarded member of both the “Sharpshooters” and 280/287 MC Sqns RCT. He was awarded the TAVR Efficiency Medal with three clasps during his military career, in recognition of his long, devoted and effective service. Before his illness Del used to be a regular attendee at Squadron reunions where he renewed his many friendships and acquaintances and was a valued supporter of the Sharpshooters Museum Trust. The photograph shows Del at Haver Castle on the occasion of the opening of the new Museum.



The occasion was a visit to Croydon by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and we formed a Guard of Honour at the Town Hall. The officers are the OC – Major Charles Wenham and Lt Piers Storie-Pugh. The guard going from left to right are: LCpl Tim Rayson, Cpl Ian Murray, Tpr Thomas, Unknown, Sgt Del Fransham, Sgt Ron Snowball.



23378533 Staff Sergeant GORDON HOLLOWAY

1938 – 2020

Very sadly, I have to report that Gordon passed from us on 26 December 2020 after suffering a period of illness which he, being the private person he was, kept quietly and very much to himself. It is difficult to fully encapsulate his life in a few words but the following is an attempt so to do.

As a youngster he liked drawing and electric technical things and so was selected for Royal Signals when he started as a National Serviceman in 1956. After basic training,



he found himself posted to Cyprus on HF radio. He also served on the usual round of duties, recalling doing “stags” (guard duties) with a rifle and just five rounds. He considered this to be a rather unfair deal should any EOKA terrorists ever put in a meaningful appearance!

He returned to civilian life as an electrical apprentice, married and progressively advanced over time to become a senior site electrician at Shoreham Cement Works in the 60’s and thereafter to a broad-based facilities maintenance position at the not-so-far-away NHS Southlands Hospital.

He had always enjoyed things military, radio comms in particular, so he decided to rejoin the TA branch of the Corps via 265 (KCLY) Signal Squadron who had a troop at Brighton. So in January 1973 he signed up with 884/887 Tp, rapidly demonstrating his worth across many areas and becoming a capable, popular and respected individual. He steadily progressed and by the mid-60’s rightly obtained his Staff Sergeant rank and 884 SNCO appointment. He continued this

under five consecutive Tp OC's who greatly benefited from his extensive, well-judged, soundly good humoured skill sets.

When he eventually retired from the Reserve Army he transferred his enduring Corps enthusiasm and energies to good works for the Brighton Branch of the Royal Signals Association. He was a valued committee member who could always be relied on, being universally liked and respected. He was also a great railway modeller with a sharp eye for detail.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, their two daughters, Alison and Sharon plus grandsons George and Jack.

It would be a fitting valette to declare that Gordon was both the epitomy of a devoted, principled, hard working family man as well as a truly worthy member of the Corps.

He will be warmly and well remembered by everyone who knew him.

John R. Barber



SHARPSHOOTERS REMEMBERED

Sgt ERNEST WILFRED OXLEY 3/4 CLY

By TIMBER



Wilf passed on 28 February 2020 and his family have kindly shared his notes that he made ahead of being interviewed by Tim Rayson and David Hannam for the KSY Museum Agius Collection. We thank them and pay tribute to Wilf. A cross with his name on was laid in The Royal British Legion Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in November 2020.

Reflections of Ernest Wilfred Oxley, 3rd/4th CLY 1944-1947

I matriculated from Ecclesfield Grammar School in July 1939 but had to find a job rather than go to university for lack of funds. I then worked as a clerk in the local firm Newton Chambers in Chapeltown, near Sheffield – a company which amongst other things built Churchill tanks during the war. I joined 51st RAC to train with tanks at Catterick. In Jan 1941 I was transferred to the 43rd RAC (6th Northumberland Fusiliers), who were very involved in testing new weaponry.

I joined the CLY after they returned from Italy and I had recuperated from pneumonia incurred while camping at Orford under canvas with 43rd RAC. We were sent to pick up new Churchills at Needham Market. When I climbed in, I saw a brass plaque in front of the driver's seat – "The 500th Churchill from Newton Chambers" – the firm I worked for before being called up. In my excitement I tried to drive off with the handbrake on, unfortunately right in front of the Technical Adjutant. My tank driving days were over!

After another dose of pneumonia and bronchitis, I arrived at last on the south coast, preparing Shermans for landing in France. Before setting off for France I was sent overnight up to London to be interviewed for a commission. No way was I officer material and easily persuaded the board so. I was still a “spare” when we moved to Gosport. The driver was shattered and the co-driver was “unable” to drive, so yours truly had a long drive into the dawn with the help of a spotlight on the turret. When the landings came I was with the other tail end “spares” who landed after the rest of the regiment after D Day. Our US TLC collided with the pier and then with another boat before getting clear. There was a very heavy swell, and only two of us managed to finish the huge American breakfast. The landing was trouble free and we spent the first night, so I was told, near Monty’s HQ, where we were kept awake by croaking frogs.

After the regiment’s heavy losses I was allocated to C Squadron, as a wireless operator. One day on the landward side of one of the “hedgehog” defensive positions, we saw German soldiers coming out waving a white flag – only to be shot down by who we believed to be commandos. My memory of our activities is vague, but I became part of a crew with a dare-devil South African commander and soon fitted in. While in Normandy we had 0.5 machine guns mounted on the turret; when German fighter planes appeared, there was a mad dash to win the race to get hold of one. They were dismantled to stop this risky practice but I almost had the “opportunity” to do my own little bit. Walking across to HQ on wireless business, complete with sten gun, two Messerschmitt suddenly appeared, coming straight at me. There wasn’t time for me to make a foolish gesture with the sten gun. They disappeared without firing, so must have run out of ammo.



Wilf and Jimmy Martin.

The locals did not always give us a wholehearted reception, but then we might have behaved better towards them too. At one point we carried a five-gallon can of Calvados on the front but had to dispose of it when someone was threatened with blindness! My schoolboy French was of some use, but Jimmy Martin (“Flash”) was prattling away to them ten to the dozen, despite no French lessons at school.

I celebrated my 21st birthday (July 13, 1944) on Carpiquet aerodrome. It was a quiet day. We cooked an “acquired” fowl in an oven built from bricks and washed it down with the rum ration. At times we saw poor Caen being plastered in the distance. One morning we pulled forward towards a ridge. We had been told to beware and dispose of any possible snipers. We came upon a line of panzers with their crews on the top in warm sunshine. Our 17 pounder Fireflies lined

up and had a very successful target practice. I remember seeing a German soldier flipped into the air from his seat on the gun barrel.

In a field overlooking the east-west road, one fool opened fire on a load of fleeing civilians. The infantry was dug in at the edge of the field. On another occasion while up top, I was having a conversation with an infantry sergeant when he was hit. We had a useful “cowcatcher” fork fitted to the front and were therefore liable to be called up others to cope with the hedges and narrow lanes of the bocage, like those in SW England. On one occasion the RHA forward spotter replaced our tank commander when an anti-tank gun was proving a nuisance – presumably his own vehicle was out of action. It was an education to see him take hold of the 19 set and call up a 25 pounder. The first shot fell short, the second went over the top and the third was bang on target – all in seconds.

US forces had difficulty breaking away from the Cherbourg peninsula. The Guards were called in to help, and C Squadron somehow got involved. We were sent west, then south, via a major crossroads which was being bombarded by the US Air Force! We then travelled east along the Falaise road – in the lead. One of our tanks was hit by a shell bouncing off the road and penetrating underneath. Later the whole squadron was bombarded again by US 205 mm guns for 20 endless minutes. Somehow during this debacle we acquired a major as squadron leader. He stuck his head up at the wrong time and got a piece of shrapnel through his neck, without hitting any artery or bone. We took him back to a field dressing station, hopefully to recover.

I am afraid we were by then having problems with our gunner, “Ginger”. At night we often drew back, going forward again in the morning. One morning a German infantryman was spotted fleeing, at least 1000 yards away. Ginger hit the coax trigger and kept it there till he had emptied the whole belt. By then tracers were flying in all directions, and our barrel was anything but straight – and I had to replace it. I had passed all the trade tests as a gunner/driver/wireless operator. To avoid a recurrence I disconnected the firing mechanism, so that I could fire it if necessary. Our cowcatcher was sent forward up a road to where we had been forewarned there was an 88mm anti-aircraft battery. It was very hot but Ginger was hunched in his gunner seat in full battledress and greatcoat, frozen with fright and unresponsive to my shouts and kicks. I climbed under the gun to release the turret lock. We went over the hill with only machine guns operable – and were greeted with the lovely sight of a deserted battery. Ginger was then sent elsewhere and I am sure I saw him a few weeks later in MP uniform. I have very little remembrance of firing the 75mm gun but we must have used it because the empty shell cases were used as urinals when we had to keep our heads down!

We were the first allied troops to reach a Belgian village. We had trouble trying to persuade the locals to take cover. Marching up from the woods was a column of German” POWs” guarded by a few British uniforms until they got close enough to charge and be recognised. Sixth sense made me look through the rear periscope to see one creeping towards us. I shouted. Mac hit the engine and Jimmy hit the button of his machine gun and we were away from any threat. Next day, while preparing a brew in an orchard, I was alone on the wireless when a German convoy rushed through us. The troop officer managed to scramble aboard and we were able to seal their rear and stop them firing on us. I actually saw red – a physical reality – but the crew were safely

sheltered. We offered a German machine gun covered in blood to a maquis, who then lost interest in heroics.

One night, pulling back in terrible weather, I sat on the front to help guide the driver. We had been issued with marvellous one-piece tank suits. When we got back, I realised the heavy rain had made a solid sheet of ice on my chest. Where or when this happened, I have no idea.

It was possibly somewhere in Belgium that our troop got its come-uppance. One driver had been taken ill, so Jimmy Martin was moved to take his place. We hit a patch of open country with many deep ditches. One corporal commander was killed. Sergeant “Ginger’s” tank, with Jimmy driving, was hit. The young gunner’s legs were hit. Ted, the wireless operator, was ruptured jumping out. Their tank exploded as the sergeant reached into the hatch to try to pull the gunner out. Jimmy got the blast up his behind as he was halfway out. Our driver, Mac, somehow managed to put us in a deep ditch, then looked after himself. Our sergeant, Andy, got hold of Sgt “Ginger”, who was quite badly injured, and I took Jimmy and we made it back to safety. En-route we passed who I thought was our CO with a bullet through his brain. I learned later that it was hours before he actually died. Jim was invalided out but Sgt “Ginger” recovered. Later, while on my way to a wireless course at Bovington, I visited Jimmy in Bethnal Green. He was apparently fully recovered, picking up two fox cubs to sell for £14 on Club Row, where he made his living. It was a mistake; we found we had nothing in common in civvy street.

As part of the Market Garden chase to Arnhem, the main hazard was breaking and running off tracks. We finished up under the riverbank with Canadian neighbours

waiting for fuel supplies, angry to be stopped so near thanks to priority given to Patten’s forces. Some Polish troops escaped by boat across the river to land close by.

We wintered north of Eindhoven. We could see V2s going up north of us and landing in the Eindhoven area. I managed to get a break at one hour’s notice. I rounded a corner as buses pulled up in front of me, discharging the Halle Orchestra, some of whom I had met in Sheffield when I sang with the local choral society. I talked to a local Yorkshire violinist, who then introduced me to the conductor John Barbiroli, who was delighted to chat. He later talked about this encounter in a TV documentary. They were there for about a week, and there was a big demand for Mendelssohn, which of course had been banned under the Third Reich. I have a pleasant memory



of sleeping by the side of the tank on a tarpaulin for all five of us to sleep on and cover us. We awoke covered in snow, but snug and warm, together with our little puppy!

I missed the activity crossing the Rhine, because I took two days off to visit Paris. I came back as co-driver on a supplies lorry. The convoy was led by our RSM who was a pathetic map-reader. Once I stood in the middle of a crossroads turning everyone round, listening to gutteral voices not far away, hoping they were not German! As a result our lorry thereafter led the convoy. Once we passed a line of Hitler Youth prisoners, looking far too scared to be brave.

Twice we arrived at the squadron's first objective an hour before they did. We acquired a box 120 eggs and a side of bacon from a farm, where there was a huge supply of bottled food in the cellar. I was still driving lorries as we approached the Elbe. In sweltering heat we stopped at a local "pub" where a British soldier offered me a long cool drink. After the second I remember getting in the lorry and hanging out of the door. It was wood alcohol. I had two days in a drunken state which was renewed every time I had a drink of tea or water. Over the river we dumped the petrol and drove into what was left of Hamburg, passing hundreds of German soldiers marching in the opposite direction to surrender. We loaded up with the best from the cellars of the biggest hotel we could find. On VE night I was alone with a sten gun guarding two lorry loads of booze in a central railway station waiting room. I could hear the celebrations some way off but they stayed away, thank heaven.

We took over Elmshorn, apparently known by the locals as the British SS. There I became friendly with one of the many displaced persons – with a Latvian ausweiss. Vera in fact turned out to be a Baltic German. To our shame we sent back east a lorry-load of other displaced persons. Some Hitler Youth were still making a nuisance of themselves in the local woods, until we rounded them up and hosed them down.

Three of us took a trip in a small sailing boat down the Elbe with an Englishman who claimed to have spent the whole war there. I took a dip but lost my swimming trunks in the river – to the delight of some local girls on the bank. Despatch drivers still had to be careful after the war ended because of wires across the narrow roads. I remember a magnificent concert above the canteen at the Schloss near Plön, where there was a Bluthner piano, repaired by our sergeant tank fitter. It was given by the leader of The North German Rundfunk Orchestra, an international accordionist and the pianist director of the Dresden Music Academy.

One day we looked down on to the garden to see a naked man, rumoured to be the "Beast of Belsen", plodding around a circle of guards who had been turned out by the duty lieutenant to half-heartedly slap his buttocks with their rifle butts. Goffman, recently promoted to sergeant as interpreter, charged the officer and hauled him before the CO to general approval. We were told the next day he had been sent to Burma.

I used to hitchhike to Elmshorn to court Vera. I once got a lift from a red cap staff officer and ATS officer, on condition that I joined in singing French songs.

Finally we were transferred to Hamm. I was sent to Bovington for a fortnight on a wireless course to become regimental wireless sergeant. On my return three of us went on a two-day exercise with a ranger to cull wild boar which were wandering into the villages. CLY also were given a joint responsibility with Germans from 10th Panzer to check a prisoner enclave. We got on well together, including some scrumping!



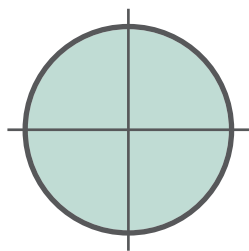
Wilf and Vera on their Wedding Day.

I was very active at sports while in the army of occupation, playing football, and hockey, basketball and badminton, particularly with the women's services. The SSM challenged HQ to a game of cricket. They had a Lancashire colt bowler but I had a field day, scoring 104 and taking 7 for 28! The SSM hit 27 and took 3 wickets. Everyone was amazed when later I walked out of the barracks with Vera on my arm, after being married by the chaplain.

The Regiment disbanded in late 1946 and I finished my service with an Irish unit, demoted to corporal for want of a couple of weeks to be war substantive sergeant. This robbed me of a much larger demob pay.

I enjoyed my CLY service and this exercise has made it all feel more real somehow. The experiences in the war made me realise that people everywhere have the same faults and virtues. It is amazing how the vast majority took their wartime service in their stride.





BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

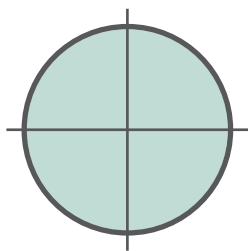
County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1943



4 CLY crossing the Volturno, north of Naples, in the Autumn of 1943.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

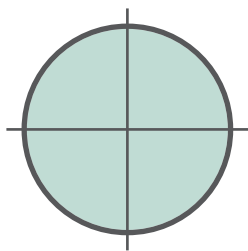
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and
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1943



97 (KY) Fd Regt, Cyprus.



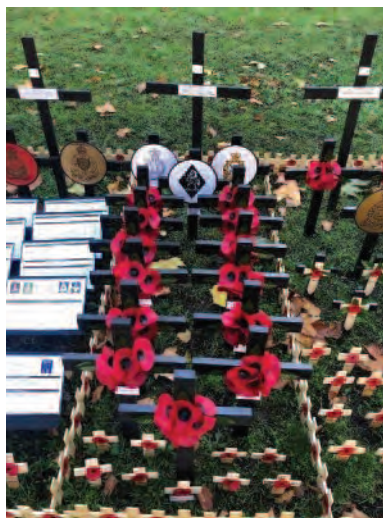
FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 2020

by Marian Hannam

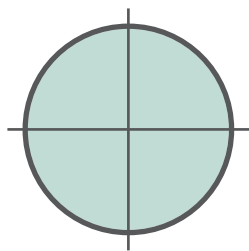
The Field of Remembrance 2020 was held on Wednesday 4th November on the lawn of St Margaret's Church, Westminster between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. This year 308 plots were laid out in the names of military associations and other organisations with more than 60,000 Remembrance crosses and symbols of all faiths and none.

The *Association* plot contained a large named cross – *KCLY (Sharpshooters)* and two further crosses representing the *Kent Yeomanry* and the *Sharpshooters*, together with thirteen Field crosses each representing fifty *Kent Yeoman* or *Sharpshooters* and five individual crosses, one of which was named in memory of Wilf Oxley, 3/4th *CLY*, who passed away this year.

The service commenced with the arrival at the Field of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Patron of The Poppy Factory. Prayers were led by the Dean of Westminster Abbey, The Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle. The Poppy Factory's President, Surgeon Rear Admiral Lionel Jarvis, then invited Her Royal Highness to lay a Cross of Remembrance. The 'Last Post' was sounded from the parapet of St. Margaret's Church by a Bandsman of the Irish Guards followed by the Exhortation to Remembrance, a two-minute silence and 'Reveille'.



Her Royal Highness then undertook a review of the plots.



WENT THE DAY WELL 2020

by Terry Bodman for KSYA

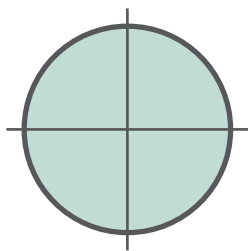
In fact, it didn't go well at all, it did not even happen, all due to the Coronavirus. There were plans for a small gathering in the grounds of the Guildhall but even that did not happen.

This is to be my last year at organizing the *KSYA* entry into the Lord Mayors Show after taking over from Eric Cornish almost 20 years ago. So it's time to hang up my Spurs and Hand over the Reins to Ron Snowball who most of you will know, I will still be about to give Ron some assistance during the course of 2021.

My thanks to the Royal Yeomanry and C Squadron, *KSYA*, Rex Cadman War @ Peace Displays, the Pageant Master and his team for all their Help and Assistance over the years.



On behalf of the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association* we thank you for all your dedication to this event for all these years, thank you Terry.



THE 73rd EL GUBI DINNER

Saturday 21st November 2020

**by Steve Shelley,
Assistant Secretary**

Like so many other events in 2020, the annual (73rd) dinner to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the battle of Bir El Gubi was destined to be different. Best laid plans of mice and men etc.

It was very much ‘on the bus, off the bus’ as to whether we would be able to gather at our usual venue of the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly; there were many hot emails and phone calls between the Chairman, Secretary and the Club as to which rule we were to follow. Alas, with the ever-changing forces of anti-COVID measures and, it has to be said, common sense, it was decided not to proceed with our usual flair. A shame but everyone understood why, needs must as the devil drives.

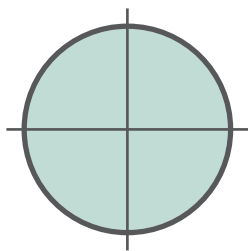
However, dear reader, the Sharpshooters will not be defeated. Thanks to modern technology (how many of us wish we had shares in Zoom I wonder) Plan B was put into effect, suitably attired in Sharpshooters Desert Derby Planters order, we would meet by virtual means, hurrah! It is what our predecessors would have expected.

The Chairman opened the proceedings by welcoming all, he was especially delighted to see David Sale from the Worshipful Company of Insurers and thanked him for the continued support of the Livery Company, Lt Col Tom Bragg Commanding Officer Royal Yeomanry and Lt Col Wolfgang Mann in Germany.

In time honoured tradition, toasts were offered to The Queen, Absent Friends and The Sharpshooters. The Chairman read-out the letter he had written to Her Majesty offering loyal greetings from the *Association*; Her Majesty had graciously replied and the response read by our Standard Bearer, Kevin Wright. CO RY kindly provided an update regarding the 70 personnel deployed to Poland on Operation CABRIT and thanked the *Association* for its support in the form of proposed welfare packages.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this somewhat unique event in rather trying circumstances. He wished good health to all and hoped that a semblance of normality would return in 2021 so that we could once again meet in our more familiar surroundings to enjoy the camaraderie face to face.





MUSEUM TRUST – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

**by Chris Sutton
Chair of Trustees**

In this year of lockdown, we are extremely fortunate to have had so much support from many long term friends of the museum. As a trustee of the Heritage Alliance, which is the main advocacy body for the independent heritage sector in England and Wales, I see at first hand the real pain which lockdown has brought to the heritage sector, especially those institutions which have many paid employees, and big maintenance activities to fund. Our own relative lack of financial commitments, which sometimes makes us feel perilously under-resourced, has been a real boon this year.

Long term friends, from outside our core supporters and volunteers, have been on hand to help in these challenging times. People such as Joanna Low from South East Museums Development whose guidance helped us to bid successfully for an Arts Council grant; Andrew Lloyd MBE and his team at the Army Museums Ogilby Trust who have helped us with digitisation and the funding of protective map cases; Richard Black who has generously supported us in multiple auctions; John Guthrie OBE, Duncan Leslie, Faye Kelly and all the team at Hever Castle who have been such attentive and empathetic landlords.

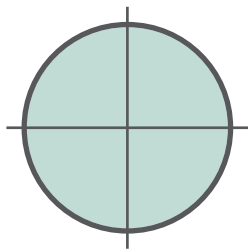
From the Sharpshooter family, the continued support of our regular donors and the *Association* continues to provide us with much encouragement.

We are indebted to our volunteers, a growing group of keen men and women who are imbued with the Sharpshooter spirit. You can read in our curator Dan Taylor's report more about our volunteers and their activities at Hever, from our maintenance day before lockdown to the recent activities funded by the Arts Council grant. I would also like to recognise the work of Will Wright in selling badges, David Tomlin in maintaining our excellent website and David Whitehouse in updating our standard operating procedures and creating a clansman radio display in his garage which will shortly become our latest hands-on exhibit at Hever.

While Will Wright has actively supported our assistant curator Tim Rayson in promoting our heritage at Croydon, Major David Lakin has been busy championing our cause and the work of assistant curator David Whitehouse at Bexleyheath. It has been great to have David Lakin regularly attending our trustees meetings.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their unfailing enthusiasm, support and hard work – Paul Acda, John Gunn, Tony Jewell, Huw Jones, Tim Rayson, Dan Taylor and Brenda Traylen. Having had our two trustee meetings on Zoom this year, we all crave the opportunity to meet face to face in 2021.

We enter 2021 in good heart, and keen to make up for lost time as we continue to make our museums and website into places where Sharpshooters, friends, families and visitors of all ages can find ever new ways to Connect, Explore and Be Inspired.



KENT & SHARPSHOOTERS YEOMANRY MUSEUM TRUST

**An update and report on recent
acquisitions, 2020**

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

Curatorial posts held as of 30th November 2020

Hon Curator: Dan Taylor

Curator (Hever) and Trust Secretary: Huw Jones

Curator (Croydon): Tim Rayson

Curator (Bexleyheath): David Whitehouse

Well, this has been the oddest twelve months imaginable. Clearly a great deal of activity has been put on hold, but there has been some useful work going on in the background, keeping the curatorial staff and our volunteers busy.

One long term project that has come to fruition this year is the digitisation of our Great War map and photograph collections under AMOT's Libor funding scheme. Besides creating a high-resolution backup of some of our more vulnerable artifacts, the scheme has created a new central website that will, in due course, provide much greater access to both to our collection, and to those of most other regimental museums. The website is in final planning at the moment as we create annotation to go with the images and I hope to provide the link for you to investigate it in the near future. The scope of the project has been very broad and so has included items from the Boer War through to 1930.

Another task that has continued quietly in the background is transcription. We have a good collection of written documents and the ambition is to transfer these to digital forms to help with research. This task is largely performed by our team of student volunteers who have continued to plug away at making sense of scanned and photographed images from various sources during the lockdown period. Special mention should be made of the efforts of Freddie Deane, Madelaine Budgen, Georgia Davies and Eve Edmondson. Additionally, the task of digitising the majority of our photograph collection, not covered by AMOT's project, continues. Progress on the history up to 1945 is good but attention to the Post-war period is more patchy. An intention for the future is to push forward work on the Cold War era, which is an extensive period of the Regimental history, tends to be neglected by comparison to the wartime record.

The Museum at Hever was forced to close in March. After the initial lockdown, we were keen to find some way of starting up operations again and so in July, with the

virus in apparent remission and weather improving, we started looking for ways to make this possible. Haver had started allowing visitors into their grounds but was running on a skeleton staff and, quite reasonably, reached out to us to provide some form of supervision if we were to open the museum. It seemed unreasonable to ask our team to take on this onerous and potentially risky activity on a volunteer basis, especially where it would have to happen on a regular shift pattern and so our ambition stalled. Fortunately, funding was being offered by certain bodies to assist museums and, after a couple of inconclusive bids, we found the right fit for our requirements – see Chris Sutton’s report for the details. There then followed a flourish of work: safety-poster design (with a suitable *KSY* twist), reconfiguration of the CCTV system so that capacity could be gauged from the entrance area, engagement of a volunteer team who could provide the appropriate level of cover, and provision of suitable protective kit and sanitiser. Despite the fact that the work to achieve this was difficult and challenging – and that in the end we were only able to open for two of the four weeks planned – the exercise has netted enormous benefits. We were fortunate that the team was really engaged in their role. Not only were they excellent hosts for the growing band of visitors, we also received a tremendous amount of feedback and suggestions for improving our offering. Even better, the level of engagement has led our improving the volunteer programme so that they will be given much more responsibility in their engagement to take on tasks within the museum, hopefully reducing the top-down management that has been a bottleneck to date. We hope to repay their efforts with behind-the-scenes visits to other museums and more social events.

Looking forward into the post-Coronavirus age, the future looks very promising indeed.

The topsy-turvy nature of things mean that new Accessions have been relatively thin on the ground this year, though the ones we have received have been out of the top drawer:

Memoirs of Captain G.C. Williams

2020-01

Janice Conway kindly presented these three volumes, typed (it is believed) by her mother. They are based on the notes compiled by Captain Williams during his wartime service with 4 CLY. When the Regiment deployed to North Africa Captain Williams joined the staff of in HQ 22 Armoured Brigade and the diaries continue through this period to his capture by the Italians and his subsequent incarceration in an Italian PoW camp.

Artifacts of Charles Rich

2020-02

Charles Rich joined 23rd London Armoured Car Company (Sharpshooters) in 1931, was commissioned in 1934, and served with 3 CLY through the first two years of WWII, before moving to 22nd Armoured Brigade when they moved to the Western Desert towards the end of 1941. He remained with them through to the end of the fighting in North Africa and then on to Italy, transferring to take up a role with 5th US Army from 1943. His son, John, has presented the museum with a number of very fine and useful pieces including a framed silk escape map of Cyrenaica, elements of his diary,



Charles Rich's Sharpshooters Rugby badge from the 1930s. It would be worn on a green Rugby shirt, as illustrated.

photograph albums medal ribbons and badges. One particularly unusual and interesting discovery was the Sharpshooters' Rugby Club badge – of which he was a playing member.

German Artifacts

2020-03

A donor who has asked to remain unnamed has presented the museum with an M1916 German Helmet and an Iron Cross, Second Class (1939-1945). Though not directly linked to Sharpshooter Activity, they will be very useful in broadening the scope of our displays to show artifacts from the other side of the battlefield.

A set of photographs by Richard Shakspeare c1939

2020-04

Amateur historian, James Crouch, has been writing a biography about Richard Shakspeare – a noted photographer, who had served with the Sharpshooters at the outbreak of WWII. Fortunately for us, he took a number of photographs of his time with the Regiment and James have donated some very nice, large format copies for our collection. They detail the end of the Armoured Car era in which there are a number of recognisable characters from the period.



One of Richard Shakspeare's photographs. They came uncaptioned but we have enough photographs from the period to place it on the summer camp of 1938.

Collected Artefacts of Jamie Barr

2020-05

As a former commander of C Squadron, Jamie has kindly donated a quantity of useful and unusual items, ranging from uniform and personal kit to training notes and artwork relating to his time with the Sharpshooters. They offer an insight into one of the more neglected periods from our history and should go some way to bolstering our understanding of the times. My favourite individual item is a pair of padded tank gloves which I remember as being rather sought after at the time.



Jamie Barr's padded tank gloves from the late 1980s.

Crossbelt, REKMR c 1900

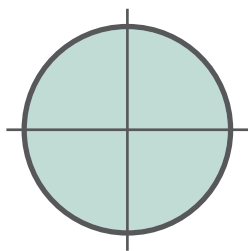
2020-06

Some sixty years ago, Rupert Berryman was given the crossbelt that had been worn by his grandfather Arthur Wiglesworth when serving with the East Kent Yeomanry as a memento. He kept it in perfect condition but wanted to ensure it went to a good home where it might be seen by a wider audience. He contacted the museum via curator@ksymuseum.org.uk and I was delighted to receive it on the museum's behalf. After a little conservation work to make sure that it is resilient to the future, it will be one of the first exhibits added to the museum for the 2021 reopening.



Arthur Wiglesworth's Crossbelt c 1910.

Dan Taylor (Curator)



WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIALS IN THE UK

Regiment	Rank	Surname	Forename	Initials	Age at Death	Date Of Death	Cemetery
3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)	Second Lieutenant	BURT	CHARLES HERBERT	C H	31	27/10/1918	DORKING CEMETERY
	Private	FARQUHARSON		H R	0	8/6/1915	STREATHAM PARK CEMETERY
	Private	SHARMAN		J C	21	14/4/1916	HAMPSTEAD CEMETERY
	Private	HOWELL	LEONARD ALFRED	L A	19	22/11/1914	PADDINGTON OLD CEMETERY, KILBURN
	Private	HARDY	FREDERICK PERCY	F P	36	9/3/1916	KENSAL GREEN (ST. MARY'S) ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY
	Private	PICKERING		C	0	13/4/1915	BRISTOL (SHIREHAMPTON) CEMETERY
	Private	COCKERTON	ERNEST EDWARD	E E	45	28/11/1915	GAZELEY (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD
	Lance Corporal	PEARSON		L T	0	4/8/1916	CITY OF LONDON CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM, MANOR PARK
	Lance Corporal	PAUTARD	HENRY PERCY	H P	21	7/6/1915	CHARLTON CEMETERY, GREENWICH
	Corporal	COLSON		F	0	9/2/1915	ST. PANCRAS CEMETERY
	Private	WELLS	WILLIAM HENRY	W H	29	26/5/1917	LAMBETH CEMETERY
	Private	BARBER	JAMES CLEMENTS	J C	51	12/3/1916	HAMPSTEAD CEMETERY
	Serjeant	BROWN	EDGAR JOHN	E J	64	14/10/1915	STREATHAM CEMETERY
	Private	FUHRBERG	HORACE JOHN WILLIAM	H J W	21	21/1/1915	ABNEY PARK CEMETERY
	Private	CLARKE	BENJAMIN	B	0	22/4/1916	WANDSWORTH (EARLSFIELD) CEMETERY
	Serjeant Major	WRIGHT	JAMES EDWARD	J E	52	20/1/1918	PADDINGTON OLD CEMETERY, KILBURN
	Private	HURST	AUGUSTUS STUART	A S	0	6/8/1915	CHISWICK OLD CEMETERY
	Private	WRIGHTON	FRANK HENRY NORMAN	F H N	38	2/11/1917	TORQUAY CEMETERY AND EXTENSION
Royal East Kent Yeomanry	Private	DAVIES		R W	44	15/2/1919	WIMBLEDON (GAP ROAD) CEMETERY
	Private	TROTMAN		H M	0	26/11/1915	THROWLEY (ST. MICHAEL) CHURCHYARD
	Private	MORTON	EDGAR DOUGLAS	E D	19	22/2/1915	KENNINGTON (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD
	Private	WENHAM		W S	0	11/2/1915	CANTERBURY CEMETERY, KENT
	Shoeing Smith Corporal	WILMOT		A	0	26/5/1916	CANTERBURY CEMETERY, KENT
	Lieutenant	ADAM		W	0	3/11/1918	WEST MALLING (ST. MARY) CHURCHYARD
	Private	CASTLE	FREDERICK FRANK	F F	19	28/2/1916	SITTINGBOURNE CEMETERY
West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own)	Private	MANN		H	0	30/11/1916	SANDHURST CROSS (ST. NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD
	Private	FAGG	JOHN RICHARD	J R	21	31/3/1916	MAIDSTONE CEMETERY, KENT
	Private	BOORMAN	CYRIL ADLINGTON	C A	23	3/3/1915	GRAVESEND CEMETERY
	Private	CHAPMAN	MAURICE	M	20	15/8/1916	ULCOMBE (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

Early in November Tim Rayson circulated information detailing the locations of those soldiers who had served in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry (REKY), Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry (QOWKY) and 3rd County of London Yeomanry (3CLY) during World War 1 who were buried in Great Britain and Ireland. There were a total of eight REKY, four QOWKY and twenty-one 3CLY burials concentrated mainly in London and the south east of England but with outliers in Dublin, Bristol, Newmarket and Torquay.

In light of the guidance from London District to avoid mass gatherings and encouraging personal acts of Remembrance it was decided to circulate Tim's information in order to allow members of 265 Squadron to pay their respects at the graves of earlier members of the Sharpshooter family.

On Saturday 7 November OC 265 (KCLY) Squadron (in a 'bubble' with wife and daughter) went to Streatham Cemetery, Garratt Ln, Tooting in search of the grave of Serjeant Edgar John Brown, 3CLY.

There are 383 war graves in Streatham Cemetery 216 burials of the 1914-1918 war and 167 of the 1939-1945 war. It contains scattered burials and those whose graves are not marked by headstones are recorded on a Screen Wall Memorial at the junctions of Blocks F, L, G and M. Sjt Brown was buried in Block E grave 774. There is a plot map close to the main entrance on Garratt Lane.

Sjt Brown died on 14 October 1915 aged 64. He was the son of the late John Brown (1st Life Guards) and husband of Ellen Elizabeth Brown, of 2, Berwick St., Victoria, London. He was born in Dorset. The cause of his death is not recorded.

On the following day, 8 November, a visit was made to Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Road in search of the memorial to Private H. R. Farquharson 2/3CLY. The cemetery contains war graves of both World Wars, and also a Screen Wall Memorial which commemorates service casualties of these wars buried in this cemetery in graves which could not be marked by headstones. A wing has been added to the memorial on which are carved the names of those who died during the Second World War who were accorded the last rite of cremation at the South London Crematorium, which is situated within the cemetery. A total of 408 casualties are buried or memorialised at Streatham Park.

Pte Farquharson died on 8 June 1915. His age and cause of death are not recorded. He is commemorated on the screen wall.

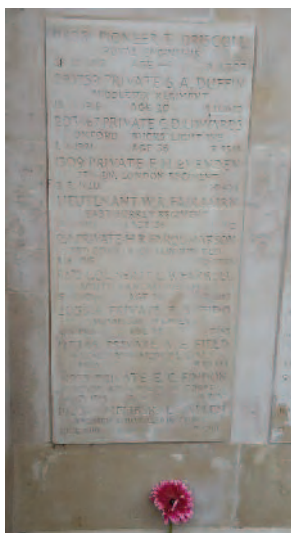
Also, in view of the restrictions placed on organised parades, I took the opportunity to attend Maidstone Cemetery to visit the grave of 2131 Private John Richard Fagg, late of the West Kent (Queen's Own) Yeomanry. It did take some time to locate the plot, as whilst the World War 2 plots are all located in one area, the earlier plots are scattered around the cemetery, which is probably just the way that it was done at that particular time in many places, but to be honest not something I had considered before.

The plot ref. 1. OO. 373.

Once the plot had been located, I completed some light cleaning of the headstone but was otherwise in particularly good condition, especially compared with others in the area.



Sergeant Brown
Streatham



Private Farquharson
Streatham



Private Fagg
Maidstone

I was unable to find out much about Private Fagg, other than he was the son of John and Elizabeth Fagg, of Maidstone.

Private Fagg died aged 21 on 31st March 1916. On the initial records I had access to, the cause of death was not recorded. However, when looking through the website “Kent Fallen”, it states that Private Fagg was accidentally killed, but does not give any more information.

Major D Lakin and LCpl I Liscoe



Capt Adam REKMR West Malling

Photos of others kindly visited by other Sharpshooters.



Corporal F. Colson
St. Pancras



Private Davies
Wimbledon



Tpr Barber
Hampstead



Lance Corporal Percy Pautard
Charlton



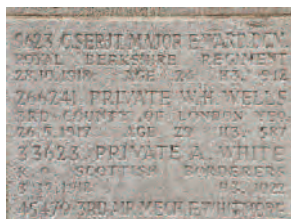
Private Waugh
Bewcastle



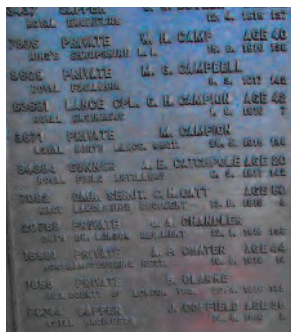
Tpr Sharman
Hampstead



Lt Charles Burt
Dorking



Private Wells
Lambeth



Tpr Clarke
Wandsworth

Visiting the grave of Trooper Augustus Stuart Hurst of the 2nd/3rd County of London Yeomanry

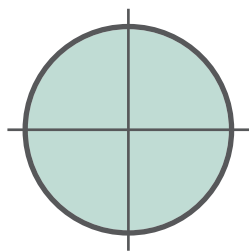
Location – Chiswick Old Cemetery (LB 63)

Sunday 8th December 2020. It was a great privilege to visit the grave of Trooper Augustus Stuart Hurst in Chiswick Old Cemetery. Hurst had served with the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) and had died on 6th August 1915.

Whilst honouring Hurst's grave we met a lovely couple who visit the local cemeteries every year and place crosses on all the military graves. Hurst's headstone is a family headstone and it is not obvious that it marks a military man, and hence the couple had not put a cross against this headstone which made the occasion, for me, all the more poignant. RIP.

Mark Hodson



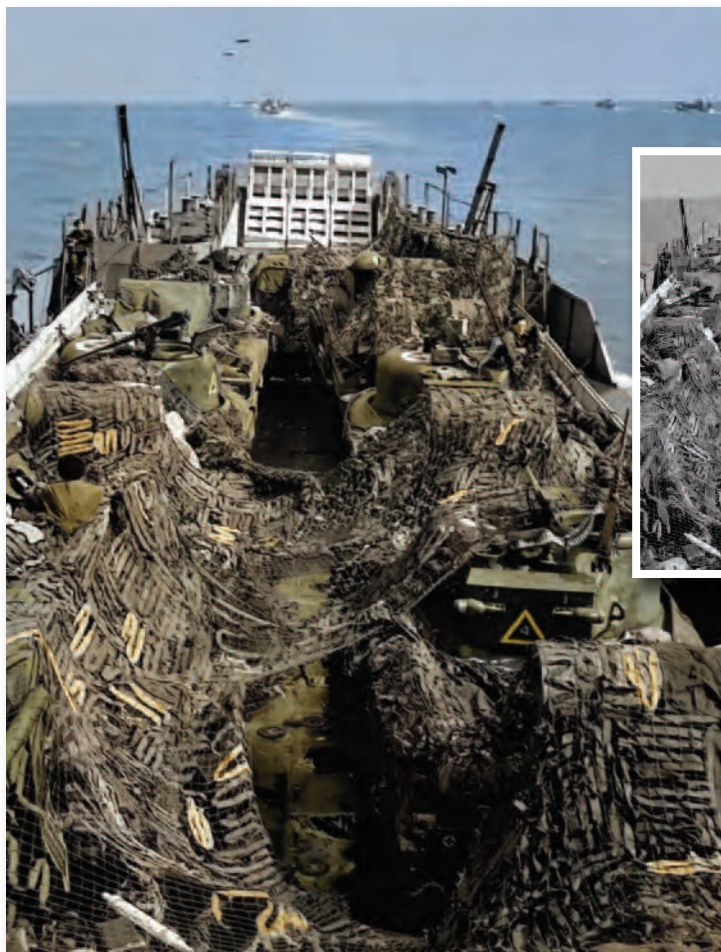


BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and coloured by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1944

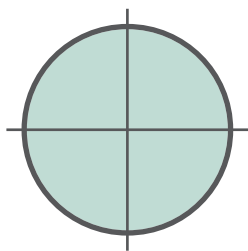


A Squadron 3 CLY en-route to Normandy.



Trying to keep warm in the frost. Holland in the winter of 1944.

Capt Jimmy Sale MC, Nobby Clark, Clifford Pace, Tony Pistori, Charles Dawson.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

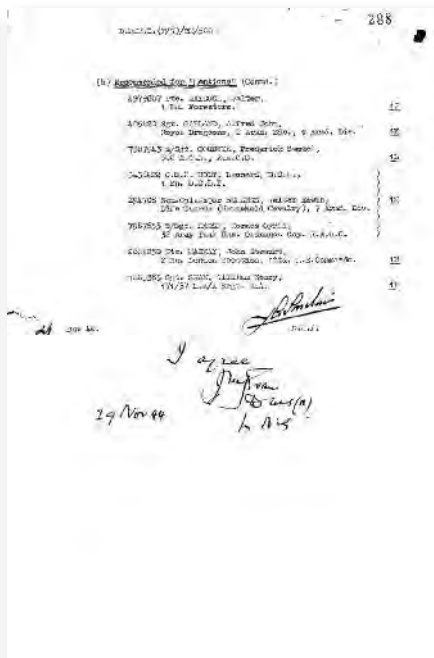
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and
recognition markings.

1944



97 (KY) Fd Regt, Holland.



In early 2020 we had hardly drawn breath after the successful crowd funded purchase of the DCM medal group of SSM Allen when another group of medals appeared on the horizon. These were a MM group belonging to Sgt C A Stone of 4th CLY who was captured at the Battle of Knightsbridge Box on 13th June 1942. The MM citation made fascinating reading as he was a POW escaper in both the desert and then in Italy. He finally got away at the time the Italian Army surrendered and then served with the local partisans before finally meeting up with allied troops in April 1944.

A straw poll of members of the *Association* indicated that we would be able to raise sufficient money to meet the auctioneers estimate and so pledges were formally sought. Thanks to the generosity of members we were able to successfully bid using the services of Richard Black.

The medals are now in my possession and will go on display once they are framed: Covid19 has put a stop to all framing activities for the moment.

1F
294

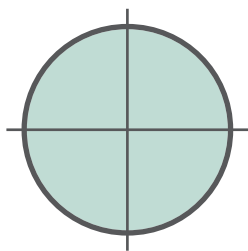
7902533 Sgt. STONE, Claude Archibald,
4 C. of L. Yeomanry, R.A.C.

Captured at KNIGHTSBRIDGE on 13 Jun 42, STONE was imprisoned at Camp 153 (SWANT BEN ADEM) and Camp 70 (FERMO). While at Camp 153 he twice engaged in making tunnels which were discovered before completion. He attempted to escape from Camp 70 in Apr 43 by scaling the wall with a rope ladder, but was caught and punished with three months in an observation cell.

After the Armistice Camp 70 was taken over by the Germans. While other P/W were leaving for GERMANY, STONE and five others hid under the weighbridge for 12 days, and on 7 Oct 43 succeeded in evading the guards and climbing the wall.

With another P/W STONE took part in an unsuccessful attempt to evacuate by sea at ASCOLI. They then travelled to CASTIGLIONE, where they joined a patriot band. STONE remained with them from Dec 43 to Apr 44, when he was wounded while evading capture. He met Allied troops at PESCARA.

A-9669



ASSOCIATIONS OF THE KENT YEOMANRY

by David Whitehouse

The origins of the Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association (SYA) during WWII and the Sharpshooters Old Comrades Associations (OCA) that preceded it, are fairly well known (albeit the latter are less well documented). This is largely due to the hard work of *Association* Secretary Tim Rayson and a series of excellent articles published in our regimental journal. Whilst the existence of a Kent Yeomanry OCA is known, its origins are obscure.

Up until the 1990's there was Kent Yeomanry OCA, the president of which was Colonel Allfrey, who commanded 387 Battery during WWII and became CO of 297 (KY) LAA Regt RA just after the war. In later years, their annual dinner was well attended by veterans and serving 265 members alike (of which I was one). At this time, the Honorary Secretary was Laurie Weatherall, and chairman Major Nick Newitt TD. It is not clear when it was formed but was certainly in existence just after WWII and was open to all ranks of both the 97th and 143rd (KY) Field Regiments.

Certainly, the Canterbury branch of the KY OCA only came into existence in 1946 and had its annual dinner in Canterbury in October of each year. Amongst the archives are examples of menus from many of these dinners between 1947 and 1979 well as a book containing names and addresses of its membership (KSY:1983-11).

Kent Yeomanry Old Comrades Association
(Canterbury Branch)

A MEETING TO FORM THE CANTERBURY BRANCH
WILL BE HELD AT
"THE SEVEN STARS," ORANGE STREET, CANTERBURY
On MONDAY, 20th MAY, 1946, at 7.45 p.m.
LT.-COL. H. W. LUCY, O.B.E., T.D. RA. WILL PRESIDE

Membership is open to All Ranks, Past and Present, of both the 97TH and 143RD FIELD REGIMENTS, R.A.

The meeting will elect Officers and a Committee. Nominations may be sent to address given on the back.

The success of the Branch depends on the interest you show. Please fill in the back of this card and send it to the address given, when a copy of the Agenda will be sent to you.

Tell your pals and bring them along. There will be a "Get Together" after the meeting.

P.T.O.

Up until the early 2000's, 385 Battery one of the constituent batteries of the 97th (KY) Field Regiment had its own OCA, which although its membership was made up entirely of WWII veterans and their families, was closely connected to 265 Squadron and the Bexleyheath branch of SYA (as was). President of 385 (Duke of Connaughts Own Yeomanry) OCA was up to his death, Major Jack Bazzard MC, and the secretary was Bill Daley. When the 385 OCU wound up, some of its assets passed to the present association.

Delving through the archives it seems there was, up until the late 1980's, a Royal East Kent Yeomanry OCA chaired by Eric Quested MBE who claimed to have joined as a life member in 1916. Eric had joined the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles in 1912 and served with the regiment throughout the Great War. Until his death in 1984, the OCA's president was Lord Harris, a former CO of the REKMR. It is not clear when this OCA was formed (correspondence suggests 1919 contrary to Quested's claim) but its membership appeared to be made of mostly of veterans of the Great War, but also a few from the Boer War. Up until its demise, the REKY OCA had its own plot (No 242) at the field of remembrance, at Westminster Abbey. As with the present association, the annual luncheon was a highlight in the calendar and generally took place in October. In the archives, there are examples of nearly every dinner menu between 1948 and 1977 (KSY:1983-11).



This photograph was taken at one of the annual luncheons at the County Hotel, Canterbury, probably sometime in the late 1970's.

As to the objects and constitution of the OCA, some material has come down to us. In 1924 a pamphlet set out its main objects as follows:

- a) The keeping of an up-to-date register of all Members' names and addresses, any Members address being available for communication to any other member requiring it.

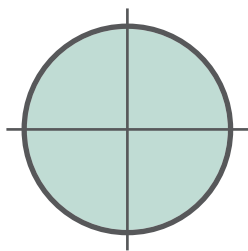
- b) The Meeting together of Members during the Canterbury Cricket Week and at a dinner or luncheon to be held annually and on such other occasion as may be thought by the committee to be in the interests of the Members.
- c) Generally to further the interests of the Regiment and of the *Association*.

There is evidence amongst the archives of a Trust Deed (but no actual copy) as well as an annual report, accounts and an Annual General Meeting (AGM). A financial statement for 1977/78 shows subscriptions of £48 and donations of £32 with a balance in the bank of £29.

A nominal Roll of the OCA in 1974 list 49 names, but by 1981 that had reduced to just 13. With dwindling numbers the OCA was wound up some time around 1987.

Oddly, I cannot find anything in the archives that suggests any equivalent association in the West Kent Yeomanry.





BOOK REVIEWS

Eight Army versus Rommel: Tactics, Training and Operations in North Africa 1940-1942

James Colvin, Helion & Company Limited, 2020. 261p, 30 ill. 11 maps

ISBN 978-1-913336-64-6



Helion are a noted publisher of specialist military history with close links to the War Studies course at Wolverhampton. In this case however the author is an alumnus of the University of Buckingham MA course in military history. His cv includes service in 44 Parachute Brigade (a Territorial Army formation which was disbanded in 1978).

James Colvin has had a lifelong interest in the Desert War as a result of the involvement of family members and friends – the dedication to Major J.B Colvin (West Yorks Regiment), Captain Robin Dunn (11 HAC) and Lt General Noel Beresford-Peirse indicates who these might be.

The premise of the author is that the British commanders in the Desert War were just as much products of their military culture and education as their German counterparts. However, British military culture and education was markedly less fit for purpose than its

German counterpart.

Indeed it is probably worth observing at this point that the title of Colvin's book is inaccurate in so far as the Eighth Army did not fight Rommel it fought a German formation – the Afrika Korps – which was a product of inter-war training which brought all-arms co-operation to a pitch of efficiency in the context of a doctrine of armoured warfare understood and practiced at all levels of command. By contrast the British had failed develop any coherent doctrine or practice all arms co-operation to any significant degree. To put it in today's terminology the Germans came to the desert with well honed tactics, techniques and procedures and the British did not. The results were fairly predictable.

A major factor in the British performance in the desert was the interaction between the various formation commanders at brigade, divisional, corps and higher formation level. Colvin rightly spends a considerable amount of time analysing this. Key insights come from the papers of General 'Chink' Dorman-Smith, a controversial character who was central to much of the action as unofficial Chief of Staff to Auchinleck (itself an indication of the degree to which personalities warped practice in the Middle East).

The ebb and flow of battle during the Desert War initially favoured the British. Faced with a comparatively well-equipped but poorly commanded Italian army the Desert Mobile Force (later 7th Armoured Division) and a ragbag collection of British and Indian infantry removed the threat to Egypt and pushed the enemy out of Cyrenaica destroying the Italian force in the process. The pendulum swung back with the arrival of Rommel with the Afrika Korps and the diversion of British resources to aid Greece in the spring of 1941. The result was a swift return to the Egyptian border. An attempt to defeat the German and Italian forces in the summer of 1941 was unsuccessful and it was in the preparation for a second effort to break through to the relief of the garrison at Tobruk in the autumn – Operation CRUSADER – that 3 CLY and 4 CLY arrived along with their fellow yeomanry of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, together forming 22 Armoured Brigade. The performance of the Brigade in the CRUSADER battles was perhaps wholly typical of the Eighth Army at the time. Arriving in theatre with little time to spare before the start of the offensive most of its time was spent on vehicle preparation and acclimatisation. There was time only for a single exercise in preparation for their role in the attack and advice from more battle seasoned units was minimal. In the event when faced with an Italian Armoured Division dug in at el Gubi Brigadier Scott-Coburn chose to ignore advice to arrange artillery and infantry support. The result was recorded a few weeks later by Capt Robin Dunn (11HAC):

‘When they viewed the enemy the gallant Yeomen had metaphorically drawn their swords, stood up in their stirrups and charged the enemy. The result was clear for us to see as we crossed the battlefield. A confused column of about 50 British tanks were sitting stationary and derelict in the sand.....Some tanks were about 1000 yards from the guns and the column extended to within 50 yards of them. It was a sobering sight and described the battle better than any words.’

The attack was unsuccessful and the brigade so mauled that its combat effectiveness was severely depleted for the remainder of the operation.

Operation CRUSADER was eventually successful in driving off the axis forces and relieving Tobruk. However, after an initial pursuit to the Cyrenaica/Tripolitania border a highly effective German counter offensive brought the battle lines back to a position west of Tobruk running southwards from the Mediterranean at Gazala.

I think it would be fair to say that the Gazala battles and the fall of Tobruk represent the nadir of British performance during the desert war. Failures at the highest level led to fragmented command, tactics were adopted which favoured ‘penny-packeting’ and the surrender of initiative to the Axis forces. Perception of poor generalship and frictions within the leadership severely reduced troop morale which was at the same time undermined by a perception (incorrect in fact) that British equipment was in every aspect overmatched by that of their opponents. Just to make things worse once the battle started brigades were swapped between divisions, theoretically enabling flexibility but in fact causing confusion and disruption¹. The Gazala battle was marked on the British side by extremely poor radio discipline (as had previous offensives – a factor which was taken advantage of by a highly efficient German radio intercept service) – not only were messages often delivered to Rommel before their intended recipients in

¹ Within a week of the battle starting 22nd Armoured Brigade had been swapped from 1st Armoured Division where it had been training in the run up to the Gazala battles back to 7th Armoured Division where it had first started in the previous autumn.

Eighth Army but the bickering and lack of cohesion in the British command was made plain as generals argued with each other 'in clear'.

A prime example of the effects resulting from divergent opinions came on 27 May when General Norrie (XXX Corps) requested that 1st Armoured Division send 22nd Armoured Brigade to support 4th Armoured Brigade which was about to meet the full force of the Afrika Korps assault. General Lumsden of 1st Armoured Division was convinced that the attack would fall elsewhere and refused to move the brigade until, four hours later, he was given a direct order. Even then Lumsden ensured that the order was complied with as slowly as possible:

'1st Armoured Division was ordered to "stand to" at 7:30a.m. It was just at that time that the isolated 4th Armoured Brigade was struck. 22nd Armoured Brigade had not even begun its move when they in turn were surprised by 21st Panzer and forced north-east.'

Not exactly an auspicious start. Worse was to follow. On 30 May 2nd and 22nd Armoured Brigades were ordered to 'drive in' the Italian Ariete Armoured Division. British armour repeatedly proved reluctant to engage enemy tanks directly. In one instance 22nd Armoured Brigade was faced with about 25 Italian M13 tanks, much inferior to the British both in numbers and performance. Nonetheless they were supported by four 88mm guns and the attack was called off despite the presence of British field artillery which could have negated the effect of the 88's. Later in the evening a group of 11 German Mk IIIs were spotted - Capt Dunn (11 HAC) providing artillery support reported in his diary '*I told him (CO 3 CLY) I could support him with smoke if he wanted to close. I pointed out that he must have a two to one superiority in numbers. He was rattled.*' Colvin notes that 3 CLY had been detached from their formation to 2nd Armoured Brigade to make up for losses and observes drily '*their war diary gives the impression they lacked conviction*'.

The rest of the story – the collapse of the Gazala line defence, the fall of Tobruk, the helter-skelter retreat and the final solidification of the defence at El Alamein – is well told as are the results of the visit of Brooke and Churchill to Egypt in August 1942 which saw Montgomery take command of Eighth Army.

The turn around in the fortunes of Eighth Army owes something to the efforts of Montgomery's predecessors but it is undoubtedly the case that the real impetus came from the 'grip' exerted by the new commander of Eighth Army. A clear out of almost all divisional and corps commanders soon took place, a new professional command ethos replaced the previous 'amateur, clubable, collegiate' approach with one which emphasised the overwhelming requirement to win, and a back to basics approach to operational level practice was instituted. At last the Eighth Army began to operate with the same focused teamwork and common doctrine that had served their opponents so well in the previous eighteen months.

The strengths of Colvin's work lie in his analysis of operations and the wealth of first-hand sources he brings to the narrative. He spends relatively little time looking at tactics and training – given that clearly attempts were made to learn lessons and develop training it would have been useful to see how these developed during the course of the Desert War. There is a very enlightening appendix which assesses the relative strengths of the two sides in terms of quantity and quality of equipment at eight points in the course of the Desert War. The conclusion is that in terms of quality the British were

not generally outmatched and in terms of quantity were frequently very much superior to the Axis forces opposing them. It would perhaps have been preferable to incorporate more of this analysis into the main body of the text when examining the perception on the part of the Eighth Army that it was outgunned by its opponents.

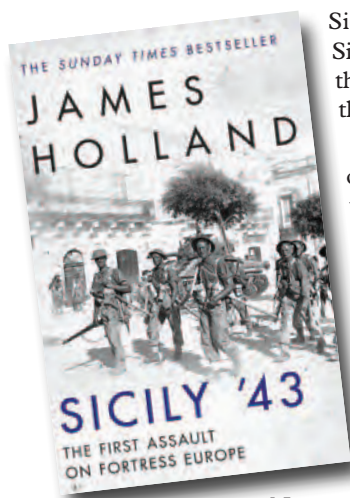
I would thoroughly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the Desert War and the Sharpshooters part in it. Moreover the essential thesis that the British Army's military culture as it approached World War 2 was fundamentally flawed and failed to address the nature of the conflict it was about to enter is one which might usefully be reflected on as the British Army once again looks to re-orientate itself from decades of low intensity peace keeping/support in distant parts of the world to the possibility of large scale war fighting in Europe.

The quotation (from Dorman-Smith) with which Colvin ends the book provides a handy summary:

"There was not the same savage professionalism as existed in the Afrika Korps... we were an unaggressive, unassertive lot, rather too polite & gentle, perhaps lacking in drive.... But we were extraordinarily unrattleable... we were ultra-detached, recognising nothing as a crisis. Odd to say about a British regular officer, but we were too civilised. Montgomery's vinegar-and-gall was necessary when it came... Something was wrong with us, not just our tanks."

David Lakin

Sicily '43 by James Holland



Sicily '43 is a large and detailed account of the invasion of Sicily in 1943. The book is not the easiest read, mainly given the amount of information the author is trying to impart to the reader.

The first chapters cover the background to the campaign on both sides. The author has quite a meandering style – he will start down a storyline and then get side-tracked by a journey into the history before getting back to the point. Even though this does make following the story tricky, you do come across some interesting facts. One which stood out for me in the account was that Hitler stood by Mussolini for some time because he liked him – despite his commanders feeling that Il Duce had lost control of his forces.

Once we get to the action, the story becomes easier to follow. Sicily '43 was basically a forerunner to the Normandy D day landings. There were the multinational forces, having to learn how to operate together for the first time; the gliders going in and often crash landing; the paratroops being dropped off at the wrong locations, to name but a few similarities.

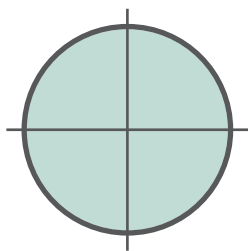
The Sharpshooters do not have a starring role in the book, and are mentioned more as an after-thought! The County of London Yeomanry first appear half way through the book under the chapter on the Race to Catania. It was not an auspicious introduction “Some Sherman tanks from the County of London Yeomanry, unloaded early to support the infantry advance, now clanked and squeaked their way forward down the road only for the lead one to be knocked out by an 88mm anti-tank gun fired by the Brigade Schmalz. Right in the centre of the narrow road, it burned fiercely, billowing smoke, as a few of the Skins tried to drag one of the crew clear”.

The other two references in the book are just as vague, mainly illustrating the tough fight the Shermans had against the Brigade Schmalz. In the final appearance of the Regiment in the book we learn that together with the infantry they would have to do the hard graft of prising the German defenders from “the ditches, vineyards and other nooks and crannies of this now blighted corner of Sicily”. Later on in the same chapter, whilst not referring to the Regiment by name, the appearance of two Shermans encouraged the Germans to start pulling back in small groups.

Overall, this book has whetted my appetite to find out more about the invasion of Sicily. The book introduces so many characters but with just little snippets of their lives and involvement in the campaign. It made me want to dig a bit more deeply into them as individuals. This is a book that might well translate into a film, where a master storyteller can blend together multiple story lines more effectively than the author; maybe another version of *The Longest Day*?

Penny Malik





THE 39-45 BOOZE CRUISE

An insight into the refreshment opportunities provided by and for the Sharpshooters during the War years

by Dan Taylor

The recent re-adoption of Major Jimmy Sale's photograph collection into the *KSY* Museum archive has provided the chance to look anew at the 'after work' entertainment available to serving members during World War II. To many observers the advent of a more frugal wartime existence would suggest that the opportunity for merriment were few and the environment austere. It would seem that this view is a little wide of the mark.

Prominent within this astonishing pictorial tour-de-force is the sense that, with a little ingenuity, many home comforts can be achieved. Despite their monochrome finish, it is also apparent that steps were taken to add colour and normality to what could easily

have been a beige (or khaki) existence. Yes, the military aspects of life are shown but it is in the domestic field that Sale's genius for imagery is revealed.



Reggie Davies' first stab at designing the A Squadron sign. A simple work in pen and ink showing Sergeant Major stripes and crown. Curiously, this dates from when Sale himself was photographed as a Lance Corporal, so it is curious that a cartoon, clearly based on him, should show so significant an elevation in rank.

Each Squadron boasted its own bar – and more particularly, its own pub sign. The first documented example – A Squadron's Mess sign, 'The Contented Penguin' appears in Jimmy Sale's first album and Reggie Davies is credited with the design work. Dating the work is difficult but it appears in the timeline with images of the Summer Camp in 1938. Towards the end of the same album, a second, more refined version of 'The Contented Penguin' appears, this time credited to Freddie Dressel. This image has been reworked and the discarded bottles have disappeared, and the penguin's face suddenly starts to look more than a little like that of Jimmy Sale. Peter Crowley, whose father was a friend of Sale's, informs me that the penguin was based on Jimmy's curious walking gait. Dating this picture is easier as it appears at the same time as the wedding of Douglas and Brenda Jackson, narrowing its creation to April or May 1940.



Freddie Dressel's modified design for the pub sign.



A useful comparison is this portrait of Jimmy Sale taken in the Autumn of 1942. By this time he was in command of a troop as a Lieutenant.



A Squadron's sergeant's mess seems to have been set up in a village hall in Pickhurst, Sussex in the Spring of 1940. Frustratingly, the War Diary for this period is missing.

A few weeks later photographs were taken of the A Squadron bar whilst the Regiment was billeted in and around Pickhurst, North of Worthing, Sussex in the summer of 1940. Clearly great effort has been made to decorate the mess, including adding some imaginary female company. Behind the bar a number of items can be seen for sale, ranging from Mars bars to boot polish. The sign remains faithful to Freddy Dressel's design although it is rendered a little more crudely.



In another part of Pickhurst, the RHQ Squadron Sergeant's mess, the Red Petticoat. Four barrels of beer would suggest brisk trade. (KSYM-SAL-02-136 & KSYM-SAL-02-044)

By comparison, RHQ Squadron's Sergeant Mess is a little utilitarian, though they seem to have tried to make the most of limited means. The wall behind the bar was decorated with a pennant reading 'The Red Petticoat'. Among the items on the shelf there are tinned fruit, matches and Oxo. At the time the Regiment was engaged in large training schemes ranging from Dorking down to the South coast at Worthing with the rest of 22nd Armoured Brigade.

Skipping ahead to the latter part of 1942, 3 CLY's desert war had been concluded. After Alam Halfa they were withdrawn to re-train on the then new Sherman tank and were transferred to 4th Armoured Brigade. Just because they were in a war zone, however, it didn't mean that the requirement for convivial pint had diminished. True to form, Jimmy Sale recorded the pleasant facilities created in the desert to help ease away the cares of the day. Having become inculcated with desert lore, it seems very fitting that the mess boasts a synthesis in style between the Knightsbridge club and a Bedouin tent.



Three views of the desert mess created after 3 CLY's withdrawal from the line after Alam Halfa. Easy chairs and home comforts to the fore, the well-appointed mess has a solid wooden bar, post boxes, writing tables and, what appears to be, the tail of a bomb repurposed as an ashtray. Olly Woods catches up on news from home in front of the fireplace. (KSYM-SAL-10-044, KSYM-SAL-10-045 & KSYM-SAL-10-202)



A convivial evening with good company being enjoyed in the mess. A long exposure gives the disturbing effect of ghosts in the background.

Outside the tents each Squadron's pub sign marks the destination for an evening's reverie. The B Squadron sign, 'Balu Brasserie', makes its first, and only, appearance in the photographic record, erected on a proper post.



Though the reproduction is not great, Balu Brasserie is still identifiable. An enhanced image reveals a cat wearing glasses, who is polishing a tankard. The background is a coloured disk.

The Contented Penguin had, by this stage, undergone a further revision. In its latest incarnation the style is quite altered – gone is Jimmy’s caricature and distinctive walk, though the discarded bottles have returned in greater number.



Jimmy poses with the new iteration of the Contented Penguin with Squadron mascot the ‘Chief Penguin’, plus Corporal ‘Seaweed’ Stewart and Ian Bissett. (KSYM-SAL-11-180)

Meanwhile, RHQ Squadron had improved on their sign, adopting a discarded slip with a stylish art deco typeface for the Red Petticoat.



Sergeant Ian ‘Minnie’ Matthews poses with the RHQ sign. (KSYM-SAL-11-183)

After the Sicilian and Italian campaigns, 3 CLY returned to the UK in order to prepare for the coming invasion. 'A' Squadron were designated a street in Worthing on the South coast, Navarino Road, and were given nine unfurnished houses as accommodation and offices. Sure enough, one of the first facilities to be established was the new Contented Penguin in the front room of one of the houses. Decoration appears to have been thin on the ground and so most of the wall hanging comprises pages from magazines. The exceptions are A Squadron's coat of arms (see inset) and a caricature of 'The Goose', better known as Captain Percy Whorlow MC. It should be noted that Jimmy Sale did not spend his whole time stooging around with a camera – he received an MC for gallantry at an investiture at Buckingham Palace in April 1944.



The Contented Penguin, interior, Spring 1944. Despite a careful search, the name of the host has not been forthcoming. (KSYM-SAL-17-101 & KSYM-SAL-17-103)

Clearly, the possibilities for setting up a hostelry during the Normandy campaign, or indeed the advance across France and Belgium, were slim. That does not mean that the Sharpshooters were devoid of opportunity of dampening their inevitably dry palette. Indeed, in the rapid advance from the Seine to the Belgian border it would seem that a fleeting stop at Auxi-le-Chateau was an opportunity to sample the local tippie and to make strategic additions to the mobile cellar.



Corporal Quye and Lt Col Rankin display their haul of champagne discovered in Auxi. No diminution of fighting performance can be discerned in the unit War Diary. (KSYM-SAL-19-153)

As the war drew to its conclusion, the Sharpshooters found themselves near Hamburg and naturally the bierkeller version of the Regimental inns were quickly established. For the first time C Squadron's bar makes an appearance whilst they were part of the occupying forces in Meldorf. They were in the town from early July to the end of August 1945 as part of Operation Shuttle, tasked with clearing pockets of armed German soldiers East of the Elbe and into Denmark.

Also of note is the new and improved version of RHQ Squadron's sign. A rather fetching lady desert rat now wears the eponymous dress and the RHQ geometric diamond is also displayed.



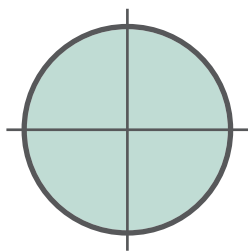
Though it looks a little like 'Charlie's Aunt', the sign actually reads 'Charlie's Arms' – repeated on the smaller sign nearer the door in a more easily read typeface. (KSYM-SAL-23-154)



MQMS Brazendale standing by the entrance to the Red Petticoat in the summer of 1945. (KSYM-0915-154)

In conclusion, it is hoped that this article serves to remind the reader that the Regiment's war is not merely some piece of military history doomed to recede into the mists of time as the generation that fought it render their saddles empty. Jimmy Sale's collection reminds us that the Regiment was composed of young men, very similar to ourselves, displaying the verve for life suitable for their age. With time it is hoped that we can remember them as these young, enthusiastic and vigorous young men with a zest for life who sacrificed their best years for the peace we have, for the large part, enjoyed in Europe ever since.





SGT JOHN PARISH

by Tim Rayson



In last year's Journal we reported the death of Sgt John Parish 3rd/4th CLY. Despite many efforts the *Association* never managed to interview him and that included sending Brenda Traylen around to try and charm him. The family sadly had no real interest in his medals except for the Legion D'Honneur and fortunately Brenda managed to persuade his son to gift his medals to the *Association* together with some other papers.





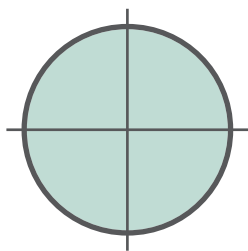
By the KING'S Order the name of
Sergeant J. Parish.
Royal Armoured Corps.
was published in the London Gazette on
4 April 1946.
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.
I am charged to record
His Majesty's high appreciation.

J. J. Lawson

Secretary of State for War

These medals which include a replacement Legion D'Honneur (donated by Richard Black) have now been mounted and will be framed and put on display in one of the serving sqn ARC's. His cap badge is an original 23rd London Armoured Car one which would indicate that he was a pre war Sharpshooter. John was awarded a Mention in Dispatches and we will try and find out what that was for.





OBSCURE VEHICLES OF THE SHARPSHOOTERS

by Dan Taylor

Crossley Mk I Armoured Car

During the 1920s and 30s a number of experimental armoured car designs emerged and were evaluated by the Army. In 1927, the Manchester based firm of Crossley developed a three axle 6 x 4 chassis called the BGV. Army evaluation thought the layout showed promise, and a pair of chassis were supplied to the Royal Ordnance factory, Farnborough where armoured bodies were attached. This prototype was designated D2E2 and a number of configurations were trialled. The D2E2 had a small, one man cylindrical turret, which resulted in a three man crew including a driver and co-driver (who also manned a hull machine gun). This was the first three axle chassis adopted by the Army, and led to a trend into the late 1930s as it was thought to offer better cross country performance. In 1931 a production run of five further chassis was ordered and a modified layout was settled on, utilising a modified version of the two man turret from the Light Tank Mk II, bringing the crew to four. This vehicle was designated the title Car, Armoured, Crossley Mk I.

The production vehicles were allocated to 11th Hussars, then in Egypt, and 12th Lancers, who were then based in the UK. Both Regiments had recently converted from Cavalry and had set about their new role in a businesslike manner, whilst grumbling about the uncooperative nature of machinery compared to their horses. Field trials of the Crossley were carried out by both units. 11th Hussars did not take to their new mounts. In desert conditions they quickly proved under-powered and very susceptible to dust and sand, which clogged filters, plus the heat that made the vehicle overheat,



A portrait of a Crossley Armoured Car believed to have been taken on a weekend exercise in 1938. The presence of a beer bottle on the running board's stowage box is noteworthy. KSYM-AJW-155



Close-up of the turret of a Crossley. Sadly this is uncaptioned in its album, so the commander is unnamed. It is evident, however, that this is quite a confined working space for two men. KSYM-AJW-163

Data Sheet

Car, Armoured, Crossley Mk I

Length: 17 ft 3 ins (5270mm)

Width: 6 ft 4 ins (1930mm)

Height: 7ft 11 ins (2412mm)

Weight: 9 tons

Crew: 4

Armour: up to 0.32 inch (8mm)

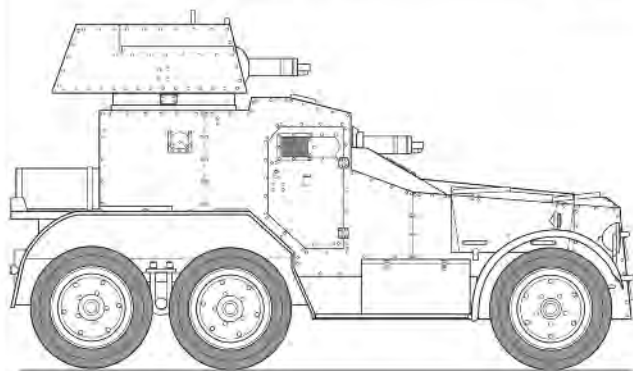
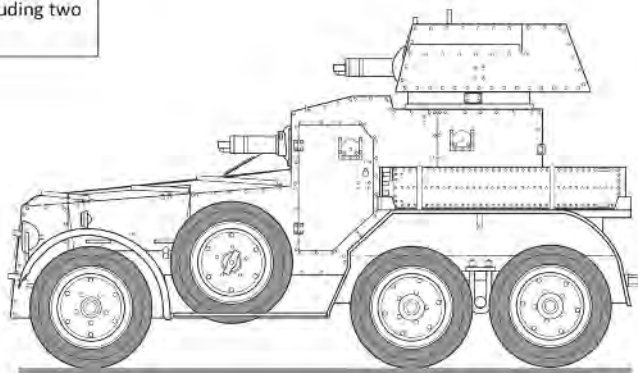
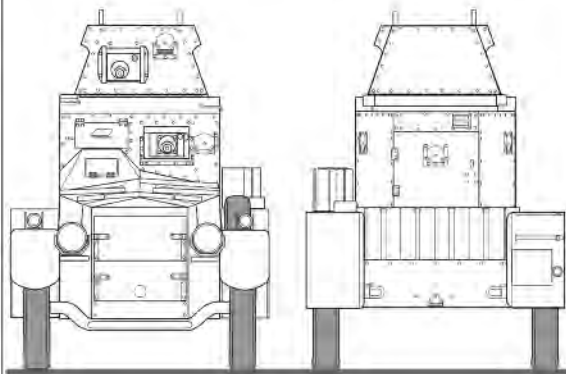
Armament: One .303 MMG in
turret, one .303 MMG in hull

Engine: Crossley 4 Cylinder
petrol engine (26bhp)

Speed: 40mph (road) (64 kmph)

Range: 200 miles (320km)

Production: Seven including two
prototypes in 1931



1/48 SCALE



A rare view taken through the rear door of a Crossley where you can just make out the driver's position, along with the lower elements of the turret fittings.

KSYM-AJW-165

that they were never to make the grade as combat vehicles and were relegated to 'training vehicles', which is where the Sharpshooters came into the story.

As the political situation grew worse in Europe, the Territorial Army began to receive a little more attention and, more particularly, funding for training after the lean years of the MacDonald coalition government. At the time, 12th Lancers were the parent Regular Army formation responsible for 23rd London Armoured Car Company and, up to this point, had been able to give accommodation for their summer camp, training opportunities, and to provide the Sharpshooter's full-time Adjutant. As preparation for a potential war began, it is evident that a greater variety of equipment was made available to the Sharpshooters to help familiarise them with an array of mechanical problem solving, a not insignificant part of which was the Crossley Mk I. It is not clear

and consequently required an excessive amount of maintenance. After a relatively short period, they were relegated to the storage sheds, only brought out once to trial a Kegresse style track system on the rear wheels (this is currently installed on the Tank Museum example). Evidently, the Hussars were less than impressed as, in due course, the vehicles were sent home. For the 12th Lancers, trials were a little more positive as they did not have to contend with so hostile an environment. Nevertheless, they were considered top-heavy and unwieldy. It became apparent



Over Easter of 1939 the Sharpshooters took part in an exercise around Aldershot alongside the Regular Army. Here a Vickers Medium Mk II tank passes a column of Sharpshooter vehicles composed of Rolls-Royce and Crossley Armoured Cars. This Crossley, with registration MT9795 is seen in a number of Sharpshooters photographs and is presumed, therefore, to have been allocated to the Regiment.

KSYM-23LAC-084



Lieutenant Neil Tatton conducting an O group during the Easter exercises around Aldershot in 1939. Note the more warlike use of gas masks in the 'ready' position as exercises began to get more serious.

KSYM-23LAC-083



A fine profile of the Crossley on summer camp near Popham in 1939. Sharpshooters can be seen at 'Crews Front'.

KSYM-23LAC-074

that the type was formally issued to the Sharpshooters as no written confirmation has been found, but the Crossley was certainly in use on annual camp from 1937. One features in a photograph of a convoy of Sharpshooters' vehicles on a weekend exercise in the Spring of 1939 and so it may be that at least one was actually taken on roll. In the excitement of having access to a greater variety of hardware, little critical thought seems to have been given to the qualities of the vehicle by their part-time crews. Even so, it is apparent that the similarly configured, but more elegant and robust Lanchester armoured car was their preferred mount.



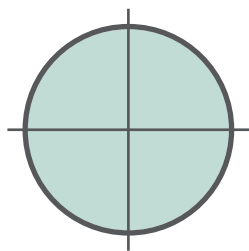
A line up of armoured cars with, closest to the camera, three Crossleys – note the civilian licence plate numbers. They were also issued WD numbers in the range F-1034 to F1038 and four of the five can be identified in the Sharpshooters photograph collection.

KSYM-23LAC-076



This one is a slight anomaly. Whilst it looks largely like the other Crossleys there are some unusual differences, like the sheet metal mud guards and the fact that the turret has its vents towards the rear, rather than the front like their other examples. It is pictured at Popham Camp in August 1939. Though it carries a WD number, which appears to be F-21041, this was allocated to a batch of universal carriers produced after the war had started in 1940 and so is something of a mystery. The best estimate is that this is one of the two prototype D2E2s upgraded with an experimental turret, similar in design to the production version.

KSYM-23LAC-077



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

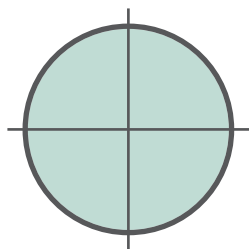
County of London Yeomanry

Images supplied by Dan Taylor and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage,
uniform and recognition markings.

1945



A knocked-out “C” Sqn Firefly tank and the grave of Tpr. Fletcher, south of Udem.



BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

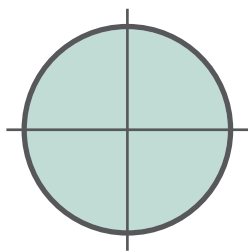
Kent Yeomanry

Images supplied by David Whitehouse and colourised by Simon Malik
Special thanks to Dan Taylor for his expert knowledge of camouflage, uniform and recognition markings.

1945



97 (KY) Fd Regt RA, marching through a town in Germany.



ERNEST DRAY – ROYAL EAST KENT MOUNTED RIFLES

**Tim Rayson with input from
Dave Whitehouse and, David Hannam**

Ernest Dray was born in Brompton, Gillingham, Kent, on 30th September 1899, the sixth child of William Dray, a blacksmith, and his wife, Sarah Ann Dray. Whilst we know nothing of his early life, the census of 1911 shows that an 11-year old Ernest was living with his parents and four siblings, William, Alfred, Ethel and Robert, at 6 Unity Cottages, Gardiner Street, Gillingham.

Although underage he enlisted into the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (REKMR) in Canterbury on 7th June 1915, purporting to be aged 19 (he was really 15yrs and 11 months) thus becoming Private 3067 Dray. At the top of one sheet of his service record is stamped 3rd LINE R.E.K.M.R. indicating that he had joined what was essentially a training unit for supplying men to the first line.



At this time the regiment, which along with the West Kent Yeomanry, formed part of the South East Mounted Brigade, was engaged in training as well as home defence duties. At the beginning of September, rumours of going overseas were confirmed: the brigade was asked to volunteer for service overseas dismounted, and this was followed by the issue of sun helmets which proclaimed the Middle East as their likely destination. On 23rd September the REKMR embarked on the S.S. Olympic and a fortnight later found itself on the beaches of Cape Helles on the Gallipoli peninsula, as part of a follow-up force to the Suvla Bay landings.

However, Ernest did not embark with the regiment at this point but remained in the UK with 3/1 REKMR. His medal index card records that he was only entitled to the Victory Medal and British War

Medal. The absence of a 1915 Star suggests that he did not enter an active theatre of operations during that year.

On 10th January 1916 Private Dray was posted to 1/1 REKMR and presumably joined the regiment in Egypt, after the first line regiment had withdrawn from Gallipoli. The regiment now formed part of the Western Frontier and later, the Suez Canal Defence Force. On 16th December 1916, Ernest was transferred to 10th (Royal East & West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs and given a new regimental number 270455. The new regiment was the result of an amalgamation of REKMR and West Kent Yeomanry (WKY) which was formally re-organised as an infantry battalion. The REKMR was to make up A & B companies, whilst the WKY was to make up C & D companies. Ponsonby's regimental history shows that Private Dray was posted to A Company. The official amalgamation of the two regiments, however, did not take place until 1st February 1917 at Sollum, on the border between Egypt and Libya.

The 10th Buffs fought through the Palestine campaign and took part in the capture of Beersheba and Jerusalem. Ernest distinguished himself during the campaign as he later received a certificate signed by his commanding officer Lt-Col Ponsonby that stated "in recognition of his gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the face of the enemy and especially in circumstances of great difficulty - taking up ammunition mules under heavy fire at the Battle of Beersheba Oct 31.1917"

It is interesting that nothing of this is noted in his service record and it is possible that as the certificate was not presented until April 1919 (i.e. after the authorities learned of his true age), that Ernest was prevented from receiving formal recognition





even though he would have turned 18 by October 1917. That being said there were numerous gallantry awards made to 15-18 year olds in WW1 including two Victoria Crosses.

In May 1918, the battalion, along with the rest of 74th (Yeomanry) Division was transferred to France. Although Dray's likely incomplete service record shows little of his activities, he was certainly in Egypt by February 1916 by virtue of entries relating to his admission to hospital in Alexandria for minor injuries. We can only assume that he was with the regiment for the rest of the campaign in Palestine and followed it to the Western Front.

Just two months before the end of the war, it would appear that Ernest was home on leave, as a copy of a letter from his mother amongst other correspondence with his service record, requests that his leave be extended. This was on account of him

enlisting at the age of 15 years and 11 months. This is the first indication that the military authorities had that Private Dray was much younger than he had originally stated. It is not known if he was granted an extension to his leave, or if any punitive action was taken as a result of his mother's disclosure. In any case he was finally released from the army in the early summer of 1919.

Dray joined the Royal Irish Constabulary on 11 June 1920, describing himself as an ex-soldier. His service record states that he was recommended by the R.I.C.'s chief recruiting officer in Great Britain, R.I.C. District Inspector and Irish Guards Major Cyril Fleming, who worked in the army recruiting office at Great Scotland Yard in London. Dray met the R.I.C.'s three requirements: the expected height of at least five feet eight inches; unmarried; and an army rating of 'Good' or higher. For reasons of expediency and economy, mainland recruits were initially issued with black-green R.I.C. uniform items along with war-surplus military khaki tunics, trousers and coats. They wore these in varying combinations, the most popular being R.I.C. cap, tunic and belt with khaki trousers. This mix 'n' match look caused them to be dubbed 'Black and Tans'. Dray was initially assigned to the Limerick Police but by December 1920 found himself at the R.I.C. barracks at Midleton, Co. Cork. It was here that on 29th, whilst on patrol in the town that Dray was fatally wounded during an IRA ambush, an account of which appeared in the Londonderry Sentinel of 4th January 1921:

"The Midleton ambush took place in the main street of the town on Wednesday night last about 9.30. A police patrol, numbering nine, was fired at from either side of the street. Constable Mullens was shot dead, and during the attack seven other policemen were wounded. A relief party from Cork was twice ambushed on the way to Midleton, a sergeant being seriously



wounded. Constable Thorpe, who was wounded in the original attack died the following day, and it now appears that the total death-roll was three. The third victim was Constable Dray, who succumbed to his injuries on Friday."

Dray died of his wounds on 31st December 1920 at the Military Hospital Cork and was repatriated and buried in Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham (Kent) on 6th January 2021. He was posthumously awarded the Constabulary Medal for Gallantry. On 16th May 1921, Dray's mother wrote to the military authorities asking to be sent 'the medals which are due to my son, Ernest Dray, who was killed in Ireland last December.'

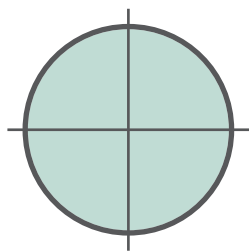
Fast forward to early 2020. Early last year Ernest's Constabulary Gallantry medal came up for auction as part of a larger collection and whilst there was circumstantial evidence that it actually belonged to us at some stage there was no concrete proof and so we could not prevent the sale : I did try but was rebuffed ! The medal went for £4000 excl the usual mark ups which was way out of our league. As part of a larger project to locate WW1 Kent and Sharpshooter yeomen buried in the UK I started searching for his grave and his history. The two key things that attracted me were the fact that he was an underage soldier in WW1 (something I present to cadets) and the RIC Gallantry medal. With the help of research undertaken by David Hannam and Dave Whitehouse I eventually tracked him down to Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham (Kent). A search of the cemetery eventually turned it up and it was in a pretty bad state of repair. It was minus headstone, marker, kerbs and even the plot number – all had disappeared over the intervening period leaving just a patch of bare grass.





The *KSY Association* Management Committee agreed to underwrite the costs of a suitable replacement grave stone that marked both the grave and provides a short history of who Ernest Dray was. The work was completed in late December 2020 in time for the 100th Anniversary of his interment on 6th January 2021. A re-dedication service is planned for the spring of 2021 when hopefully this pesky virus has been tamed and the weather might be more amenable.





SECOND LIEUTENANT NORMAN OTTO FREDERICK GUNTHER

By Penny & Simon Malik

Last year Penny and I were touring the Somme battlefields on a quest to visit all the VCs in the area. Whilst at the Arras Memorial I saw this inscription on the wall just by the entrance. This immediately took our interest and so we did a little research on this fallen comrade:



Charles Gunther.

Charles Gunther and his German-born wife Leonie Gunther (née Korte) were an Anglo-German family from Argentina. Charles was a director (later chairman) of the Liebig Extract of Meat Company and would be credited with the development of Oxo. Charles had moved to England from Fray Bentos, Argentina in 1895 to become chairman of Oxo. In 1902 he acquired Tongswood – a 3500 acre estate in Hawkhurst, Kent. From his first marriage to Leonie, he had two sons – Charles and Norman.

His eldest son Charles enrolled at Trinity Hall, Cambridge in 1910 and later went to Argentina, where his father's company had ranches. It has been claimed that after the outbreak of war in 1914 that there was a serious question amongst the Gunther family as to which side to fight for. Nevertheless,

Charles's two eldest sons decided to enlist into the British Army. After returning from Argentina, the eldest son Charles obtained a commission in the 2nd Life Guards on the 11 June 1915.

The younger son, Norman enlisted straight from Eton and joined the Royal East Kent Yeomanry.



2Lt Norman Otto Frederick Gunther of the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (Royal East Kent Yeomanry), attached to the 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).



Lt Charles Emil Gunther of the 8th Reserve Cavalry, attached to the 2nd Life Guards and then the 2nd Battalion, Guards Machine Gun Regiment.

Norman was killed in an action on 3rd May 1917 and awarded his MC posthumously for his courage and leadership skill. He and a fellow officer with about 40 men reached their objective, only to find themselves isolated behind the reformed German lines. They now had to defend themselves from every direction throughout the day, 'accounting for many of the soldiery surrounding them.' Only when night fell were the two subalterns, with just 13 men, able to fight their way back through three lines of Germans to report themselves to their battalion HQ.

What remained of the battalion was reorganised, rested and returned to the line several weeks later, when they defended, repelled and counter-attacked a German offensive on the 11th July.

Battalion history records that on the 12 July 1917 the 'intrepid' 2nd Lieutenant Norman Otto Frederick Gunther MC, aged 19, was killed with nine other men

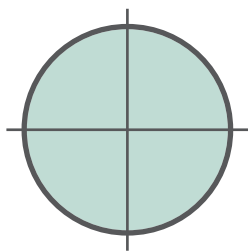


‘gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking’. As there is no known grave he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Panel Ref. Bay 1.

His brother Charles, died a year later, aged 28, on 24 September 1918, during the Hundred Days Offensive on the Western Front, while serving with the 2nd Guards Machine Gun Regiment (formerly the 2nd Life Guards). His unit had been providing support to the 6th Division in the area around Holnon. He is buried in the Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon.

In 1921, Gunther’s father gifted a fire station and fire engine to the village of Hawkhurst, Kent in the name of his two sons. Further commemoration came in 2012, when the village unveiled the artwork “A Memorial to a Memorial” in their memory.





THE SALOMONS CUP

by Huw Jones



The KSY Museum Trust has agreed to take custody of the property belonging to the now defunct 265 Light Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery Trust. The property includes items from several long-departed Territorial Force and Territorial Army units. Most of these have their origins in the pre-1914 force which, by 1967 had coalesced into 265 Light Air Defence Regiment which was to form the nucleus of 265 Signal Squadron. These ancestors include the Kent Fortress Royal Engineers (KFRE), and the cup, which is shown here, was presented by their Honorary Colonel, Sir David Lionel Salomons and has long-been a feature of the mess at Bexleyheath.

The KFRE was raised in 1908 as part of the new Territorial Force to provide engineering support for Kent's coastal defences, particularly those for the naval base and dockyard at Chatham and the Thames Estuary. A separate Cinque Ports regiment provided similar services for the fortifications at Dover and the South Coast. The KFRE was raised with general engineering, or "Works" companies at Tonbridge, Ashford and Chatham. There were also two "Electric Lights" companies at Chatham, whose job was to man the defence's searchlights. Territorial Force batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery based in the Medway Towns manned the associated guns.

The Salomons Family

The Salomons family was prominent in British Jewish circles. Sir David Lionel Salomons was a prominent scientist, engineer, photographer and inventor. He was an early member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and registered many patents over the years, including one of the first electric cooking devices. His house was one of the first to have electric lighting and he became chairman of a company that played a key role in electrifying London.

Sir David was also passionate about horseless carriages and frequently contributed his writings about them to the fledgling Autocar. He had actually designed and built his own electric car, way back in 1874, but abandoned the project because he could not find a way to recharge the batteries properly. In 1895, he became only the second person to import a car into the UK, taking delivery of the two-cylinder, 3.5hp Daimler-engined Peugeot. He exhibited this to the public on 15 October 1895, when he organised a Horseless Carriage Exhibition at the agricultural showground in Tunbridge Wells, where he was mayor. This was the first organised public demonstration of cars and drew “quite five thousand people”.

The Locomotive Act 1865 stipulated that self-propelled vehicles should be accompanied by a crew of three; if the vehicle was attached to two or more vehicles an additional person was to accompany the vehicles; a man with a red flag was to walk at least 60 yards (55m) ahead of each vehicle, who was also required to assist with the passage of horses and carriages. The vehicle was required to stop at the signal of the flagbearer. A speed limit of 4 mph (2 mph in towns) was imposed, with a fine of £10 for contravention. At the end of the exhibition, in defiance of the law, Salomons reportedly led a small procession of cars on to the road to Tunbridge Wells where the cars



Sir David (on the right) and his Peugeot prepare to break the law.

“proceeded smoothly and in perfect control to the pleasure of many spectators...” Thirteen months later, parliament approved the raising of the speed limit to 12mph and the removal of the requirement for a pedestrian to precede the car waving a red flag.

Given his technical background, and enthusiasm for the preparation of the British Empire's defences, it seems fitting that he became Honorary Colonel of the KFRE.

Sir David Lionel Salomons had inherited his wealth from his uncle, also named David, who had been the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London and one of the founders of what became NatWest Bank. He was elected MP for Greenwich in 1851 and made the first speech by a Jewish member of the House of Commons in 1851, despite not completing the oath of allegiance for an MP which at the time required adherence to the Christian faith. He voted three times before he was removed by the Serjeant-at-Arms and was fined £500 for voting illegally. The law was changed in 1858. Salmons was re-elected in 1859 and continued to sit in Parliament until his death in 1873.



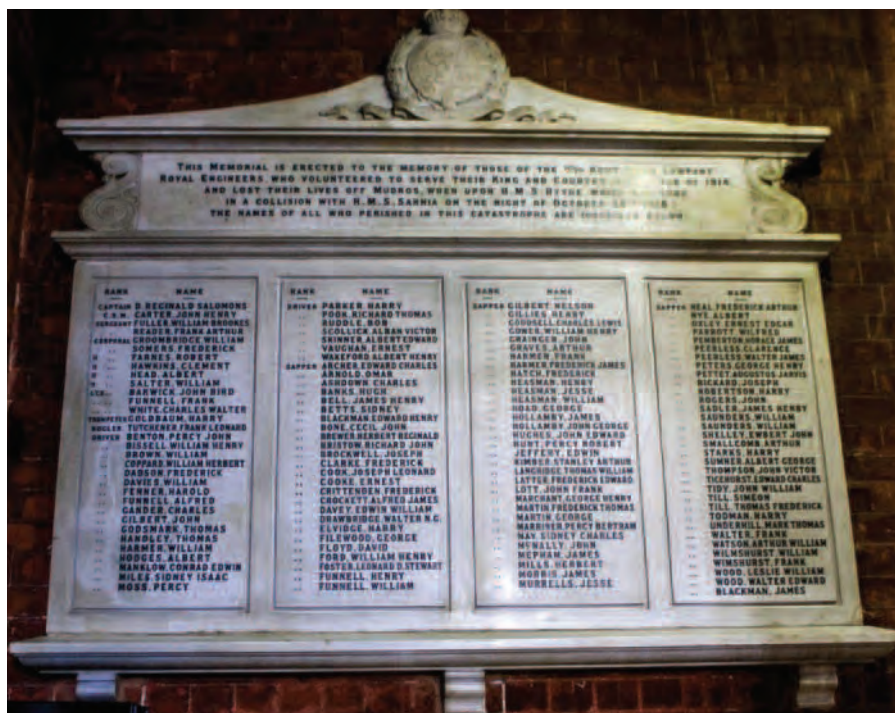
Sir David Lionel's only son, David Reginald Salomons, known as Reggie, was born in 1885 and educated at Eton and Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. He took a keen interest in the KFRE and became a captain in its cadet unit, based at Southborough, just north of Tunbridge Wells and near the family estate at Broomhill. He was also a second lieutenant in the KFRE, being commissioned in October 1911 and promoted to lieutenant in August 1913. The KFRE had trouble recruiting in Chatham, in part because it drew heavily on the naval dockyard for its recruits. The Admiralty realised that this would harm the base's ability to support the Royal Navy in war and imposed limits on recruitment. The sub units moved elsewhere and in 1913 the Chatham Works Company was relocated to join the cadets in Southborough in a drill hall provided by Sir David. There are signs that the move was plotted in advance with many of the cadets said to have been aged 17-20, whereas the normal ages would have been 12-18. In May 1914 this became a fully-fledged company (No3) with the OC, Captain Rushton, promoted to major and Reggie, as 2iC promoted to captain that October.



No 3 Company on a training march through Southborough.

When war broke out the regiment moved to its war stations in the Isle of Grain, Sheerness and Gillingham with a detachment at Vange, near Canvey Island. The regiment's role soon changed as initial fears of a German naval attack receded, and with it the risk of an attack on Chatham and the Thames Estuary. The need, however, for extra sappers in the TF and "New Army" divisions was soon recognised. By September 1914 the three works companies of the KFRE were accepted for overseas service (for which they had to volunteer as individuals, TF engagements being nominally only for home defence) and were expanded, retrained and equipped as field companies and renumbered 495 to 497 (Kent) Field Companies. In September 1915 495 Company (Tonbridge) left for the Dardanelles with 496 and 497 (Ashford and Southborough) following in October. Nos 1 and 2 joined the Second Mounted Division, which being composed of the yeomanry regiments had no organic engineer unit, and No3 (now 1/3rd Kent Field Company) was sent to join 52nd Lowland Division. On the evening of 28 October 1915 the 1/3 Kent Field Company was approaching the Dardanelles in HMS Hythe, a converted cross-Channel steamer. With lights extinguished to avoid sighting by Turkish batteries, they were rammed by HMS Sarnia, which was also travelling without lights. The Hythe sank within ten minutes with the loss of some 150 men. Captain Reggie Salomons was one of them. He had refused to leave the ship until all his men were safe.

It was obviously a tragedy for the Salomons family, made all the worse because most of those lost were from local families in Southborough, High Brooms and Tunbridge Wells. In 1916 Sir David erected a memorial to the dead in the drill hall: it was moved to St Matthews Church in High Brooms in about 1950. A local housing development, named Hythe Close, is also in Southborough.



The memorial to 3/1 Field Company, St Matthews Church.

After Gallipoli the company was brought up to strength and in 1917 was involved in the Cambrai offensive where it lost 75% of its personnel in action. It was again brought up to strength and served with the 29th Division for the rest of the war. In 1921 the Territorial Force, now the Territorial Army, was re-raised and in 1925 the Kent (Fortress) RE (TA) changed to an anti-aircraft searchlight role. In April 1939 it joined with several other territorial units to form 73rd (Kent Fortress) Anti-Aircraft Battalion RE (TA) with a new HQ at Bexleyheath. The Regiment transferred to the Royal Artillery in August 1940, serving until it was placed into suspended animation in September 1944 as the air threat from Germany receded and as more men were needed to replace losses in the infantry.

When the TA was reconstituted on 1 January 1947, the regiment was reformed in the heavy anti-aircraft artillery role as 608th (Kent) (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RA ('Mixed' indicating that members of the Women's Royal Army Corps were integrated into the unit).

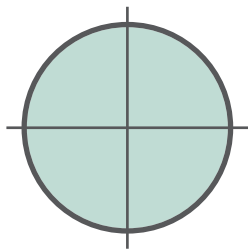
Anti-Aircraft Command was disbanded in 1955, and there was a major reduction in TA air defence units. By 1961 there was a single regiment – 265 Light Air Defence Regiment RA (TA). In April 1967 was reduced further to become P (Kent) Battery of the London & Kent Regiment RA (T), with Q (London) Battery at Grove Park and R (KCLY) Battery at Bromley. In April 1969 P and R Batteries became 265 (London and Kent) Signal Squadron, with a small residual cadre which in 1971 became a



company of The Queen's Regiment. The cup had one final near escape when the new squadron was clearing the stores at Bexleyheath and threw some boxes, thought to be empty onto a large bonfire which had been built on the waste ground where the ARC's garages are now. Fortunately the then Captain Tony Jewell, now a KSY Museum trustee, was passing and spotted the cup before it joined the pyre.

Sir David Salomons as Honorary Colonel of the Kent Fortress Royal Engineers, with his cup.





TROOPER ROBERT WAUGH, WEST KENT YEOMANRY

**By Boyd Holmes C (KSY) Sqn, RY
(1973 – 1977)**



**Born 11th August 1885 in Bewcastle, Cumberland
Died 3rd March 1919 in Brampton, Cumberland**

In the early 1800s the Waugh family, who had farmed in the large Cumbrian moorland parish of Bewcastle for hundreds of years, diverged as “long-necked Waughs” and “short-necked Waughs”. Both branches of the family are still farming in Bewcastle in 2020. Whilst the surname of the well-known author Evelyn Waugh is generally pronounced as “War”, in the north of England the pronunciation is “Woff”.

In 1688 the population of this wild and remote parish was only 420, rising to 1,274 in 1841 and falling to just over 600 in the early 1900s. In 2011 the population was 391. Following the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 Robert Waugh, the sixth son of James and Catherine Waugh, who farmed at The Row, Bewcastle, enlisted in the West Kent Yeomanry and his brother, Septimus, the aptly named seventh son, joined the Yorkshire Regiment. James and his sons were from the long-necked side of the family.

The father, James Waugh, died on 3rd July 1914, less than four weeks before the outbreak of war on 28th July; and on 7th June 1917 Septimus, by then a sergeant in the Yorkshire Regiment, was killed in action in France. Waugh family folklore has it that the mother, Catherine, who survived until 1918, died of a broken heart because of the deaths within less than three years of both her husband and one of her sons. Her death



Bewcastle: remote and beautiful parish.

certificate records that she died on 5th June 1918 of a *fibroid heart*; an archaic diagnosis which has little meaning today.

Robert, who went to war as Trooper 1868 in the West Kent Yeomanry, survived the war only to die on his journey back from France to Bewcastle. He died on 3rd March 1919 from influenza - probably “Spanish flu” - and pneumonia. Family history recounts that he only just made it as far as the railway station serving the nearby market town of Brampton, Cumberland, before being taken to 4 Market Place, Brampton, where he died. Robert’s death was registered on the day he died by the proprietor of the premises, Robert Wrigley, who was present at the death. The premises at 4 Market Place, which had been a branch of the London City and Midland Bank, are now the surgery of the Brampton doctors who provide medical cover over an extensive area, including Bewcastle. Robert Wrigley managed the bank’s branch and is known to have been a great friend of Robert’s brother Septimus.

Why did Robert, the son of a farmer from this thinly populated parish bordering Scotland and Northumberland, join the West Kent Yeomanry when his local regiment was the Border Regiment, and Bewcastle is further from Kent than Kent is from France? As the younger sons of a farmer, neither Robert nor Septimus was going to inherit the family farm and so they were destined for a life as farm labourers, unless they found jobs outside farming.

By age 14 Robert was a draper’s apprentice and is recorded as boarding along with his fellow apprentice Laurence Nicholson at Wellington Place, Brampton. In 1911 Robert was working in London, as a business assistant in a draper’s shop, which might account for his smart appearance in the photograph, whilst boarding with a family in Fulham. Septimus had joined the Brampton branch of the London City and Midland



The Row, Bewcastle, in 2020, with current Farmer and Family Member, Trevor Waugh.

Bank, and continued to live at The Row, from where he will have gone by horse to the bank in Brampton. Septimus then moved to the bank's branch in Burnley, Lancashire, where he was known as "a young man of a quiet but kindly disposition" and was connected with the YMCA.

The West Kent Yeomanry were mounted both before and during the war. 1/1st Queen's Own West Kent Yeomanry ("QOWKY") were mobilised in the Canterbury area in August 1914 and were dismounted before embarkation for overseas service in September 1915. 2/1st QOWKY was formed in Maidstone in August 1914 and took over the horses of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and Lord Strathcona's Horse in 1915, but on conversion to a cyclist unit had to hand over their horses to 2/1st Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry in October 1916, finishing the war in Ireland. 3/1st QOWKY was formed at Canterbury at the end of 1914 but were dismounted in June 1915 before being disbanded in February 1917. It is likely that Robert, who with his farming background will have been used to working with horses, was naturally drawn to serve in the yeomanry. His home county had its own yeomanry regiment, the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry, but by 1914 Robert was far from home. Historically, yeoman were farmers of standing who were expected to present for military service with their own horse. To this day a prominent Cumbrian farming family describe themselves as yeomen rather than farmers.

During the Great War Robert transferred from the West Kent Yeomanry to the Machine Gun Corps, where he served as 56189 Private Waugh. For his war service he was awarded both the silver British War Medal and the bronze Victory medal, but not

the 1914/15 Star. This tells us that Robert served in a theatre of war (“an area of active fighting”) at some time between 1916 and the end of the war, on 11th November 1918. We do not know whether this service was in the West Kent Yeomanry or the Machine Gun Corps. His death certificate records that he was demobilised from 74 Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, on 20th February 1919, almost two weeks before his death on 3rd March. A family memorial card issued *In Affectionate Remembrance of ROBERT* sent out after his death confirms that Robert died “whilst on his way from France to Bewcastle after Demobilization” aged 33 years and that he was interred in Bewcastle Churchyard on 6th March 1919.

Robert’s grave, marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, is among those of his mother and father, some of his brothers, and of his one sister, Isabella. Robert’s headstone records his service only with the Machine Gun Corps, whilst the war memorial in the parish churchyard, along with the headstone on his parents’ grave identifies him as having served in the West Kent Yeomanry - which on the parents’ headstone is spelled as “Yeomanery”.

Septimus is also remembered on the war memorial along with a soldier called Adam Waugh who died in 1916 whilst serving with the Canadian infantry. Adam Waugh was born in the area in 1873 into another branch of the family. There was another Adam Waugh in Bewcastle, Robert’s brother Adam, who was also born in 1873 and who survived until 1926, when he died aged 52 and was buried beside Robert. The last of Robert’s brothers to be buried in Bewcastle churchyard was James, who was the fourth of the eight brothers, having been born in 1883 and who died in 1965 aged 82 years. Robert’s youngest brother, Thomas, who also served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and managed to survive the war, died in 1974. We can only guess at how long Robert might have lived had he not succumbed to influenza in 1919.

101 Years after Robert’s Death

Whilst cycling during the first Covid-induced lockdown of 2020 (Covid-19 being a cousin of Spanish flu), I found myself in Bewcastle churchyard inspecting war memorials and war graves. Having served in C (Kent & Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry when working in London between 1973 and 1977 I was honoured, but a little surprised, to find inscribed on the parish war memorial “Pte. Robert Waugh, West Kent Yeomanry” along with the names of Septimus and their distant cousin Adam. Finding a war grave for “56189 Private R Waugh Machine Gun Corps (Inf)” I was interested to know if he was the soldier whose name appeared on the war memorial.

For many years I had been receiving email circulars from Tim Rayson, the ever-diligent secretary of the *Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Association*. Living in Cumbria precluded my participation in the association’s activities, although I had made a mental note to visit the museum at Hever Castle in Kent before I joined Robert Waugh in Cumbrian soil. Following receipt of Tim’s latest circular, I emailed him photographs of Robert’s grave and of the war memorial in Bewcastle churchyard. Tim quickly identified Robert Waugh as one of ours and went on to provide information about his war service, medals, and burial. He requested that, with Remembrance Sunday approaching, I put a cross on Robert’s grave; an honour which I was pleased to accept.



Bewcastle today: Cyclist's Paradise.



Two War Memorials: United Reformed Churchyard and Parish Churchyard.

Robert's *Graves Registration Report Form* supplied by Tim had a note of a Mr Waugh of Kilnstown, a farm in Bewcastle less than two miles from the church. Making a Google search against Kilnstown quickly showed that the Waugh family, who had been at that farm since Robert's brother John had married the daughter of Robert Noble, were still farming.

On receipt of the memorial cross from Tim I contacted the Rector of Bewcastle, the parish by now being part of a group of parishes, to enquire whether there was to be a service at the church on Remembrance Sunday. The Rector told me that this year the service was to be in Stapleton church, and he gave his permission for me to lay the cross on Robert's grave on Sunday 8th November. The Rector went on to give me the telephone number for Frank Waugh, 85, one of his churchwardens who is Robert's great nephew. Frank's grandfather was Robert's brother John, who had married into the Noble family of Kilnstown. Frank's sons Andrew and Richard Waugh now farm together at Kilnstown. A distant cousin, Trevor Waugh, farms at The Row, Bewcastle, with his uncle, Kenneth Waugh.

Frank Waugh was able to give me some good news: whilst the 2020 Remembrance Sunday service was to be at Stapleton Church, there was to be a short ceremony at the parish war memorial in Bewcastle churchyard and "yes" Frank also gave his permission for me to lay a cross on Robert's grave. Aged 85, and respecting both lockdown restrictions and the churchyard's exposure to the full force of Bewcastle's upland weather, Frank told me he was unlikely to be there for the event on Remembrance Sunday.



Boyd Holmes and WO1 (Retd) Blake, RE.



Frank Waugh, great nephew of Robert Waugh.

Armed with my red *KCLY/KSY* dress hat and Tim's cross; and accompanied by a friend, a former High Sheriff acting as valet and photographer, I set out for Bewcastle in good time for the ceremony which was to be at 11am. Frank's wife greeted us on arrival, when I was delighted to find that Frank was also on parade. As neither Colonel Julian Radcliffe nor a member of the Royal Family was present, the first wreath was laid by the chair of Bewcastle Parish Council, Mrs Barbara Smith. At the conclusion of the ceremony I told the gathering of my connexion with the late Robert Waugh and of my intention to lay the *Association's* cross on his grave. Supported by the chairman of the Brampton branch of the Royal British Legion, a retired WO1 from the Royal Engineers, I then led a small procession to the grave, now marked by my red dress hat, and placed the cross in the presence of Frank and his wife, Anne, after pronouncing:

“Robert Waugh, West Kent Yeomanry. Died 3rd March 1919. Not forgotten.”

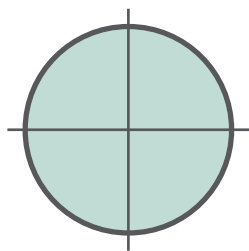
And then the donkeys arrived...



Donkey Walloper?

This article could not have been written without the assistance of the Waugh family historian, Mrs June Boyd (née Waugh) of Carlisle. June is a first cousin of Frank Waugh. Her father was a short-necked Waugh, and her mother was a long-necked Waugh. The Waugh family's military tradition continues in the present century, with a younger member currently serving in the Royal Air Force.

[Biographical note: Boyd Holmes, who had been commissioned at Cambridge University whilst in the University OTC, served in C (*KSY*) Squadron, RY, when he was a student at the College of Law, Guildford, and then trained as a solicitor in Gray's Inn, London, WC1. He returned to his native Cumbria (formerly Cumberland and Westmorland) in 1977 when he transferred to the Queen's Own Yeomanry, serving in "NH" – the Northumberland Hussars squadron. He worked as a solicitor in Brampton for five years and retired from his firm's Carlisle office in 2011 after having been managing partner for 25 years. In 1999 he was appointed by the Master of the Rolls to be a member of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for England & Wales, sitting on the tribunal until 2013 when he finally retired.]



PTE CHARLES HARRY DERISELY

by Tim Rayson

In the summer of 2020 an Order of Service for the unveiling of a brass memorial to Pte Harry Derisely of the 53rd (Royal East Kent Yeo) Company came up for sale on Ebay. Having looked at it and an image of the memorial I thought that it was a worth a punt to acquire it for the Museum Trust. I was fortunately successful and thought that I would share the images plus a bit about his life.

NORWICH MERCURY - 1st March 1902

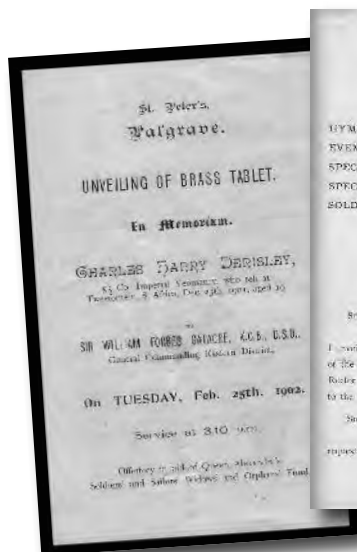
GENERAL GATACRE AT PALGRAVE

BRASS TABLET UNVEILED

An impressive ceremony was witnessed by a large concourse of people in St. Peter's Church, Palgrave, on Tuesday afternoon, when General Gatacre, K.C.B., D.S.O., commanding the Eastern District, unveiled a brass tablet in memory of Charles Harry Derisley, age 19, of the 53rd Company Imperial Yeomanry, who fell at Tweefontein, South Africa, on Christmas Day. The deceased was a son of Mr. Harry Derisley, a widely-esteemed and respected gentleman, living at the Grange Farm, Palgrave. He was educated at the Eye Grammar School, afterwards entering a merchant's office in the City of London, where by his steady attention to business he soon gained the goodwill and confidence of his employers. His leisure time was devoted to athletics and he excelled particularly in swimming. Some fifteen months ago he volunteered for one of the London Companies of Imperial Yeomanry, and having no difficulty in passing the riding and shooting tests, he was quickly at the scene of operations in South Africa. His splendid physique served him well on many occasions but De Wat's murderous charge on Colonel Firman's camp at Tweefontein last Christmas Day, he fell mortally wounded. Almost his last letter home has a particularly pathetic interest, for in it the deceased was looking forward to Christmas, and he detailed the luxuries he and the men anticipated having on that festive day.

The story of the Battle of Tweefontein has appeared in a previous edition of the Journal. I will be producing an updated version as the research into Harry Derisley has produced all sorts of information. Whilst the scale of the defeat was small the impact on the reputation of the Yeomanry was high with many questions being asked about the tactical soundness of the British position and state of health and training of the troops.

A granite obelisk commemorating the Battle of Tweefontein was erected on the peak of the Groenkop and the battlefield is well signed and can be visited. The obelisk records the names and units of the seven officers and 51 ORs killed in the action 24 of which were Kent Yeomanry. The KSY archives also the names of a further 43 wounded who were wounded. There were similar losses suffered by the Middlesex Yeomanry.



ORDER OF SERVICE.

HYMN, "O God, our help in ages past,"

EVENING PRAYER.

SPECIAL PSALM, 55.

SPECIAL LESSON, 1 Cor. viii. 30.

SOLDIERS' HYMN.

"O God, Our Banner, Lord of Might"

UNVEILING OF TABLET

BY

SIR WILLIAM GATACRE.

80.

As General in Command of the Eastern District, I unveil this Tablet in memory of Charles Harry Derisley, of the 55th Co. Imperial Yeomanry, and I trust you, as Rector of this Parish, to receive the same and dedicate it to the use of this Church and to the glory of God.

80a.

A full band, (Marching in) playing with great propriety.

SPECIAL PRAYERS.

Almighty and Everlasting God, who alone orderest all things both in Heaven and on Earth, accept, we beseech Thee, this tablet for the remembrance of Thy Name, and in memory of him who in early youth was called to lay down his life for his country.

Grant, we beseech Thee, that they who are gathered 'round this day may learn their own lives are due to Thy hands, so that in a small space Time is given to give a little longer, the men that God has prolonged may be estimated to Thy service, though years than one hour.

Amen.

Oh, God Almighty, Lord God of Hosts, look down on these Thy men with favour, since our troops have perished in War in South Africa, and grant them with speedy cover their souls in the day of battle, give them the vision that comes to faith, and the mercy which becometh Christian soldiers; have compassion on those who suffer the sick, the wounded, the dying—and the ancestors of the fallen. Bring this war, it is closer than in a night and living coasts and harbours all things in the world of sin and sorrow, to the subjugation of The Blessed Kingdom, for the sake of Them Who for Peace Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Prayer of St. Chrysostom and the Reading.

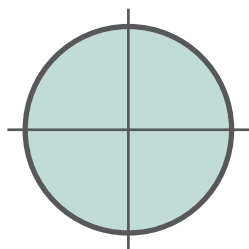




In 1958 the South African War Graves Board exhumed the remains, moving them, and their memorials, from their isolated, vulnerable and neglected spot, to a memorial garden in Harrismith.

Once again I am indebted to Mr Danie Van Vuren who very kindly detoured on a recent trip to Ladysmith to take the photos of the memorial garden at Harrismith.





110 YEARS OF KENT AND SHARPSHOOTER YEOMANRY FINE DINING

Part 1 (1793 – 1900)

by Tim Rayson

With the 225th Anniversary of the founding of the East and West Kent Yeomanry falling in the year and the 110th anniversary of the first Sharpshooter Brigade Annual Dinner in July 2019 it is probably a good idea to reflect on Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry dinners through the ages and the events that they are connected to.

The first recorded dinner took place in the summer of 1799 when King George III and William Pitt reviewed both of the Kent regiments together with the militia at Mote Park, near Maidstone. Lord Romney entertained the company to dinner which was laid for 6000 people. The principle dishes served up numbered 2200 and consisted of:

60 lambs (in quarters) making 240 dishes, 700 fowls (three in a dish) , 300 hams, 300 tongues, 220 dishes of boiled beef and 230 dishes of roast beef, 220 meat and 220 fruit pies and 220 joints of roast veal. All of this was washed down with seven pipes of port (which when decanted into bottles produced 5040 bottles, each pipe held 60 dozen bottles); 16 butts of ale and 16 butts of small beer – a beer with a very low ABV of typically 1%. Note that a butt contained 108 gallons of beer so 16 butts produced a staggering 13,800 pints! After the meal was finished the Kings health was drunk and the VIPs repaired to the main house for tea, coffee and ‘refreshments’.

All of the food would have been laid out on the table and not served up in courses as we have dinners today although there is evidence to suggest that the ‘first course’ was all of the meat etc whilst a second course would be savouries, desserts and puddings. This was known as Service a la Francais. The table would be cleared between courses and a new cloth laid. At table in the Regency period you would be expected to serve yourself from the two or three dishes nearest to you and if you wanted something further



away you got your man servant to get it for you. Interestingly a Doric-style temple funded by subscriptions from the volunteers was constructed on the spot where the King dined to commemorate the occasion. The estimated cost was supposed to be £1200 but the actual cost was double!

The next dinner that we have a record of menu for is a West Kent Yeomanry dinner from 29th June 1832 when following their re-establishment

in 1830, they were reviewed by the Duke of Wellington and the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, The Marquis of Camden: troop standards were presented to the three troops on parade and the East Kent Yeomanry provided two troops to hold the ground. The dinner appears to have been preceded by an 'elegant cold collation' to which about 200 ladies of the county had sat down to in the house. The dinner which took place at four o'clock was in a large tent that held 500 diners and consisted of 'two barons of beef weighing each 400 pounds; at least 100 plum puddings joined in good fellowship with the roast beef and were excellent. Each guest was provided with a bottle of wine. In addition barrels of ale in which the Kentish hop predominated were placed in various parts of the tent.

Looking through the Regimental history of the West Kent Yeomanry written by Lt Colonel J F Edmeades the regiment went through a very trying period in the early part of Queen Victoria's reign especially when reductions in numbers were imposed as a cost savings measure. The loss of two troops in each regiment and the abolition of the CO's post had subsequent dire effects on morale. The two troops selected for disbandment were based at Tunbridge Wells and Cobham however the knock on effect was that both the Dartford and Sevenoaks Troops resigned en masse whilst a large number resigned from the Chislehurst and Oxonheath Troops.

As one might expect there was at least one farewell mess dinner which was held by the Cobham troop at the Clifton Hotel in Gravesend. There is sadly no record of what

was consumed save to say that 80 gentlemen sat down and "at about six o'clock the dinner was laid upon the table to which the justice it deserved was done. After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk with enthusiasm" and patriotic songs were sung as well.

For the rest of the Victorian era there were numerous reviews and these were sometimes accompanied by dinners, Grand Balls and other entertainments but there are no records of what was consumed. However we do have a menu card from an 1895 dinner held by C Troop that was held in Tunbridge Wells and as you can see the menu is extensive but the interesting thing is that the food is now arranged in courses such as we recognise today and not as in the regency period.

This is known as Service a la Russe where guests were presented with a succession of courses, beginning with soup and ending with desert. The cutlery for subsequent courses was arranged so that guests worked inwards. Service was always from the left, though wine was served from the right. Dishes too heavy to carry round, like roasts,





were carved, often by the host, at a side table.

A typical Edwardian dinner party would start with soup accompanied by sherry. This would be followed by fish served with a good white wine. After the fish came the entrée, which might consist of vol-au-vent, mutton cutlets or sweetbreads served with champagne or claret. The next course was known as the remove or relevé. This was the most substantial part of the dinner and might include a joint of meat, poultry or a substantial meat pie served in burgundy. Potatoes and vegetables in season always accompanied the ‘remove’.

Next came the roast course of game such as field fares (a small bird), snipe, wild duck or pheasant served with game chips. These were disc shaped potato chips; and were so thinly sliced that they could be seen through. Claret would normally be drunk with this course. Then followed a series of dishes known as the entremêts. This course was divided into three and usually

consisted of a dressed vegetable, dishes such as cherry tart or savarin of peaches and a savoury of, for instance, devilled sardines or cheese. The next menu from the Folkestone Troop of the REKMR on the eve of the start of World War 1 shows that the number of courses had reduced to six courses.

As reported last year the first evidenced Sharpshooter Brigade dinner was held in July 1909 when the Brigade of Sharpshooters Association sat down at the Holborn Restaurant in London for a nine-course dinner interspersed with entertainments. However before that date there were at least two 3rd CLY dinners one of which was regimental and one focussed on an individual squadron rather than the Regiment. This was probably because when the 3rd CLY was established the squadrons recruited from the battalions that had served in South Africa:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| A Sqn | 18 th Battalion |
| B Sqn | 21 st and 23 rd Battalions |
| C Sqn | Former IY and ‘others’ |
| D Sqn | New recruits. |

The first dinner of these two dinners was held in 1901 and was given by the Sharpshooters Committee at St James Restaurant on 26th July three days after HM The King had authorised the creation of the 3rd CLY (along with the 1st CLY (Roughriders) and 2nd CLY (Westminster Dragoons)) on 23rd July 1901. There is no record of what they ate at the 1901 dinner but 350 of them attended and as reported last year a large number re-enlisted.



Following the 1901 dinner there is mention of another dinner in 1903 and, in the same year, C & D Sqns held a joint 'Grand Bohemian Concert' at The Great Central Hotel to which ladies were especially invited and tickets cost One Shilling each. In this context 'Bohemian' referred to unconventional music typical of which was Jazz.

The next dinner that we have evidence was the C Sqn Third Annual dinner which took place on 10th November 1906 and that was held at the Victoria Mansions restaurant, 24 Victoria Street, London SW. As the menu shows this is the third dinner so there must have been two others starting from 1903. The menu is comparatively short with 5 courses – if you ignored Hors D'oeuvres and Cheese – and therefore broadly comparable to the West Kent Yeomanry dinner of 1895.

As a rule the dress for formal dinners would have been white tie or uniform in the form of mess dress.

One of the challenges in researching for this article has been trying to track down the restaurants where the dinners were held. The St James restaurant is proving very elusive and I have not yet tracked it down but it must have been substantial in size to accommodate 350 diners. The 1903 dinner is recorded as being at the Criterion restaurant in Piccadilly – which is still there opposite Eros and adjacent to what is Lillywhites sports store. The restaurant – now an Italian restaurant - was far bigger than it is now and originally included banqueting rooms on what is now the first floor of Lillywhites sports store. However what has remained of the interior is a fantastic glittering mosaic and tile interior and well worth popping in for a coffee to view.

DESSERT

[illegible]

DESSERT.

The Content under the direction of Mr. ALBERT FARNEY, F.R.S.



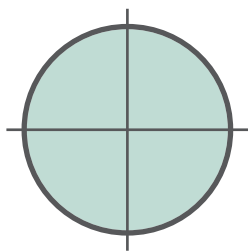
The Holborn Restaurant site of the 1909 and 1910 dinners was located on the corner of Kingsway and opposite Southampton Row. Charles Dickens Jnr in 1908 wrote that ‘The area leading to Russell Square was a great centre for hotels and boarding-houses of different styles (temperance as well as others) suitable to middle-class visitors’ Dickens Dictionary of London, c.1908. The Holborn Restaurant was a very large building which was popular with clubs and societies. The British Chess Federation was founded there in 1904 and when in 1908 the Olympic Games were held in London, a series of banquets were given at the restaurant for the participating athletes. The Kings Hall had seating accommodation for up to 500 for a banquet and there was room for another hundred guests in the balconies, which ran the full length of either side. On every level there was an oblong service-room, with several ordinary “dinner” lifts against the wall, as shown on the plans. From these service-rooms and lifts the staff collected the food and could simultaneously serve 500 guests in the banqueting-hall.

The Restaurant was also a popular venue for Masonic meetings and, like many hotels and restaurants in London at that time, the premise contained a specially built Masonic temple. The Holborn Restaurant was closed in 1954 and then converted into offices. Following the conversion into offices the building was entirely demolished and a large modern building, including a Sainsbury’s Supermarket now stands on the site. The picture above shows the restaurant on the right opposite Holborn tube station with Bush House in the distance at the end of Kingsway.

The Trocadero Restaurant (or the Troc as my grandmother used to call it) was in Piccadilly/Shaftesbury Avenue and was closed as a restaurant in 1965. It was a phenomenal building encompassing the Trocadero Music Hall as well. Today it is about to become a ‘pod’ hotel and has in the intervening years suffered many indignities. The following pictures give an idea of its grandeur in the Edwardian era.

The next part of this article in 2021 will look at the inter war period leading up to 1939 where we have a large variety of menus – many signed by our WW2 veterans most of whom have marched off to the big, wet canteen in the sky.





THE BATTLE OF TAFEL KOP FOLLOW UP

by Tim Rayson

Last year's edition of the Journal included an article on the Battle of Tafelkop which took place on 20th December 1901. One of the photos showed a separate grave stone marker for Sgt Major Greensill and another that of Captain Gaussen who was OC the escort to the guns who were all from 91st Coy, 23rd Imperial Yeomanry (Sharpshooters).

A little bit of research brought up the following story.

Memorial to The Son Of An Accrington Vicar



Hearne Seymour Greensill, or “Jack” as he was popularly known, was the third son of the Rev. E. and Mrs. Greensill, and was in his 21st year. He was educated at “The Philbards,” Maidenhead, and subsequently at Manchester Grammar School. He obtained a clerkship in the Bank of England when 18 - the youngest age at which he could take up that position. As a member of the Civil Service Volunteers, he offered himself for service in 1899 but he was too young and was not accepted. Not put off he subsequently joined the 3rd Company of 23rd Bn

(Sharpshooters) Imperial Yeomanry and was sworn in on March 1st, 1901. He deployed to South Africa arriving at Cape Town on April 20th when the 3rd company was renumbered and became known as the 91st company. He was the youngest Sergeant in the column, and was raised to the rank of Sergeant-major by his Captain a short time before the battle. He was mentioned in Lord Kitchener's despatch, the first with five others as “specially noticed from the 91st Company Imperial Yeomanry, which was escort to the guns in the same action, and sacrificed itself almost to a man.”

Sadly a brass memorial tablet to Jack funded by the congregation has gone missing over the years but it did read:

To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Hearne Seymour (Jack) Greensill, third son of the Vicar of this parish, Sergeant-major 91st Company

Imperial Yeomanry, Colonel Damant's Column (Sharpshooters). Killed in action whilst gallantly defending the guns at Tafelkop, Orange River Colony, December 20th, 1901, in his 21st year. This tablet is erected by friends and patriots. "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

Captain Charles Louis Gausсен



Captain Gausсен was OC of the 91st Company. He was born 26th September 1869. Educated at Charterhouse. Entered the 18th Hussars October 1889. Transferred to the Indian Staff Corps May 1892, promoted captain in the 3rd Bengal Cavalry October 1900, joined the Reserve of Officers December 1900. Sent to South Africa with 23rd Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry March 1901 and served with them until his death. He was killed while commanding the 91st Company that was acting as escort to the guns and which gallantly sacrificed themselves to a man. He was mentioned in despatches, London Gazette 25th April 1902.

Captain Gausсен is mentioned on no less than four memorials in the UK and was initially buried at Tafel Kop but is now located in Frankfort Cemetery. The memorials to him are in Peterborough Cathedral, St Pauls Cathedral in London, the memorial cloister at Charterhouse and, of course on the regimental memorial in St Martins in the Field church in London.

The memorial in Peterborough Cathedral is particularly stunning as you can see from the pictures sitting as it does beneath the Western windows and it reads:

"To the Glory of God and in memory of Brave Men, inhabitants of this County and neighbourhood, who gave their lives for their Sovereign and Country during the War in South Africa 1899-1902, the Western Window of this Cathedral was filled with stained glass, AD 1903..... Imperial Yeomanry, Captain C.L. Gausсен"



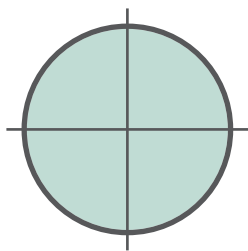
The Western window at Peterborough Cathedral.



The Memorial which sits under the window.



The Memorial which sits under the window.



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In addition to the above names, the following had at end October 20 also contributed: Carol Amitrano, John Barber, John Bishop, Green, Gordon Jones, A Kenny, Jacqueline Matthews, Patricia Moore, Glenis Ping, P Selleck, Dave Shrubbs, Lee Sirett, David Stalder, Maurice Tomlin, Euan Watt, Boyd Holmes.

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Lt Col WAC Anderson's Sherman Mk II leading the Regiment's move from Hamburg to Pinneburg soon after the War's end. The accumulated clutter that had adorned the Sharpshooters' tanks from Normandy to Hamburg has been removed, it has been polished and now proudly flies the Regimental flag.



Capt. Kal Berelowitz MC, Major Oliver Woods MC, and Capt. Pat Dyas on the recce party to Asendorf.